

FPM Board Member Attributes

All fellows of FPM who meet the conditions outlined in by-law 1 are eligible to stand for election as a FPM board member.

Serving as an elected board member is an honour that carries significant responsibility. Through the election process, fellows place substantial trust in board members. They expect board members to act with diligence in representing their interests in the governance process.

Board members are expected to make informed decisions, balance competing interests and navigate complex ethical territory that may impact many stakeholders. The trust placed in them by fellows demands a high level of accountability in their conduct. Ultimately, the honour of being a faculty board member arises from the opportunity to develop the faculty's goals whilst ensuring that this privilege is managed judiciously and in the best interests of all stakeholders.

Based on the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) recommendations, contemporary governance practices, and the ANZCA Regulation 39.8 attributes, board members should display the following attributes, and these should be considered as criteria for selecting a board member for the Faculty of Pain Medicine:

1. Time Commitment and Prioritisation:

- **Availability and Commitment:** The candidate must demonstrate a strong commitment to the Faculty of Pain Medicine by ensuring they have sufficient time and flexibility to fulfil their board responsibilities. This includes prioritising their duties to the faculty and consistently attending key meetings and events. Specifically, on an annual basis board members are expected to:
 - Attend all board meetings, including approximately three in-person, full-day board meetings at ANZCA House in Melbourne and approximately three board meetings via Zoom
 - Attend as a minimum the annual FPM Symposium or the FPM Spring Meeting

This level of engagement is crucial for maintaining the effectiveness, credibility and cohesion of the board, ensuring that all members are actively contributing to the faculty's governance and strategic direction.

Board members are required to read and analyse board papers prior to participating in meetings. Prospective board members must consider their capacity to undertake such work in preparation for meetings.

- **Committee and Project Engagement:** Each board member is expected to take an active role in the governance and strategic initiatives of the Faculty of Pain Medicine by serving on at least one board committee or sub-committee. In addition, members should sponsor or lead a strategic project aligned with the faculty's goals. Board members are also expected to represent the board on relevant national or regional committees, ensuring effective communication and alignment between the board and these key bodies.

2. Independence and Integrity:

- **Integrity:** The candidate needs to demonstrate integrity and must declare and manage conflicts of interest or affiliations that could compromise their independence or the integrity of the board.
- **Ethical Reputation:** The candidate should be respected within the medical community, with a reputation for ethical behaviour and integrity.

3. Professional Experience and Expertise:

- **Relevant Expertise:** The candidate must bring relevant experience in pain medicine and have a deep understanding of the business and clinical aspects pertinent to the faculty.
- **Complementary Knowledge:** The candidate's knowledge or experience should complement the existing board members to enhance the board's collective expertise.
- **Leadership and Recognition:** The candidate should be recognised as a leading clinician in pain medicine, serving as a role model for trainees and peers.

4. Board Experience and Governance Skills:

- **Board Experience and Governance Acumen:** Prior experience serving on boards or similar governance bodies is desirable. The candidate should demonstrate a solid understanding of FPM governance, including its regulations, policies, and strategic objectives.
- **Committee Experience:** The candidate should have a history of serving on relevant committees within the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM). This experience should reflect their understanding of the inner workings and decision-making processes within the faculty.
- **Team Collaboration:** The candidate should be cooperative, demonstrating the ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- **Strategic Vision:** The candidate should have a strategic outlook, with the ability to see the broader implications of decisions and contribute to the long-term vision of the faculty.

5. Advocacy and Representation:

- **Advocacy for the Faculty:** The candidate should actively support the faculty's advocacy efforts, championing the cause of pain medicine within the broader medical community and to external stakeholders, including government bodies and the public.
- **Representation:** The candidate should be committed to representing the interests of the Faculty of Pain Medicine in various forums, using their position to influence policy and promote the specialty's importance in healthcare.

6. Cognitive and Analytical Skills:

- **Agility and Adaptability:** The candidate should have the ability to quickly grasp new issues and adapt to changing circumstances, reflecting an agile mind.
- **Incisive Thinking:** The candidate should possess an incisive mind, capable of asking probing questions and offering succinct, to-the-point contributions during discussions.
- **Independent Judgment:** The candidate should be an independent thinker, able to form and express their own opinions while considering the views of others.
- **Communication Skills:** The candidate must have strong written and verbal communication skills, ensuring clarity and effectiveness in conveying ideas and decisions.

7. Diversity of Strengths:

- **Complementary Strengths:** While it is unlikely that any one candidate will excel in all these areas, it is essential to select board members whose collective strengths complement each other, ensuring a well-rounded and effective governance body.

These attributes aim to ensure that the board of the Faculty of Pain Medicine is composed of members who are not only skilled and experienced but also aligned with the principles of good governance and capable of advancing the faculty's mission and objectives.