

Lanche van Tonder

University of Pretoria

Head: Residence Management and Student Life

Qualifications: Please discuss the job positions, professional development activities, and other qualifications that prepare you for the board position for which you are applying.

My preparation for the Vice President role has been shaped through senior leadership as Head: Residence Management & Student Life at the University of Pretoria since 2015, where I support approximately 8,000 residence students within an institution of nearly 60,000 students. It has been further shaped through service on the Executive Board of the ACUHO-I Southern African Chapter since 2021, as Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute since 2022, and as Regional Director for Southern Africa within IASAS since 2026. Across these roles, I have built partnerships, advanced professional development, supported governance and strategy, and worked across institutional, regional, and international contexts. This has included strengthening Southern Africa's visibility and voice within ACUHO-I, supporting an annual professional learning pipeline for approximately 70 participants and 12 faculty through RV-SHTI, and contributing to broader sector dialogue through staff development and cross-border engagement.

These experiences have prepared me to bring informed governance, strategic perspective, and member-centered leadership to the Vice President role and the full presidential cycle.

Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

I will bring to the Board an internationally informed and forward-looking perspective grounded in student housing professionalization, global engagement, and sustained contribution to the profession. Through my work at the University of Pretoria, within ACUHO-I and ACUHO-I Southern Africa, and as Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute, I have helped advance standards of practice, staff development, international collaboration, and the visibility of Southern Africa within the Association. I have also presented at conferences, including international platforms, contributing to professional dialogue across contexts. My contributions were recognized through the ACUHO-I Roelf Visser Global Initiatives Award, which reflects a commitment to expanding the Association's reach and impact across regions. I bring a strong understanding of ACUHO-I's international voice and of the importance of seeing the Association not only through institutional names, but through the members who shape, sustain, and advance it. This combination of expertise, perspective, and commitment positions me to contribute meaningfully to the Board's strategic thinking and future direction.

Openness to a Multitude of Perspectives: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

I bring a leadership approach shaped by South Africa's diverse, complex, and complex social context, as well as by my work across international association spaces. Living and leading in a multicultural environment has taught me that openness to a multitude of perspectives is not optional; it is essential to responsible leadership, sound governance, and meaningful collaboration. This is reflected in my work as Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute, where I have helped create learning spaces that bring together Southern African and international voices across different histories, institutional realities, and professional contexts. Through this work, and through my engagement in related international training spaces, I have supported exchange that values difference as a source of learning and growth. I bring this same mindset to Board service: listening carefully, engaging difference constructively, and helping groups move toward decisions that serve the Association as a whole. My Global South perspective strengthens this work by ensuring that diverse voices are not only welcomed, but genuinely valued and influential.

Strategic Thinking: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

I bring strategic thinking shaped by leadership roles that require both long-term perspective and practical action. As ACUHO-I's Globalization Director and as Head: Residence Management & Student Life at the University of Pretoria, I have consistently worked to strengthen how people understand the broader impact of student housing on students, institutions, and the profession. I recognized a need for deeper reasoning behind decisions, stronger appreciation of the strategic value of the work, and a more intentional international voice within ACUHO-I. Through advocacy, board-level discussion, and my work as Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute, I have helped create space for this broader understanding to grow. This has contributed to stronger professional identity, greater appreciation of student housing as strategic work, and a more visible international perspective within the Association, helping to put the "I" in ACUHO-I. I bring to the Board a mindset that connects strategy with purpose, helps people see beyond immediate tasks, and supports an Association that is thoughtful, relevant, and responsive to the future.

Developing Others: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

I bring a strong commitment to developing others through professional learning, reflective dialogue, and creating opportunities for growth. This has been most visible through my work as Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute and through my leadership within ACUHO-I Southern Africa. In these spaces, I have helped support structured development for housing professionals by co-leading the Institute, guiding conversations, and contributing to broader international professional dialogue. This work has involved supporting professionals in Southern

Africa as well as engaging colleagues in related international housing training spaces. Through these efforts, I have helped strengthen understanding of the profession, support staff development, and create learning environments that encourage growth, confidence, and wider contribution. I bring to the Board a leadership approach that sees developing others as both relational and strategic: it strengthens individual professionals, but it also strengthens the future capacity, continuity, and impact of the Association.