

Whitireia Community Polytechnic Council Statute

Council Constitution and appointments

Preamble

The constitution of the Whitireia Community Polytechnic Council is empowered by the Education (Polytechnics) Amendment Act 2009 as follows:

Composition

“222AA Constitution of polytechnic councils

- “(1) The council of a designated polytechnic must comprise—
- “(a) 4 members appointed by the Minister;
 - “(b) 4 members appointed by the council in accordance with its statutes.
- “(2) A person is not eligible for appointment or election as a member of the council of a designated polytechnic if—
- “(a) he or she is subject to a property order under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988; or
 - “(b) there has been made under that Act in respect of him or her a personal order that reflects adversely on his or her—
 - “(i) competence to manage his or her own affairs in relation to his or her property; or
 - “(ii) capacity to make or to communicate decisions relating to any particular aspect or aspects of his or her personal care and welfare; or
 - “(c) he or she is a bankrupt who has not obtained his or her order of discharge, or whose order of discharge has been suspended for a term not yet expired or is subject to conditions not yet fulfilled; or
 - “(d) he or she has at any time been removed from office as a member of a polytechnic council under section 222AJ.
- “(3) No act or proceeding of, or of any committee of, the council of a designated polytechnic is invalid because of—
- “(a) a defect in the appointment or election of a member of the council or committee; or
 - “(b) a disqualification of a member of the council or committee; or
 - “(c) a defect in the convening of a meeting; or
 - “(d) a vacancy or vacancies in the membership of the council or committee.

Appointment process

The Minister of Education will therefore appoint 4 members including the Chair and Deputy Chair.

According to S 222AB, every Council must have a statute relating to appointment of Council members.

“222AB Statutes relating to appointment of members by polytechnic councils

- “(1) Every polytechnic council must have in place statutes relating to the appointment of members under section 222AA(1)(b).
- “(2) The statutes may (in respect of any of the 4 appointments it has power to make)—
 - “(a) require the appointment of a member—
 - “(i) of a stated description; or
 - “(ii) holding a stated office; or
 - “(iii) nominated by a stated institution or institutions, or an institution or institutions of a stated description; or
 - “(iv) elected by people of a stated description:
 - “(b) provide for the process by which—
 - “(i) nominations may be called for and considered:
 - “(ii) elections may be held and their results may be determined.
- “(3) Subsection (2) does not limit the generality of section 194.

Guidance is provided to consider when appointments are made in S222AD.

“222AD Matters to be considered when appointments made

- “(1) It is desirable in principle—
 - “(a) that the council of a designated polytechnic should include Māori; and
 - “(b) that, so far as is possible, the council of a designated polytechnic should reflect the ethnic and socio-economic diversity of the community it serves.
- “(2) The Minister—
 - “(a) must have regard to the principles in subsection (1) when appointing members of the council of a designated polytechnic; but
 - “(b) must appoint people who (in the Minister’s opinion) have enough experience of governance to fulfil their individual duties as members of the council and the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the council.
- “(3) The council of a designated polytechnic must appoint as members people who (in the council’s opinion)—
 - “(a) have relevant knowledge, skills, or experience; and
 - “(b) are likely to be able to fulfil their individual duties as members of the council and the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the council.

The appointment of Councillors should be consistent with and informed by the legislation and the Strategic Plan of the institution.

Strategic Plan of Whitireia Community Polytechnic

The strategic goals of Whitireia were substantially strengthened and deepened during 2009. This led to a much more distinctive vision statement. It is drawn from our name “Whitireia” which means “ray of light” and is also the name of the maunga of Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Whitireia was and is a beacon, both historically for navigation purposes, and contemporaneously as the mountain at the heart of Ngāti Toa whakapapa and as a tertiary education institution.

Vision

To lead and illuminate our communities through tertiary education

Purpose

The core purpose of Whitireia is to build futures for our students and communities. We do this by providing tertiary education which successfully engages students in learning and equips them with the skills, knowledge and understandings they need to be successful.

Our students are highly productive in the workforce and have the confidence to develop satisfying careers. Our students come from a wide range of age groups and different ethnic communities. Our programmes and approaches to learning reflect the diversity of the different cultures in our communities.

The importance of enhancing relationships with our communities is reflected in the values and principles which are part of the Whitireia experience. This means that as well as providing educational leadership, Whitireia plays a lead role in building the future of our diverse communities.

Values

<i>Manaaki</i>	Encouraging cooperation in learning and resource sharing to promote individual confidence and group harmony through a positive and supportive learning environment.
<i>Identity</i>	Creating a learning environment where all people feel they belong because their uniqueness is valued and promoted.
<i>Equity</i>	Achieving more equal outcomes by providing significant learning and education success for those who have previously lacked such opportunities.
<i>Responsiveness</i>	Being flexible, creative and open to change, to better meet individual, industry, and community learning needs.
<i>Success</i>	Being an effective organisation with a clear sense of purpose, striving for excellence and creating an environment where all have the right to succeed.
<i>Integrity</i>	Maintaining the highest ethical standards and permitting public scrutiny to ensure the maintenance of those standards.
<i>Accountability</i>	Monitoring and reporting on the maintenance of educational quality standards and on the responsible use of public resources.

Strategic Directions 2010 – 2015

Whitireia aims to be a tertiary education leader as follows:

- Leading tertiary education provider for our community and region
- Leading in quality learning
- Leading in student success
- Leading educator for multi-ethnic and diverse groups of students
- Leading nationally through our distinctive contribution
- Leading in our commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi
- Leading in International Education
- Leading as a successful and sustainable business organisation

Skills and/or representation

Based on the above, the skills required for our Council summarised as follows.

The following, not in any order of importance, are the skills consistent with Whitireia's strategic direction:

1. Most importantly is the need for continued commitment to and respect for the role and position of mana whenua of our home campus in Porirua – Ngāti Toa Rangatira,
2. There is a critical skill set required of all councillors based on business, educational, legal, accounting and governance skills; and one but preferably a combination of these should be evident in all appointments.
3. Of critical importance is a commitment to empowerment and lifting up of our community which is the NZ community of the future with particular dimensions requiring a good understanding by councillors.
4. Hand in hand with 2 above is the need for local community knowledge and credibility in one or more of Pacific, Māori, Porirua, Kāpiti, and Wellington. Important here is credibility within those particular communities of interest and commitment to our outcomes as an institution.
5. Understanding of the government and political process, the ability to advocate and articulate externally and to be able to influence effectively on behalf of Whitireia. Closely related to this is the ability to understand the culture, ethos and vision of Whitireia.

Community appointments process

The four community representatives shall be appointed by the Council using the following process:

1. Public nominations shall be called no later than two months before the appointment is required to be made.
2. Such nominations will be sought as widely as possible from the communities which Whitireia serves.
3. The nominees shall provide a CV detailing how their experience and skill sets match the expectations noted under "Skills and/or Representation" and sign a Notice of Eligibility Declaration, attached as Appendix A, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act and suitability for appointment.

4. The Council shall cast a vote on the nominees to appoint the required number of new Councillors.
 - a. When voting, the sitting Councillors must take cognizance of the existing knowledge and skill set of Councillors and the gaps and skills required.
 - b. The Chair shall identify the key knowledge and skill sets including, where appropriate, iwi representation.
5. In the event of a split vote, the Chair shall cast a deciding vote.
6. Councillors may serve a maximum of two terms with an extension to three terms under special circumstances.
7. Appointments shall be made for a period of four years with the exception that on reconstitution of the Council no more than 50% of newly appointed Councillors shall be appointed for a full term to ensure rotation of membership.

Statute approval

This statute was approved by Council meeting on 24 February 2010 and ratified for implementation as soon as convenient thereafter. It will be reviewed and revised where necessary every two years commencing in February 2012.

APPENDIX A

Notice of eligibility declaration for appointee to the Whitireia Community Polytechnic Council (the Council)

Position

I declare that I am standing for appointment by the council as a member of the Council.

Eligibility (as per Whitireia statute 2010)

I declare that I am eligible for appointment in accordance with the Education Act 1989 and the requirements of this notice.

Duties and accountability for duties of members of Councils

I declare that I will fulfil the requirements as to the duties for council members as per section 222AH of the Education Act 1989.

I declare that I am aware of and accept the accountability measures for individual duties of council members as per section 222AI of the Education Act 1989.

Protection of the personal and property rights act 1988

I declare that:

(a) I am not subject to a property order under the Protection of the Personal and Property Rights Act 1988; or

(b) there has not been made under that act in respect of me a personal order that reflects adversely on my:

- i. competence to manage my own affairs in relation to my property; or
- ii. capacity to make or to communicate decisions relating to any particular aspect or aspects of my personal care and welfare; or

(c) I am not a bankrupt who has not obtained my order of discharge or whose order of discharge has been suspended for a term not yet expired or is subject to conditions not yet fulfilled.

Removal from office

I declare that I have not been removed from office as a member of a polytechnic council under section 222AJ of the Education Act 1989.

Conflict of interest

I declare that there is no conflict of interest for me undertaking this role, or *(delete one)*

I declare the following real or potential conflict of interest in being a member of the council,

but that this would not prevent me fulfilling my duties as a council member pursuant to section 222AH of the Education Act 1989.

I will declare any future conflict of interest as it arises.

Criminal conviction

I declare that I have never been charged or convicted of a criminal offence (this includes charges pending), or *(delete one)*

I declare the following in relation to criminal convictions (existing and charges pending).

Other Polytechnic council membership

I declare that: *(delete as appropriate)*

I am a member of a polytechnic council.

(provide details) _____

or

I am not a member of a polytechnic council.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

NB if you are shortlisted for interview you will be required to provide the name and contact details of two people who can verify the statements contained above and you may be required to complete an authorisation form for a police check.

Please return to:

***Don Campbell, Chief Executive or The returning officer, Whitireia Council nominations
Whitireia Community Polytechnic
Wineera Drive
Private Bag 50910
Porirua City***