

Information for Prospective Board Members!

We're so excited that you're interested in joining the APIRG Board!
We're currently looking for 2-4 new members for the 2021-2022 year.

Being on the Board means working with a group of social justice-minded peers to **govern** a small and critical non-profit on campus. It means **developing your skills** in leadership, consensus decision-making, and **critical social analysis**. It means getting **free training** on topics of your choosing, and a lot of free food!

The following pages are background info on APIRG and the Board of Directors, to help you decide if this position is right for you.
Instructions for applying are on the last page!

What is APIRG?

APIRG stands for Alberta Public Interest Research Group - it is a student-run, student funded non-profit organization based out of the University of Alberta. APIRG is dedicated to research, education, advocacy and action aimed at various topics of public interest including anti-racism, feminism and climate justice. [Read our Basis of Unity and Statement of Values here!](#) APIRG is composed of the Board of Directors, three part time staff, and volunteer committees.

Some of our current projects include:

Funding streams: we fund student and community events, projects and research related to anti-oppression and social justice.

Education & Events: we put on community events and free workshops, both on our own and in collaboration with other orgs.

Working Groups: we provide ongoing support and funding to over a dozen student and community groups organizing around various public issues.

Community library: the volunteer Library Committee maintains a library of anti-oppressive, alternative and independent texts, freely available to students and the public.



How is APIRG funded?

In March 2001, a majority voted in a campus-wide undergraduate referendum to establish a Public Interest Research Group at the University of Alberta. Currently, **full-time undergraduate students contribute \$3.54 per semester and part-time undergraduate students contribute \$1.77 per semester to APIRG** as a fee integrated into tuition fees. All students are able to opt-out of this fee for a full refund.

In March 2017, another successful undergraduate referendum voted to continue to support APIRG as a dedicated-fee unit (DFU) status with the Students' Union. This referendum will be held again in 2022.

How is APIRG held accountable?

APIRG is a **democratic organization that is accountable to the people who fund it** - undergraduate students at the University of Alberta. APIRG keeps audited financial records and produces an annual report to ensure accountability. We hold an **Annual General Meeting** to review and discuss these documents. All Board meetings and general meetings are open to the public, and anyone is permitted to apply to be on our Board of Directors.

Who is the Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors is a group of 7 - 12 people who govern APIRG. Collectively, they make all of the organization's 'big decisions,' such as annual budgets, strategic plans and policy. Board members share a commitment to social justice, and to the political and social well-being of the university community. They come from a variety of personal and academic backgrounds, and many have no prior experience with governance. This is the place to learn!



What does a board member DO?

1. **Attend monthly Board Meetings** where organizational decisions are discussed and made by consensus.
2. **Sit on at least one Board Committee**, which meet as-needed to work on various governance tasks. Current board committees include:
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - Plebiscite Campaign Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Policy Committee
 - Human Resources Committee
 - Funding Round Committee
3. **Attend 2 -3 Board Retreats per year.** Board retreats are a mixture of meetings, workshops and casual hang-outs. It's a chance for all board members to develop new skills and knowledge to support their role at APIRG and their future projects!
4. **Access Board Development Funding** to pursue training in topics of your choice, from budgeting and policy to community organizing and art-based activism
5. **Help plan and facilitate the Annual General Meeting** where we report on our finances and activities to the general membership
6. **Commit to a one-year term.** The Board operates best when folks can stay on for at least a year. Many board members stay on longer! **Board commitments amount to 2 - 8 hours per month, plus board retreats.**

How to apply?

Email a CV and short cover letter to apirg@ualberta.ca by **March 31st**. Please highlight any experience you have in **community organizing, student organizing, leadership, collective decision-making, and anti-oppression work**. Tell us why you're excited about joining the Board, and what you hope to learn. We prioritize applications from members of marginalized communities and current students, but welcome all people to apply!

APIRG 2021 Board of Directors Recruitment Timeline

Monday, March 8

Applications open at 8 am.

Wednesday, March 31

Applications close at 10 pm.

April 1 - 9

Selected applicants participate in group interviews.

April 12 - 16

Successful applicants are notified of their acceptance!

First 2 weeks of May

New Board Members' term starts with a virtual Board Transition Retreat! This is a 1 - 2 day set of meetings, workshops and casual hang-outs where board members get to know each other and get familiar with the board's current projects. Partial, if not full, attendance is mandatory for new board members, but the dates will be chosen collectively.

If you have questions about joining the Board, please contact Meara (Outreach Coordinator): outreach@apirg.org