

## REFERENCE A

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey kiddos - there hasn't been a whole lot since SRC last Wednesday but here's what's been happening in our world.

### Education

#### CBE Rep

We've got a new CBE Rep: please welcome Joyce Xu! We had 9 applicants and 8 interviews for the position over the last week. We had the fortunate problems of great applicants, and I'm looking forward to working with Joyce for the rest of 2014.

#### First Year Camps

First Year Camps have concluded for the year. Big thanks to Laura who managed the camps, all the College Representatives who ran the camps, and Annika who went along to two of them. We've shown again that the concept of First Year Camp is great!

I'm not sure of the numbers - Laura can probably say - but we had a big increase in turnout with 253~ students turning up. We can attribute this partly to the excellent organisation and the big hustles from our reps to get people there.

There is an incident that is currently under investigation. We can't comment about much but we can say that we improved our training for camp mentors/college representatives and developed an critical incident policy. I'll ensure that we do a good handover for the next ANUSA because I think that these camps are big tasks that are organised concurrently with O-Week and are at risk of not being paid enough attention.

#### "Go8 Sell Out"

We noticed a bit of interest around the Group of Eight Submission to the Kemp-Norton review. We decided to comment, make our position clear on the issue, clarify what was going on and also connect it to our Higher Education campaign this year. We wrote a post (<http://www.anusa.com.au/uncappedfees/>) that went pretty viral with almost 150 likes on a text-heavy post. This was a big win because one my goals this year (noted later) is to help bring education issues to the fore for most students.

#### Seminars

Seminars are the 3 hour "interactive" format that are one of the forms of education delivery at ANU (an alternative to the lecture + tutorial format)s. They're not new but they were part of the the "tutorial cuts" controversy. We've

been promised time and time again by the university that these are being done in a way that has “pedagogical basis”.

We’ve been receiving reports that there’s a few subjects are using the fora as a 3 hour lecture. This is contrary to promises, a poor use of time and a source of frustration for students who expect an interactive education. I’ve mentioned it to the Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Academic) who was shocked but didn’t commit to doing much. Annika said she’s interested in running some kind of survey or at least seek feedback on seminars. I agree - I think this is an area that more and more schools might force their academics to move towards due to being cheaper under the guise of “having pedagogical basis”. If anyone is interested in helping out with this, please send myself or Annika a message

## **Hot Topic 2: Undergraduates and our place at ANU**

In 2014, post-graduates are the priority to the ANU. ANU is focused on being “ANU’s finest university” which is determined on, by both ANU’s internal KPIs and international rankings, the quality of research output - something that is more obviously linked to postgraduates.

ANU is starting to act on these aims. Numbers of postgraduates have been increasing: In the 2012 Annual Report, there were only just less postgraduates than undergraduates reported (9700~ to 10,500). The 2013 Annual Report is not yet out but it wouldn’t surprise me if postgraduates have had a proportional increase. It’s been hinted in the university that they are looking for a significant increase in student population and it could achieve this focus on boosting postgraduates numbers. PARSA is reaching an operational budget close in size to ANUSA with pressure coming from the university to expand their activities. Anecdotally, more and more focus is being placed on postgraduates and their student experience.

While ANUSA supports more support and attention paid to any type student at ANU, we must also ensure that undergraduates are appropriately represented. I believe that undergraduates have a critical importance to ANU; it isn’t as obvious but is just as crucially important to the future of ANU. It’s our responsibility to advocate the importance of undergraduates both for their sake but also to ensure that ANU stays “Australia’s finest university”

I had a quick brainstorm about why undergraduates are important for a few reasons. Firstly and most obvious to the university: income. Undergraduates are a significant revenue stream for ANU. Like the other Group of 8 universities, ANU uses undergraduates (who are “profitable” to teach) to cross-subsidise research around the university (which can be many, many times over more expensive per student due to resource needs such as supercomputers etc). Secondly, undergraduates are a necessary resource for ... postgraduates who are necessary for research! Thirdly, ANU has been on a hunt for philanthropy and the brunt of donations come from undergraduates (I’ve heard, I need to get some data on

this). I'm sure there's more and would appreciate anything I haven't thought of.

I'd like to propose having a "symposium" of people around ANU who could come together to discuss the importance of undergraduates to ANU. The result of this symposium would be a short paper discussing the importance of undergraduates at ANU and a list of possible measures to create bonds between undergraduates and ANU's mission.

Is anyone interested in helping with something like this? Please send me an email at sa.president@anu.edu.au

## General

### My priorities for ANUSA this year

1) giving ANUSA back to students. I want every undergraduate at ANU to feel like they could walk into ANUSA for help whenever they need it. ANUSA should be run professionally (one of our values) and I choose to interpret this as meaning appropriate to our student audience. I want us to be friendly, sometimes goofy and always approachable. This also means finding out what students need and shaping ANUSA so that these are available now and in the future.

2) make the most of our services. ANUSA already offers a wide array of important services but many students aren't aware of them still. I want to increase awareness of our services, play around with modes of delivery, record how our services are being used to determine how we can best use our resources in the future/

3) connect students to the issues on campus. It's often said "students don't care anymore" - I really disagree. We still need to get to the bottom of why they aren't as engaged - whether we're not reaching them, whether there's too much to care about, whether there's a change in how students participate in dissent - but I want to do something about it. I want to see students engaged with ANU issues and higher education issues. One particular thing I want to see students speak out about is sexual violence on campus which is a major goal for my year.

### Collective Office

After SRC last Wednesday, the ANUSA executive responded on Thursday saying that we'll come up with a preliminary plan in the next two weeks for a more appropriate place for the collective/department heads office. We agree that it is unacceptable for an office to be inaccessible and we're looking into refurbishing parts of the office to make this possible.

### Meeting with Stephen Milnes

I met with Stephen Milnes, 2IC of DSL (I'm pretty sure that his title has officially changed now) on Thursday 13/3. Just briefly, he said his three priorities for this year

- recognising extracurricular involvement on graduation materials.

- noticing students before they get to academic probation and intervening before it gets worse.
- creating an ANU “cohort”; one way was floated to free ANU shirts to everyone.

p.s. I think they're great, achievable goals.

### **Students Assistance Officer**

By the time you've read this, we'll have interviewed candidates for the Student Assistance Officer. I imagine we'll be giving out an offer by the end of the week. We're interviewing 6-7 people who all look great.

### **Transport**

Annika will most likely write something in her report about this but we're going to run a campaign on the issues that face students when dealing with public transport. We're having a initial meeting on Tuesday afternoon just prior to the meeting but will likely look for help after then.

### **Diaries**

They be selling like hotcakes. Well, better than the hotcakes that Ivy was trying to give away in the student space. Also not selling, giving away. Anyway, win for students

### **Office Clean Out**

Went really well but we were really short on help which made it a bigger and less fun task to deal with. Big ups to Tess, Bianca and Ella who all came to help out!

## REFERENCE B

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### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*ANNIKA HUMPHREYS*

I'm going to try and keep my reports brief as any outstanding issues from my end should be communicated through other channels. Hopefully this means that I can flag things in meetings with talk about them in depth and with positive movement outside of this.

### **Student Course Guide**

Online, student led course guide. Currently exists only in Science. I've taken over this project from Zaiga and Ellen (the Science reps who ran on Commonthread). Having it as an ANUSA project should hopefully give it more stability to grow over the years to come. I'll be working on having as many science courses filled with reviews before potentially rolling it out to other academic colleges. Please let me know if you'd like to help out.

### **Review of Teaching and Learning for Undergrads**

A report on this was produced by ANUSA in 2008. I've almost finished reading it and have noted a number of improvements as well as issues that have been stagnant, such as blind marking and student feedback in course assessment. I would like to come up with a shortened review of this review, as well as including some new data, particularly around seminars and how technology has influenced teaching and learning. Once I have the details figured out, I'll be looking at developing a survey or chasing up some data wranglers around the university.

### **Meeting with the Dean of Students**

Cam and I have monthly meetings with Dr Paula Newitt, the Dean of Students. It's a great way to keep the communication channels open and raise any issues that we've seen around the university in regards to students – so if anyone comes to you with concerns over their grades, academic misconduct, misadventure etc, please let us know so we can either refer them on, or look to put some pressure on the university should the matter arising be a common experience.

## REFERENCE C

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### EDUCATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

*LAURA WEY*

**UNAVAILABLE – DETAILS AT THE MEETING**

## REFERENCE D

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### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE REPORT

*SAM DUNCAN AND TESS KLUCKOW*

Since the last CRC on 25 February, we have not had a great deal to report on. There was Hot Topic discussion group in Week 2 but we were unable to attend due to other commitments and communication mishap. The forum discussed CASS Honours. Please refer to the minutes of that meeting, available on CASS Intranet.

#### **First Year CASS Camp**

- First Year Camp was a huge success. We had 84 people in attendance, including CASS and CAP students and mentors. There were no major issues to report on. Special thanks go to Elisabeth Findlay for supporting the camp and giving her time to visit us on the weekend. Cheers also to Laura and Annika for their massive contributions and to our incredible team of mentors: Elsie, Josh, Azim, Declan, Daniel, Annabel and Jacqueline.
- We think it is relevant to discuss the stricter regulations, which affected CASS/CAP camp following the other two camps, and the way in which the ANU Policy was put into force. While we appreciate and understand the reasons behind the ANU's response, we were disappointed with the lack of consultation with us as camp organisers and with mentors. We were placed in a difficult position, having to change the rules for mentors days before departure and redefine their role on camp.
- Fortunately, our first year cohort was fantastic and made this policy change effectively a non-issue. Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback from first year students (see Nick Horton for documentation), we would continue to advocate for First Year Camps to run into the future. However, we would suggest that future camps be run according to clear and consistently applied policies, which are available well in advance to recognise the many months of planning by students that make camp happen.
- **Hot Topic: First Year Experience (Monday 17 March)**
  - We will speak to this at the meeting.

## REFERENCE E

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### COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

*NICK HORTON AND ALICE DAWKINS*

#### **First Year Camp:**

- Key Achievements
  - Following an intensive campaign of lecture attendance, email circulations, and a lucky draw prize for a Palace Electric double pass, we managed to sell 25 tickets for the camp with only one no-show

- Despite having two mentors drop out, we found the 8:24 mentor-mentee ratio ideal for facilitating individualised consultation without being too intimidating
- For the first time, almost all languages/majors were represented by mentors in their presentations, with the general message to students inviting them to experiment with their learning beyond their defined pathways
- The students had the opportunity to meet their Acting Dean, Andrew Walker, in a relaxed environment – a rare chance
- Student’s expectations for the academic consultations were discovered to be centred largely around exchange opportunities, scholarships, internships, honours, and career advice. We were successful in covering these bases extremely thoroughly.
- The social events were incident-free, with only a small number of CAP students even drinking their allocated amount of drinks on the Saturday night
- Recommendations
  - Camp model worked very well but it would be worth considering other more accessible options, so that more CAP students can benefit from the rare chance to access mentoring and advice from the high-quality students we attracted as mentors
  - Mentor-mentee integration and mingling would have been far easier if there wasn’t such a clearly defined divide between the two groups, made clear by mentors being required to sleep in separate dorms and wear ‘mentor’ shirts.
  - **Discussion Point:** Some mentors mentioned that a separate camp model may better serve the interests of fostering stronger mentor-mentee relationships. This is something that ANUSA should consider for future camp models. There are significant benefits and disadvantages for both models.
- Other
  - Mentors were thanked for their services at a dinner paid out of our Faculty Representative budget on Sunday night, after our return to Canberra. It was a very well received ‘thank-you’ and they left feeling very positive about the camp and their involvement.
  - In the coming weeks we will be compiling the collected survey results and writing a report, which will be submitted to the Sub-Dean, Dean, ANUSA Executive, CRC and College Education Committee.

### Course Representative Guides

- Details
  - Guides have been picked up from printers (Bytes and Colours) and will be distributed to the 30-or-so course representatives at an induction meeting this week.
  - CAP is following this development with considerable interest and asked us to speak on this at their Education Committee Meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March, as well as our previous achievement with the First Year Guide.

### **College Board Meeting (March 5, 2014)**

- Position of Dean advertised – open until 20 March, interviews in May
- College Budget:
  - Tighter budget (in terms of allocation) in 2014
  - Budget situation may improve with healthy student enrolments
  - CAP projected substantial deficit for 2014 – close attention to (1) does deficit represent a sustainable trend; or (2) is it non-sustainable
  - Most substantial budget deficit across Colleges at ANU
- Key Education Issues Semester 1 2014:
  - Undergraduate curriculum transformation for 2015
  - Re-working graduate coursework programs for AQF compliance
  - Online and flexible learning (esp. online language courses)
- Outreach and External Relationships:
  - Focus on Indonesia and China
  - Gifted Researchers Conference in Jakarta over Summer Holidays – develop networks
  - Wider network of exchange agreements for a significantly expanded Semester in China program
- PhB Program 2014:
  - Five students enrolled in inaugural 2014 cohort
- Investment in School of Culture, History and Language to be reviewed (worry about sustained under-investment)
- Draft CAP Operational Plan:
  - Sent to Vice-Chancellor
  - Guides College work with schools in the immediate future as well as budgeting issues

### **College Education Committee (March 17, 2014):**

- Held 10am-12pm, Monday March 17
- Will report on any developments

## **REFERENCE F**

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### **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS**

#### ***SHANE PANDERANGA AND PADDY CLARK***

- Chose a new College Rep partner, Joyce Xu.
- Discussed projects to focus on over the year and how to work together well.
- So far, we are going to focus on improving the feedback mechanisms between students and the CBE. The CBE is very concerned with student feedback as around 11.8% of courses had <50% agreement rates for SELT, the worst in the ANU. We're working through ways to increase student participation in these surveys to have a better picture of what students think.
- We're also trying to get more exposure by funnelling CBE events and initiatives through a single advertising medium. This would allow CBE students to obtain a lot of important information for the week from a single source.



- We're also working on maintaining a good relationship with the first-years who went on the camp to keep that connection with the first-year cohort. Any projects we do to enhance student engagement, such as the possibility of a mentoring program within the CBE will also be targeted at the first-years to maximise return.

Not much else to comment on, as I've been waiting for my new partner to give them a say in what we should be doing.

## REFERENCE G

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### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

*ALAN BABEI AND PROBIE OFFNER*

- SELTS scores: Percentages have increased in Computer Science and decreased in Engineering.
- They've included a new Engineering Major/Minor – Bio and Nano systems which is planned to roll out by next year.
- ANU are trying to extend the PhB to all colleges and CECS are sceptical particularly because it clashes with their already existing and proven R&D programme. So its likely they'll either reshape R&D to fit the specs for a PhB or forget about it.
- They're currently performing an audit of all CECS Wattle pages as they don't accurately reflect the professionalism of CECS.
  - Some wattle pages are just awful and new students planning to study in CECS look at them and are put off.
  - It's also not helpful for current students who are trying to decide what course they want to do
- ANU is trying to push for course websites to be visible in the public domain. CECS plan to make/ask for proper guidelines before they do this because they feel there is lots of room for confusing plagiarism lawsuits.
  - Some Courses are however already public
- The new Flexible double degrees intimidated new students when choosing Engineering and Computer science which is misleading because it implied you have to do both.
  - They blame this for poor first choice CECS degrees offers.
  - Quick fix, change to 'or' instead of 'and'.
- They talked briefly about a new DLD system called echo360.

## REFERENCE H

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### COLLEGE OF LAW

*JOCK WEBB AND PETA LEIGH*

#### Law Camp

- We have had positive feedback from the camp owners – Barry made a point of telling us that he was pleased with and appreciative of how leaders and campers conducted themselves
- Richard Baker attended on Saturday night
- Our three drink system worked effectively as we struck students of a role as they came to the bar to collect drinks – as such the Saturday night party was a success
- Finally, we would like to put a huge thank you on the record to all the mentors who volunteered their time at the camp, they were all fantastic, and to Annika for being incredibly, above and beyond helpful

#### Honours Reform (CEC and LLB)

- Neither of us was present at the most recent education committee meetings for the COL, due to scheduling clashes which have been arranged to be systematically avoided in the future
- We have liaised with the student representatives from the LSS who also sit on these committees and studied the minutes of the agenda
- Contained in the minutes is the proposal formulated by the COL for the AQF compliant honours program with a view to introduction for the cohort beginning 2015
- The document is confidential but we are studying it carefully and will liaise further with the LSS as we prepare for a special meeting of the CEC to finalise the document and raise any issues

#### Meeting with Judy Jones

- We have had an informal meeting with Judy Jones, LLB director
- It is intended that we will have meetings on a regular basis
- We covered a variety of topics, including an informal discussion of different facets and ramifications of the new AQF compliant honours program for law

## REFERENCE I

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### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

*RICHARD KONG AND EMMA WISDOM*

#### Careers night

We have started organising our careers night which will be held in Week 10 of this semester. We will finalise dates when we lock in some keynote speakers and make the date for when suits them best. We've started emailing possible

speakers, caterers, and room hire. We will be getting a budget together by the end of this week and we hope to obtain funding from sponsorship, Joint Colleges of Science and/or GAC if we get some of the societies to help us.

### **Class Representatives Meetings**

Two weeks ago Emma attended the Biology Class Representative meeting and last week Richard went to the Chemistry one. We have yet to be informed about any Physics or Maths meetings and we are trying to find out about these. Overall we think the system is working really well and all the class reps gave good feedback about their courses. A few minor issues arose but the class rep coordinators (Dave Rowell from Biology and Geoffrey Salem from Chemistry) will be looking into them and talking to the respective lecturers and course coordinators. We took down notes and see if the issues have been addressed by the next class rep meeting.

We haven't had any major developments apart from that, and our next Ed Com is scheduled for 9th April.

### **Expenditure**

- 500 science showbags: \$155.10
- Science logo stamp: \$69.40
- Total expenditure: \$224.50