

## **DANYON THOMAS (INDEPENDENT)**

Nominator: Phoebe Moir

Second: Sarah Cameron



I am an experienced youth governor with experiences in a diverse range of organisations. This experience is largely in youth-centred organisations in the not-for-profit sector. In my current role with Waste Management, I focus on problem solving, options analysis and implementation. I am currently the Deputy Chair of Student Job Search Aotearoa, having joined their Board in 2016. I graduated from Lincoln University with a B. Environmental Management and Planning, during this time I was elected Lincoln University Students' Association President in 2016 and 2017.

My governance style is collaborative and focuses on utilising the skills and experience of those around the table to reach a consensus on key issues. This is aided by an underlying belief that effective structures and systems are essential to enabling performance. During my time with the New Zealand Union of Students' Association, I led the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee to maximise the organisations while building a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and risks in the then operating methods. This identified the gaps in the organisation that the committee prioritised to implement the required structural and policy changes to address the risks to the organisation.

I have a pragmatic solution-focused approach to situations with a core focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for all stakeholders. As Lincoln University Students' Association President, I led a repositioning of the strategy to reset its objectives and organisational culture to ensure the framework was in place so that it could deliver at its best. This included implementing a change in the operating model to identify efficiencies and return the organisation to profitability. This included the development and implementation of appropriate policies and procedures.

UN Youth provides accessible and unparalleled opportunities to New Zealand Youth. These experiences develop adaptable, critical and engaged youth across NZ and empowers them to have an impact. I would be privileged to join the Establishment Board and assist UN Youth in embedding a sustainable governance structure that unleashes the potential of UN Youth to make a huge contribution to our communities.

### **Relevant Governance Roles**

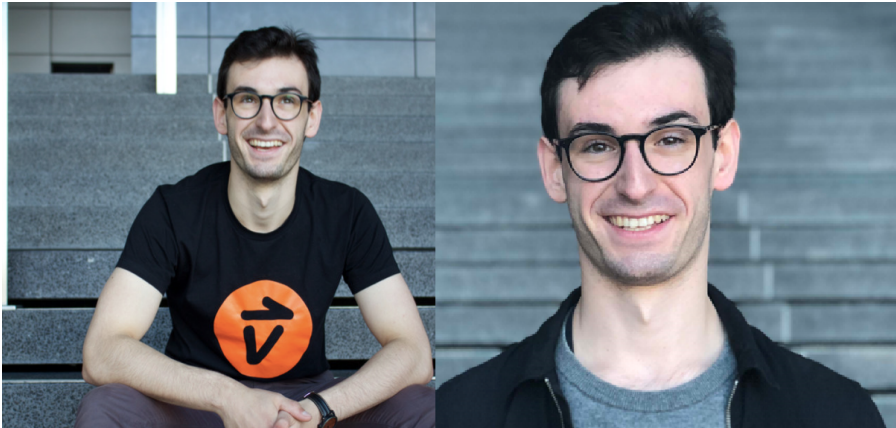
- Student Job Search (2016 to Present)
  - o Deputy Chair (2018 to Present)
  - o Chair - Appointments and Remuneration Committee (2019)
  - o General Representative (2018 to Present)
  - o Member Representative (2016 to 2018)
  - o Member – IT and Business process Committee (2016 to Present)
- Lincoln University Students Association (2016 to 2017)
  - o President (2016 to 2017)
- Lincoln University
  - o Council Member 2016 to 2017
- NZUSA (2016 to 2017)
  - o National Executive Member

Chair - Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (2017)

## **NICK GOLDSTEIN (INDEPENDENT)**

Nominator: Gemma Bell

Secunder: Ayush Sharma



Hey! I'm Nick Goldstein and I want to be on your board of Directors. The last thing I would want as an independent director is to come in and tell you all that my way of doing things is best. UN Youth has a particular culture that has enabled its continued success, which absolutely deserves recognition.

That being said, just because it has worked in the past does not mean it will work in the future, and there is always room for improvement. I see the role of the independent director as to reflect on their own experiences and provide a fresh thought process, ultimately benefitting the entire organisation!

### **A little bit about me:**

I have been the CEO of Velocity for 2019 (a large student society at UoA), a role in which I gained direct experience managing a large youth-for-youth organisation. I will bring particular attention to my work introducing an 'innovation team' in Velocity, which has worked to increase the impact of Velocity, both in terms of efficiency of the organisation and its general offering.

I am also on the Momentum Investment Committee, where we evaluate proposals for investment by early stage entrepreneurs and/or provide advice on the inner workings of the company. This organisation also has a large role for students (although mostly postgraduate students). It is so well regarded by industry that we often have large companies come in to pay for our advice.

In my first year of university I started a charity called SparX Education. We worked hard to provide a mixture of mentorship and academic services to high school students, especially those from a low income background. I worked directly in the charity, doing a mixture of high level strategy, but always grounded in the practical reality of a low resource organisation.

### **A little bit more:**

I enjoy long distance running! I regularly run 20+KM and am currently training for an IronMan Triathlon. Also, I am working towards a personal goal of climbing the highest mountain on each continent (currently saving money towards 3/7!) I have a dog! (And a cat, but I am a dog person) Her name is Chelsea and I love her more than anything in the world! I love coffee, very often I drink more coffee than water in a day.

### **Why am I doing this?**

I always regretted not being part of UN Youth. I am passionate about helping others enact change, that is the reason why I joined Velocity. When I saw the UN Youth applications opening up, I thought it aligned perfectly with my personal values of enacting change in the community. On your board I would work to empower people to take change into their own hands, I know that you are all passionate about UN Youth (otherwise you wouldn't be here!), so really I think that we just need to get out of your way!

## **EVE BAIN**

Nominator: Brittany Young

Second: Jessica Wong



Kia Ora My name is Eve and would love to be an Ordinary Director on the Establishment Board of UN Youth New Zealand.

My first experience with UN Youth was as a delegate in 2008 at Auckland Model UN. From that first conference I never looked back; UN Youth shaped my life in numerous ways, in the skills I developed, the friendships and networks I built, the places I travelled to, and my passion for learning more around the world. I am motivated to give back to the organisation that gave me so much.

I believe I have the skills and experience to be an effective Director on the Board, and I think my deep understanding and appreciation for UN Youth's work will also be useful.

Since my time in UN Youth I have had a variety of different work and volunteer experiences, giving me perspective on how different organisations operate effectively and what systems work best to motivate teams and produce the best results. I highly value clear communication and work well with others.

I'm currently a solicitor at Bell Gully's Wellington's office. I regularly advise clients, including company boards and incorporated societies, on their governance obligations and constitutions. I believe my legal skills will be an asset in the review and amendment of UN Youth's governance documentation. I have also learnt to be alive to risks and managing these effectively.

I have a range of different experiences that will enable me to have a balance of technical competencies, interpersonal skills, strategic vision and passion for the organisation. This combination makes me uniquely placed to make a valuable contribution to the Board in its key establishment phase.

I intend to serve at least one term on the Board following its establishment.

## **MARK HOWARD**

Nominator: Patrick Hayes

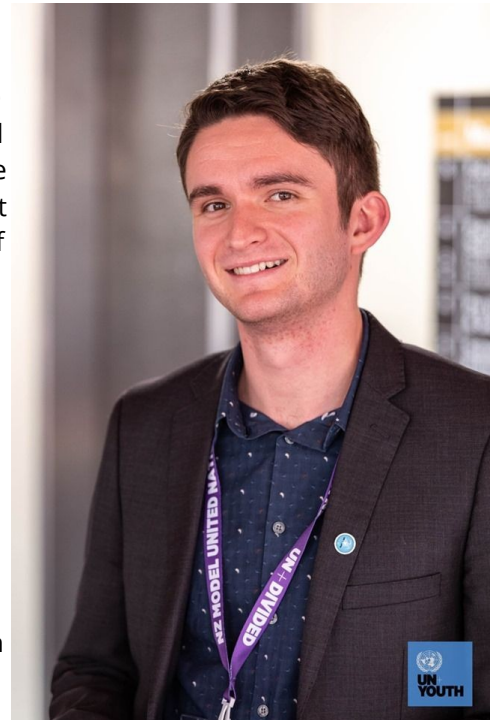
Seconded: Nathan Hotter

My name is Mark Howard and I'm extremely excited to be running for the position of Ordinary Director on UN Youth's Establishment Board. I consider myself lucky to have spent the past six years experiencing every corner of the wide and broad whānau that makes up this incredible organisation. In this time I've witnessed firsthand the powerful and positive changes that we make to the lives of thousands of youth every year. I myself have grown from a shy, nervous kid to a confident and passionate volunteer largely through the personal development that UN Youth has lead me through.

At the same time, however, I've seen many areas that we as an organisation can and must grow further in. Our relationship and consultation with marginalised groups, our ability to provide sufficient financial support to our volunteers and delegates, our comprehension of tikanga Māori and our constant struggle to step away from the dangers of internal social elitism are all areas in which I know our organisation can do better. This wide spectrum of experiences is exactly what gives me both the passion to help craft UN Youth's future vision and the skills to make this vision a reality.

This is not a position I would seek without solid governance experience beyond UN Youth alone. From 2015 until only a few months ago, I was a member of my former high school's Board of Trustees, starting as an elected Student Representative and returning as a Trustee. For my final two years on the Board I acted as Deputy Chairperson of the school, during which I regularly chaired meetings and engaged with every aspect of governance, from policy reviews to financial reports. All along the way, I helped to cultivate an empowering and inspiring educational vision for the school. As a member of our Establishment Board, I would actively use these skills to ensure our good governance practice translates to real, positive results for UN Youth as a whole.

I've often described UN Youth as a sailing ship, run by a crew of incredible volunteers who face numerous challenges to keep the ship moving towards new horizons. In the face of these difficulties, sometimes it becomes impossible to sit back and talk about what direction we are sailing in. The Board, if carried through correctly, will act as a brand new crow's nest for this ship, scanning the horizon for new opportunities and better futures. As a lookout sitting up in that nest, I would completely dedicate myself to carefully plotting the best course possible through the uncertain oceans of the future. Simultaneously, I have the experience to never overstep my role and try and tell those sailors on the deck what to do. If you want a Board member with significant governance experience, a major passion for UN Youth, a mild coffee addiction and a love of slightly strange analogies then look no further!





## **GEORGIA LALA**

Nominator: Gemma Bell

Second: Keira Bright



Kia Ora!

My name is Georgia and I am so excited to be running to serve as an Ordinary Member of the Establishment Board of Directors.

My 'MUN' journey started way back in 2013 (yikes!) and I truly would not be who I am today if it weren't for UN Youth. It was the aroha of this community that helped me transform from a timid, withdrawn high schooler to a proud (read: often too loud) university student. I embraced my individuality, weirdness, and found my voice to stand up for our community's combined values.

UN Youth is uniquely positioned to play a formative role in the lives of so many young people. My goal is to preserve and protect the values of this amazing community and futureproof the organization to ensure that we can continue to do great work and reach more of our country's rangatahi.

I have three goals as an Ordinary Member:

1. Outreach. We must continue the legacy set by 2019's NZMUN by reaching out to young people who need a leg up. Civics education should be a right for all, not a privilege for some
2. Innovation. UN Youth is at its best when we push the boundaries of what a conference can be and what we can do as a student-run organization
3. Tikanga. We are a values focused organization, and we must ensure that our values and style of governance align with the highest standards of Tikanga

Over the past seven years, I have attended too many regional events to count, flown to five NZMUNs, and served as the Education Officer for two Auckland Regional events. I have made lifelong friends through this organization and I have taken way too many photos on the steps of OGGB.

I have yet to come across another organization that can so dependably bring together engaged students from all walks of life and facilitate healthy debate and lifelong friendships. It is because of this that I care so much about UN Youth and want to see it thrive for years to come.

I am currently completing my final year of uni at Duke University in America, but don't let that put you off! I will be returning to Auckland next year to complete a Masters at Auckland University. I'm an old face in UN Youth so please get in touch with me with any questions you might have. Noho ora mai!

## **JONATHAN GEE**

Nominator: Pearl Pan

Second: Cullum Peni

Kia ora koutou,



My name is Jono and it would be a privilege to serve on the Establishment Board of UN Youth.

Ever since my first Model UN back in 2007, UN Youth has been an important part of my life for the better part of a decade. It's the organisation that has raised and nurtured me throughout my youth, and has been a springboard to many leadership opportunities I have had in recent years. My involvement in UN Youth includes serving as a Co-Director for the US Leadership Tour, Education Officer for Youth Declaration, Wellington Regional President as well as organising several regional Model UN events in between.

I had the honour of being recognised on a number of occasions for my service to UN Youth as the holder of the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2018, Presidential Citation in 2014 and leading my region to win the Cutfield Gavel two years in a row in 2013 and 2014. I have a good grasp of the workings of the organisation and have served multiple times on UN Youth's current governing body, National Council. I believe my deep understanding of UN Youth, coupled with my governance experience means that I would be an effective director on the Board.

I have recently served on several boards predominantly in the education and non-profit sectors, including Student Job Search, the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) and Victoria University of Wellington. These organisations range from a tertiary education institution with significant human, capital and financial resources as well as several statutory obligations; to non-governmental organisations and charities whose stakeholders are predominantly young people.

I have a proven track record as an effective director, especially during times of change for an organisation. For example, when I assumed the role of Chair and National President on the NZUSA National Executive (governing body), I introduced a comprehensive work programme of change to improve the Executive's governance. This included the introduction of several sub-committees to free up time for the wider Executive to focus on strategic oversight and the big picture instead of getting stuck in the detail and operations of the organisation. I also overhauled the foundational governance documents of NZUSA such as the board manual and policy handbook. During my time as chair of the VUWSA Executive, I managed the development of a five-year strategic plan and appointment of a new Chief Executive to execute that plan.

The transition to a Board of Directors is an important time of change for UN Youth. If appointed, I would welcome the opportunity to apply my extensive governance to building the strong foundations required for effective governance.

## **JASON GUAN**

Nominator: Henry Frear

Seconded: William Warren



I am a final year Biomedical Engineering student at the University of Auckland.

I am committed to advocating for:

- Clear and concise communication, including shorter documents.
- A strong data gathering, management and analytics strategy.
- Coherent strategy to improve treatment, engagement and retention of volunteers.
- An open discussion on the positioning of National and International Events.
- A positive and professional board culture.

My previous involvement with UN Youth includes:

- Co-Coordinating Globalisation Tour 2020.
- Coordinating NZ Model UN 2018.
- Auckland Region VP High Schools 2017.
- Auckland Region General Member 2016.
- Volunteering at several regional and national events.

My interests include:

- Bullet pointing.
- Eating Thai food.
- Designing spreadsheets.
- Tech and tech strategy.

## **ISHAN KOKULAN (VOLUNTEERS REPRESENTATIVE)**

Nominator: Charlotte Hollywood

Seconder: Romaine Crawford



This organisation is built on the people. Nothing more. Nothing less.

Over the past 3 years, I have had the incredible opportunity to work at almost every level of UN Youth New Zealand. I have spent more time than I would like to admit trying to figure out its many intricacies and complexities and deciphering how it all works so successfully. My path has given me some incredible opportunities to develop myself through a range of roles including, but not limited to being a conference assistant, committee member, and council member on both a regional and national scale. In these positions, I have worked with a diverse and capable array of volunteers who never fail to amaze me with their ability and humble me with their passion.

UN Youth is longer a group of passionate friends who started a club aimed at inspiring global citizens in 1999 but have instead grown to be one of the largest and most impactful youth organisations in the country. The introduction of a board is a recognition that a new chapter for the organisation has started. I think it is important for this establishment board to have a Volunteers Representative who has taken a keen interest in the process since it was first established almost 2 years ago, and someone who will head the concerns and considerations that members of UN Youth have brought to light during this time.

As the Volunteers representative on the board, there are three main directives I would like to pursue.

First and foremost, I will work tirelessly to make sure that volunteers are encouraged to share their perspectives and concerns, and that these are considered with the respect of the pivotal role that all our volunteers hold in our organisation. With the removal of National Council it would be easy for Volunteers to believe their perspectives are not heard. It is important to the longevity of this organisation that all volunteers feel comfortable and encouraged to share their opinions on any major policy consideration.

Secondly, I will work closely with regions, national events, and international events blocks to see how through the board's operations we can recognise the differing processes and cultures have been formed all over the operations network over the past 20 years. We need to ensure that any policy overarching strategic decisions work across the board, and allows for a reasonable amount of sectional autonomy when deemed necessary.

Finally, I want to ensure that UN Youth as an organisation prioritises the fulfilment of its values over the continuation of its tradition where the two are no longer directly compatible. As we have grown as an organisation, the values that we've held have developed. Equity, inclusivity, and volunteer support is valued now more than ever and we have to ensure that these, among many, are fundamental to any strategic plan proposed by the board even when it would mean making changes to established processes.