



Australian
National
University

AGENDA – ANUSA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) 3 2020

Wednesday, 29 April 2020 Zoom (online)

Item 1: Meeting Opens and Apologies

- 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country
- 1.2 Apologies

Item 2: Passing the previous meetings minutes

- Motion to pass the minutes from SRC 2.
 - Motion to amend the minutes from SRC 1.
-

Item 3: Executive Reports

- 3.1 President's report (L. Day) [Reference A]
 - 3.2 Vice President's report (M. Janagaraja) [Reference B]
 - 3.3 Education Officer's report (S. Panditharatne) [Reference C]
 - 3.4 General Secretary's report (T. Heslington) [Reference D]
 - 3.5 Treasurer's report (M. Wang) [Reference E]
 - 3.6 Social Officer's report (S. Jaggar) [Reference F]
-

Item 4: Department Officer Reports

- 4.1 Indigenous Department (M. Crowe) [Reference G]
 - 4.2 Women's Department (S.J. Law) [Reference H]
 - 4.3 Queer* Department (A. Arnould) [Reference I]
 - 4.4 International Students' Department (L.C. Yip) [Reference J]
 - 4.5 Disabilities Department (Z. Ranganathan) [Reference K]
 - 4.6 Environment Department (G. Hill) [Reference L]
 - 4.7 Ethnocultural Department (Z. Vasaiwalla) [Reference M]
-

Item 5: Clubs Council Chair Report

- 5.1 Report by Jacob Howland [Reference N]
-

Item 6: Disputes Committee elections

Item 7: Probity Officer elections

Item 8: Discussion Items/Motions on Notice

Motion 8.1

Preamble:

As General Secretary, I must declare honoraria nominations to be opened at the first SRC of terms two and four. Honoraria can be paid to any ANUSA ordinary member or elected representative (who is not already covered by the Finance Regulations) in recognition of voluntary service to the student body which is above and beyond any basic duties.

Honoraria nominations can be sent to sa.gensec@anu.edu.au. Honoraria nomination forms will be posted on the ANUSA Facebook page, but I can also send a copy through to you if you email me at sa.gensec@anu.edu.au. Nominations will be open for two weeks, and will close at 8pm on Wednesday 13th May.

The composition of the Honoraria Committee is specified in s 3.3.5 of the Finance Regulations. The Committee will meet to discuss the nominations and made recommendations for honoraria to the SRC at SRC 4.

Motion:

1. The SRC endorses the creation of the 2020 Honoraria Committee.
2. The Committee will be comprised of the President, the Treasurer, a Department Officer, a College Representative and a General Representative.

3. The Committee will be able to allocate up to \$2000 in semester one, with no more than \$1,000 being allocated to one person.
4. Individuals cannot be nominated to receive more than \$1,000.
5. Applications from Department Officers, College Representatives and General Representatives for the Committee shall be reviewed by the General Secretary and Social Officer and will close one week after the application form is published.

Mover: Taylor Heslington

Second:

Motion 8.2

ANUSA SRC endorses the No Proctorio at ANU campaign, and the work done by the exec, office bearers, general representatives, departments, clubs & societies, and ordinary students and staff in the campaign against Proctorio.

ANUSA SRC opposes the use of Proctorio at ANU.

ANUSA SRC notes that thousands have signed the petition against Proctorio, and that student opinion is overwhelmingly against the use of Proctorio at ANU.

ANUSA SRC notes that serious concerns regarding privacy, security, and accessibility have been raised by students, and responded to insufficiently by ANU management.

ANUSA SRC rejects the assertion by the ANU management that only a small group of students are organising a campaign against Proctorio. Many students from different areas of study and experience are acting together to oppose the implementation of Proctorio at ANU.

ANUSA SRC notes that other campuses have managed to organise alternatives to invasive online invigilation, and expects that similar arrangements can be made at ANU.

Mover: Grace Hill

Second:

Motion 8.3

CW: Brief mention of sexual assault and sexual harassment

Preamble:

ANU has recently announced its intention to use the online proctoring software 'Proctorio' for examinations this semester.

Despite assertions by university representatives to the contrary, student representatives received extremely limited consultation before the software was purchased, and an email announcing the use of the software was sent to students prior to the ANU COVID-19 Teaching Continuity Working Group approving the use of the software.

On the 23rd of April, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) published an op-ed in *Woroni*, which claimed that “this decision [to purchase a license for Proctorio] has included consultation with students and due diligence”.

Well over 3000 students have signed a petition objecting to the use of the software. A significant number of clubs representing students in various ANU faculties also signed a letter opposing the use of Proctorio. Despite this, an all-staff email sent by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) asserted that “a small group of students are running a campaign against Proctorio” and that those students could be in breach of the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct does not exist as an official policy of ANU at present, as it is yet to be approved by the Senior Management Group. The Code of Conduct cannot be applied retrospectively to actions that occurred before it was official policy. Moreover, a breach of the Code of Conduct would not lead to a senior ANU staff member publicly announcing a breach to every staff member at ANU without any semblance of natural justice. The Student Code of Conduct is a measure intended to make ANU safer for students, and has been long been advanced by student leaders in the sexual assault and sexual harassment advocacy space.

On the 21st of April, ANU published a ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ (FAQ) page about the use of Proctorio. This FAQ advised students who lacked the equipment necessary to use Proctorio to consider “Applying for a grant through the Emergency Grants Fund being administered by ANUSA and PARSA to purchase required equipment for remote study/assessment”. ANUSA was not consulted on this statement before the FAQ was published. The ANUSA Emergency Grant fund, which is limited to \$750 per student per year, is intended to cover emergency needs such as unexpected medical bills, short term living costs, and emergency travel or accommodation costs.

On the 21st of April, students received a short note in the ‘On and Off Campus’ email linking the FAQ stating that “If you still have questions for us [about Proctorio], please email them to covid19comms@anu.edu.au. Professor Brian Schmidt, Vice-Chancellor, will address your concerns in a video broadcast early next week.”

On the 23rd of April, the ‘ANU On Campus’ Facebook page, which is followed by 675 people, published a post at 9:03AM stating that “The VC will answer your Proctorio questions on Friday 24 April, so any questions you have for him need to be submitted to covid19comms@anu.edu.au by COB on Thursday 23 April.” This was the only public advertisement of the deadline for questions.

In his responses to student questions on the 23rd of April, the Vice-Chancellor stated that “So ANUSA/PARSA administer the emergency grant fund and they will determine how the money is disseminated. I don't want people to feel as though they're not entitled support if they need it, so please contact ANUSA/PARSA directly. With respect to items, again we will let ANUSA/PARSA make the decisions, and the university is highly invested in making sure that the emergency fund continues to be used by anyone who needs it.” ANUSA was not consulted before the Vice Chancellor made this statement. The Vice Chancellor declined to confirm whether he would consider topping up the ANUSA/PARSA emergency grants fund, instead asserting that “we're continuing to work with ANUSA/PARSA about any future needs they may have”. In his responses, the Vice Chancellor also stated that “I am troubled by suggestions that the University and I are not taking students’ concerns seriously - this is not true - I do worry about these things.”

The Student Partnership Agreement between ANU, ANUSA, and PARSA, notes that a “successful partnership” is based on the values of “openness; trust and honesty; agreed shared goals and values; and robust communication and understanding between the partners”. The agreement includes a commitment on the part of the Academic Board to “consistently and meaningfully engage with the student body”.

Platform:

1. Through the above conduct, ANU has failed in its obligations under the Student Partnership Agreement to value openness, trust and honesty, and robust communication and understanding.
2. Through the claim that the Student Code of Conduct could be used to punish students who raised concerns about Proctorio, ANU has deeply undermined student trust in the university and its priority to protect students.
3. The claim that students who raised concerns about Proctorio could be found in breach of the Student Code of Conduct was a lie, and the decision to include that claim in an all-staff email was unprofessional.
4. The limited time given for students to submit questions to the April 23rd Q&A meant that students were unable to meaningfully engage with the Q&A, despite assertions to the contrary by the Vice-Chancellor.
5. The advice from ANU that students who lack the equipment necessary to use Proctorio should apply for an ANUSA Emergency Grant was irresponsible and misleading.
6. If ANU wishes for ANUSA to fund student purchases of necessary equipment, they should commit to financially supporting the entirety of those purchases.
7. ANUSA calls upon the University to apologise for the lack of consultation, arrogance, and fundamental disrespect for the principles of student partnership demonstrated by the above behaviour.

Action:

1. ANUSA will publish this statement in full on their Facebook page.
2. ANUSA, through its representative on the committee, will table this statement in full at the next ANU Teaching Continuity Working Group meeting.
3. ANUSA will continue to engage in constructive consultation with the University on Proctorio and other matters to present student perspectives, and will continue to note when ANU falls short on its commitment to student partnership.

Mover: Skanda Panditharatne

Seconder:

Motion 8.4

Solidarity with ANU Staff

Preamble:

Australian universities are in crisis. Losses solely due to the COVID-19 crisis have highlighted the flaws and immense reliance on university education for not only the Canberran economy but the Australian economy as a whole. Conservative NTEU estimates put the sector-wide losses for 2020 *alone* at least \$5 billion.

In response, university managements across the country are looking to place most of the financial burden on staff through cuts to jobs, wages, increased casualisation and therefore, less secure working conditions and rights such as sick leave and superannuation

Universities Australia has conservatively estimated that at least 21,000 jobs are up for cuts across the country but the real figure is likely to be far higher, especially if non-academic and postgraduate student-staff are taken into consideration. The restructuring of the sector solely around changed enrolment revenue will also likely see courses cut back to only the most profitable ones, as has occurred at the University of Tasmania, and will ashamedly, most likely result in unequal cuts across faculties more so to the arts and humanities - an area that the ANU is supposed to pride itself on.

University bosses want staff to cop cuts to their take-home pay, whilst simultaneously being worked harder and more punitively to make up for job losses. Other universities across the country have seen mass dismissals of university staff via a mass email to all casual staff, as well as the introductions of pay schemes which encourage staff to pay back a portion of their income to the university.

Platform:

1. ANUSA understands that staff working conditions are student learning conditions and that the student union movement is intrinsically linked to fighting for the rights of all university staff
2. ANUSA stands in solidarity with university staff, including non-academic staff such as cleaners and University House staff who have been stood down as a result of the coronavirus pandemic
3. ANUSA strongly objects to universities forcing losses most onto casual staff, in an attempt to cut losses
4. ANUSA supports the NTEUs action in fighting for the rights of its members for fair treatment at this time

Action:

1. ANUSA will publish a statement supporting staff, against increased casualisation of staff and against cuts to courses
2. ANUSA will also send this statement to the ANU NTEU branch, and work together where possible for the mutual benefit of staff and students who are both under attack from cuts by university management

Mover: Zoe Ranganathan

Secunder: Ben Yates

Motion 8.5

Preamble:

The higher education sector has been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis. For decades, universities have relied on funding from international students, who are forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars in annual fees, and an ever-increasing amount of student contributions overall. Exploiting students to make up the government imposed short-fall in funding was always

appalling. Now, this scheme has been destroyed by the COVID-19 crisis, leaving international students stranded and university finances collapsing.

Last week, Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan announced an inadequate funding package for universities. Universities Australia have threatened 21,000 job losses over the next six months. Usyd have slashed 30% of Arts courses. We are now facing the higher education restructure from hell – casual workers at universities around the country are being sacked, and hard-won wages and conditions are being undermined. We should be prepared to fight against every attack that could arise at ANU and other universities around Australia - that could arise in the coming months – such as fee deregulation, trimesters and faculty mergers – that attempts to force staff and students to pay for the crisis.

The funding required to bail out the sector pales in comparison to the corporate handouts that Scott Morrison issued in the wake of this health crisis. The government should bail out the higher education sector without requiring any restructures, course cuts or job losses. In the short term, university managements should not shift any of the costs of this crisis onto staff and students. We must all support international students, and demand they be given full access to welfare and healthcare, and an indefinite extension of their visas. Staff working conditions are student learning conditions - students have a direct stake in supporting staff during this crisis. Staff across the country have already rejected the idea that we should shoulder these enormous costs, and ANUSA should stand with them and do the same. The quality of our education should not suffer because of a crisis in their funding model.

Actions - ANUSA:

- Condemns the government and university managements for forcing the costs of budget shortfalls onto staff and students.
- Notes that attacks on staff working conditions are attacks on student learning conditions, and recognises that staff and students should not have to pay for the funding crisis.
- Calls on the government to bail out the higher education sector, without this being conditional on any restructures, and the university sector should not cut any jobs or university courses.
- Demands equal rights for international students, including the indefinite extension of their visas.
- ANUSA will be ready to fight back against cuts at ANU, to extend solidarity and support to students and staff fighting against cuts to funding, jobs, courses or pay on other campuses.

Mover: Grace Hill

Seconder:

Motion 8.6

Preamble

On the 10th of April, the Melbourne Refugee Action Collective organised a car cavalcade protest in support of refugees who are being imprisoned in unsafe conditions and degrading conditions in the Mantra hotel in Melbourne. The refugees have been detained in their rooms for more than eight months, after being transferred to Australia on medical grounds. The refugees are being held in cramped conditions, which make social distancing an impossibility, even for the many refugees that have serious health conditions that put them in a high-risk

category. For a period of time, the security guards even denied the refugees access to soap. Yet they have been denied the right to go outdoors on the grounds of health and safety.

In response to these inhumane conditions, RAC organised an adapted protest that adhered to social distancing measures. A group of cars with no more than two people in each car, met outside the hotel, placards in support of the refugees were displayed in the car windows. Speeches were streamed from people in cars and from refugees in the hotel. The protest was far safer in terms of social distancing than the conditions of the refugees in the Matra Hotel, yet the Victoria police used the new laws around social distancing to fine participants in this protest a total of nearly \$50,000 and charged a protest organiser with “incitement”.

Motion

ANUSA condemns the treatment of refugees being kept in the Mantra Hotel as inhumane and unsafe and recognises that this treatment violates social distancing measures.

ANUSA supports the protest actions that the refugees themselves have undertaken and recognises their bravery in attempting to speak to the media, contact the community and make themselves heard.

ANUSA supports the activists that protested these inhumane conditions and condemns the Victoria Police for fining the activists who were engaged in a protest that adhered to social distancing measures.

ANUSA demands that the refugees being held in the Mantra Hotel be immediately released from detention, and allowed to live in the community.

Mover: Wren Somerville

Seconder:

Motion 8.7

Preamble:

Reporting is essential in ensuring transparency between the ANUSA SRC and the wider student body. Mandatory reporting by the SRC Executive, Department and Collective heads and College representatives has proven to be an effective measure to convey the collective work of the Association to students. Save for a few projects reported on throughout the year, a large portion of the work done by the General Representative team goes unnoticed.

A motion moved in SRC 5 2019 compelled all 14 General Representatives of the SRC to provide a written report for the following SRC. Whilst the process of reporting in the formal setting of an SRC meeting highlighted a few complications, it was generally considered a success in showcasing the contributions of individuals and the team as a whole.

In a survey completed by the 2019 General Representative team on how they found the reporting process, two complications were highlighted.

Firstly, there was an uncertainty of how to report on minor contributions that didn't warrant an entire report by themselves.

The second of which was that individual reporting created an unhealthy comparison of work between General Representatives and made individuals feel that the amount and quality of their work was being evaluated comparatively to the work of other General Representatives.

A form of reporting which would help mitigate these complications is to opt for a combined general representative report as opposed to 14 individual reports. This report may be organised by projects or areas of work which would focus on team contributions rather than individual work, but gen reps would still be able to report on any individual contributions if they like.

Motion:

The SRC compels the General Representatives to present a report at all subsequent SRC 4 and SRC 8 meetings.

Mover: Cahill Di Donato

Seconder:

Motion 8.8

General Representative Working Groups

Preamble:

The working groups established by this motion are the product of a planning day the gen reps held during the break. The purpose of the groups is both to investigate the topics set out and to give some structure to the work of the gen reps which has become more challenging with campus closed.

It should be emphasised that creating these groups is not an endorsement of any particular aim but instead all are exploratory in nature. Furthermore, the membership has been limited to the general representatives (and the college representatives for one) mostly with a view towards providing structure to these reps at a time when most gen rep projects have become redundant. If anyone who is not a gen rep has a particular interest in one of them, feel free to email or slack the relevant Ben convening the first meeting and I am sure the group would be happy to invite you to become a member.

To contextualise each group:

The Kambri Tenancy Working Group has two points of origin. Firstly, with the winding up of the ANU Union, we are one of the only Australian universities without student run service providers. Secondly, on the 2nd of April, Woroni reported that a number of Kambri businesses are at the brink of closure. The working group will explore whether there is an opportunity for ANUSA to take on tenancies for service provision, whether this is desirable and whether this is or could become financially feasible.

The Service Improvement Group is a ANU team that works as a consultancy for the university. Through the 'student experience accelerator' project, they are looking to work on common issues cited by students while by-passing the bureaucratic delays that such reforms often involve. This group has significant potential and is interested in developing a working relationship with ANUSA.

Arts funding is currently done through Clubs Council. This working group comes about from discussions about whether a dedicated body for arts funding would be better, providing for funding models designed for theatre, a centralised group for arts advocacy, and a body to retain institutional knowledge about producing theatre and other arts at ANU.

The Campus Master Plan is 164 pages of joy. It is worth taking the time to examine this document in detail and make contact with relevant stakeholders to gain a greater understanding of how the plan is progressing, to strengthen ANUSA's ability to proactively advocate for the development to be student-centric.

Course Representatives are a powerful tool that the Student Partnership Agreement gives us. Nonetheless, managing the representatives in such a way to keep them engaged, supported and motivated is challenging. This working group will consider both short term questions as to how to manage the course reps program this year, with online classes potentially stretching into Semester 2, and looking forward to how we can maximise the benefits of the reps and make it a positive experience for them.

As student media have reported, the off-campus collective has met challenges. This working group looks at the best means for off-campus representation, advocacy and community building going forward.

Action:

1. The SRC establishes the following working groups, according to the terms described.

Kambri Tenancy Working Group

1. The purpose of this group is to investigate the possibility of ANUSA taking on tenancies in the Kambri precinct for commercial ventures and/or service provision.
2. The working group shall be open to any general representative, and any other person invited by a decision of the working group.
3. The first meeting of the group shall be convened by Ben Yates with a secretary elected at the first meeting to perform this function and secretarial duties henceforth and at the first meeting, relevant individuals to invite to join the working group will be an agenda item.

Service Improvement Group Liaison Working Group

1. The purpose of this group is to consult and liaise with the Service Improvement Group with a view towards establishing a working relationship.
2. The working group shall be open to any general representative, and any other person invited by a decision of the working group.
3. The first meeting of the group shall be convened by Ben Wicks with a secretary elected at the first meeting to perform this function and secretarial duties henceforth and at the first meeting, relevant individuals to invite to join the working group will be an agenda item.

Arts Funding Working Group

1. The purpose of this group is to consult with relevant stakeholders on issues pertaining to arts funding at ANU and explore new approaches.
2. The working group shall be open to any general representative, and any other person invited by a decision of the working group.
3. The first meeting of the group shall be convened by Ben Yates with a secretary elected at the first meeting to perform this function and secretarial duties henceforth and at the first meeting, relevant individuals to invite to join the working group will be an agenda item.

Campus Master Plan Working Group

1. The purpose of this group is to monitor the implementation of the Campus Master Plan and ensure that students' best interests are being met.
2. The working group shall be open to any general representative, and any other person invited by a decision of the working group.
3. The first meeting of the group shall be convened by Ben Yates with a secretary elected at the first meeting to perform this function and secretarial duties henceforth and at the first meeting, relevant individuals to invite to join the working group will be an agenda item.

Future of Course Representatives Working Group

1. The purpose of this group is to investigate best practice for course representatives in line with the Student Partnership Agreement.
2. The working group shall be open to any general representative or college representative, and any other person invited by a decision of the working group.
3. The first meeting of the group shall be convened by Ben Wicks with a secretary elected at the first meeting to perform this function and secretarial duties henceforth and at the first meeting, relevant individuals to invite to join the working group will be an agenda item.

Off-Campus Working Group

1. The purpose of this group is to investigate more methods of representation and community engagement of off-campus students.
2. The working group shall be open to any general representative, and any other person invited by a decision of the working group.
3. The first meeting of the group shall be convened by Ben Wicks with a secretary elected at the first meeting to perform this function and secretarial duties henceforth and at the first meeting, relevant individuals to invite to join the working group will be an agenda item.

Mover: Ben Yates

Seconder: Ben Wicks

Preamble:

The Australian Government has recently released the app 'Covidsafe', an app that traces whether a user of the app has been in contact with someone else using the app who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous few weeks, in a bid to automate coronavirus contact tracing, and allow the easing of restrictions. Despite significant safeguards, the app has raised some privacy and security questions which still remain unanswered.

Platform:

1. ANUSA encourages students to individually consider downloading the Covidsafe app.
2. ANUSA encourages students to consider their own privacy and security priorities in making this choice.
3. ANUSA affirms the right of every person to make choices about their own data, and is concerned about the general intrusion of government tracking into our everyday lives.
4. ANUSA recognises that the Covidsafe app has the support of the Australian medical community, including the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian College of GPs.

Action:

1. ANUSA will provide information to students on the Covidsafe app through its normal communication channels. Such communication will emphasise that it is an individual's choice to download the app, and provide information on the privacy and security concerns about the app, as well as its potential benefits in the fight against COVID-19.

Mover: Skanda Panditharatne

Seconder:

Motion 8.10**Preamble**

Jacob Howland, sa.clubschair@anu.edu.au

1. Summary

An interpretation has been made as to who is an undergraduate student for the purposes of the ANUSA constitution, which determines who is a member of ANUSA. In short, this interpretation is that 'Undergraduate Student' as used in reference to ANUSA membership 'requir[es] current enrolment in classes.' In the case which triggered this interpretation, the immediate implication is that someone whose honours project has been unavoidably postponed by the University due to the current campus closure, and therefore forced to defer study under advisement from their Research College and supervisors, loses a role they wish to continue in. However, what the qualification for being a member of ANUSA is has a wide array of consequences. These include that the ability of ANUSA to provide support to students who are not enrolled in any ANU classes in a given semester may be limited, and that a number of positions in ANUSA may currently be vacant.

The circumstances around the interpretation and a detailed explanation of my view of its implications follows. I apologise for its length, however I believe it is all useful, and would encourage you to read it, and ask me any questions you might have. Ultimately, this motion

seeks to have the Disputes Committee reconsider this interpretation, and to start the process of clarifying the language of the Constitution in this area along with the other constitutional amendments likely to be proposed later this year.

2. The circumstances and the interpretation

On 26 March, I was informed by Heather Johnston, the Discipline Clubs Branch Officer on the Clubs Council Executive, that she had been informed by the University, through communications with the RSB, Honours conveners and her supervisor that, there would be no way to continue her in progress Honours project at this time as a result of the campus shutdown. As she would not be able to complete any of the scheduled lab-work, taking program leave until campus is re-opened was deemed to be the only suitable option and that this was going to mean that she would not be enrolled in any ANU courses this semester. Heather was to, and will, remain enrolled/active in her program. Heather expressed that she wished to remain in her role on the Clubs Council Executive if at all possible. A statement by Heather on her view of the decision discussed below can be found in Appendix A.

I referred this situation to Jordyn Gibson, the Clubs Council Secretary, for her view on what impact this development had on Heather's ability to continue in her role. Jordyn's view was that only people who continue to be members of ANUSA or PARSA may continue to hold roles on the Clubs Council Executive, but that she was not in a position to make a determination about whether someone was a member of ANUSA or not.

Subsequently, on 27 March, I referred this situation to Taylor Heslington, the ANUSA General Secretary, in the following terms:

I was informed by Heather Johnston, our branch officer for discipline clubs, yesterday that her Honours project has been cancelled, and, as such, she is no longer going to be enrolled in courses this semester (or perhaps not this whole year).

My best understanding is that this would probably usually have meant that she was no longer a member of ANUSA, and as such no longer eligible to hold her position (at least, it is Jordyn's view that this would make her no longer eligible to hold the position).

I was wondering if there have been any decisions/interpretations made about situations like this will affect ANUSA membership at this time. Obviously losing your role is one thing, but in considering this situation, it occurred to me that this may be a fairly widespread issue this semester which could lead to people losing the general support of ANUSA at a particularly bad time, so I thought there might be a broader decision made.

Taylor advised me that no such interpretation had been made, and that she would come to a decision about this by that Wednesday. On 1 April, she advised me of her decision as follows:

I've done my research and have an interpretation of 'Undergraduate Student' for you (which relates to ANUSA membership as defined in section 5 of the Constitution, which then relates to the Clubs Regs).

Having given it much thought, I'm interpreting 'Undergraduate Student' as requiring current enrolment in classes. Although someone would remain enrolled within their overall degree at ANU whilst undertaking program leave, they would not be actively participating as a student in classes. To me, this suggests that for the purposes of the

Constitution, they would not be considered to be an 'Undergraduate Student'. This would mean that they are not considered to be an ordinary member of the Association.

I completely understand your concerns about how the current situation impacts ANUSA membership (I'm also concerned about this, considering the number of people who are having classes cancelled and are needing help at the moment). I've spoken to Lachy, and he let me know that the Student Assistance Officers do provide support to students who have the intention of resuming their studies. I also imagine that they're being particularly lenient about who they're helping at this time, as there are probably quite a few people in the same boat as Heather. If there's anything that Heather needs help with, please encourage her to reach out to the SA Officers as I'm sure they'd be happy to help.

I'm genuinely sorry that this means that Heather won't be able to continue as Branch Officer. This situation is creating some of the most frustrating governance consequences I've ever seen. If Heather would like more of an explanation, please let her know that she's welcome to get in contact with me.

I passed this decision on to Jordyn and Heather, but noted that it did not include a direct reference to the definition of undergraduate student found in section 2 of the ANUSA Constitution, and that I would query this omission with Taylor. I felt that this was of note, given that this definition includes the word 'program' and Heather was to remain active in her program. I did so, and received the following elaboration on the above interpretation:

Don't worry, I definitely had a look at s 2(1) when I did my original interpretation - I realise now that I didn't step through my reasoning though! Happy to explain things in more detail.

S 2(1) reads as follows: 'Undergraduate Student means a student enrolled in a unit or program of study for a Bachelor's degree or any other undergraduate award of the Australian National University, other than the Bachelor of Medicine.'

As the ANUSA Constitution essentially forms a contract between the Association and the general members of ANUSA, when I'm interpreting the Constitution my decisions involve interpreting the intention of the parties to the contract at the time it was drafted. Whilst falling back on ANU definitions can be helpful, the main thing that I have to focus on is the intention if the language is unclear.

In this case, this applies because I don't think that the language of 'program' used in s 2(1) was intended to equate to 'degree' (which could incorporate an Honours year) like it does in the University Glossary. This is due to the fact that 'unit or program of study' is followed by 'for a Bachelor's degree or any other undergraduate award'. To me, this suggests that the language 'program of study' was meant to encompass anything that doesn't fall within a traditional 'unit' (class), which could contribute to the completion of a degree. It seems that it was intended that students must be actively participating in classes or other things that build towards a degree in order to to be considered as an 'Undergraduate Student' for the purposes of the Constitution.

3. The reasons for this motion

There are a number of issues presented by this interpretation, some of which are discussed in my email to Taylor and her first reply. These issues, particularly the fact that this

interpretation may make it difficult for ANUSA to provide some forms of support to students who are experiencing a particularly challenging time, deserve the attention of the SRC, which is why I seek to table this interpretation in full.

The second, but primary, reason I bring this motion before the SRC is to seek to resolve decisively the important issue of what 'undergraduate student' means for the purposes of the ANUSA Constitution. I believe that this issue should be referred to the disputes committee for resolution, for the reasons that follow.

4. Issues with the interpretation

For clarity, this interpretation was of section 5 of the Constitution, which, relevantly, reads:

- (2) An ordinary member of the Association is any person who:
 - (a) is an Undergraduate Student

Made in the context of the definition of Undergraduate Student in section 2, which is:

Undergraduate Student means a student enrolled in a unit or program of study for a Bachelor's degree or any other undergraduate award of the Australian National University, other than the Bachelor of Medicine

I remain unconvinced by Taylor's view of the meaning of the word program in the context of this definition. To my best understanding, that program means a degree program in the context of ANU (and of universities generally), is stable and widely known. In this light, I find it hard to believe that word program would have been included by the drafters of the constitution, or accepted by the general meeting which passed the constitution, without the intention of capturing this common meaning. Additionally, in my view, the proposed alternative intention sits on a questionable basis, given that, to my knowledge, there is nothing which can contribute to the completion of a degree but which doesn't fall within a 'unit'. A degree is awarded after the completion of a set number of units, in compliance with a particular program.

Further to this, while the intention of the parties to a contract (which is essentially what the Constitution is for these purposes) was rightly identified as a primary consideration in interpreting the contract, it is not the only consideration. Particularly in the context of applying contract law to interpret constitutions, an additional prominent consideration is to favour an interpretation which is not narrow or pedantic and which gives effect to the aims of the constitution/organisation. I imagine most would agree that providing support to students when they need it is one of the core aims of ANUSA, and as outlined above, this interpretation has at least the potential to frustrate that aim.

Additionally, in my view, the unavoidable consequence of this interpretation is that to continue in any office established under the ANUSA constitution, you would at all times have to be enrolled in courses. Even a flexible application of this rule, based on periods for the calculation of equivalent full time student load, would require all officers of ANUSA to be enrolled in at least one summer/semester 1/autumn course by January 1, and at least one winter/semester 2/spring course by July 1, or their roles would become vacant. For the avoidance of doubt, I do not view this as something which could be fixed by subsequent enrolment; to return to their roles the people in question would have to go through the relevant casual vacancy process, often subject to competition. This would, to me, fail the test of not being narrow or pedantic, and, even if it was a widely known and generally followed

requirement, create an unreasonable burden on the operations of ANUSA, when some officers each year forgot to enrol on time and their roles became vacant.

5. Legal risk presented by this interpretation

In my view, this interpretation also creates legal risks for ANUSA which I view as significant, and as members of its committee, with the directors duties that come with that, I believe you should too. If you are not aware what this means, I apologise. As an introduction, please see division 4.2 of the [Associations Incorporation Act \(ACT\)](#), but note that it is not an exhaustive list of duties, and this is not a substitute for legal advice on your duties. I do not doubt that there are more, but I will discuss two such risks briefly.

Firstly, there is a risk that motions of general meetings could be invalidated. Were someone to be excluded from a general meeting on the basis that per this interpretation, they weren't a member, but it was later found by the ANUSA disputes committee, a tribunal, or a court, that they in fact were, that meeting would potentially not be a general meeting within the meaning of section 13(1) of the constitution, which requires ANUSA general meetings to be open to all members of the association, and all members of the association be to able to vote. It is possible (though not necessarily likely) that all the business of that meeting would be invalidated on that basis. If it was not all invalidated, in my view it is fairly likely that motions subject to a particularly close vote, and those which had an impact on the interests of the individual in question would be invalidated. This is a bad risk to allow to hang over ANUSA at any time, but in a year when it is likely that there will be significant amendments to the constitution and regulations proposed, this risk is particularly acute.

Secondly, decisions made by people who no longer actually held their roles, by reason of not being enrolled in any courses in the relevant half of the year as explained above, could be subject to being voided. My best understanding is that it is unlikely that this problem could affect past decisions (though I note that this does not mean there is no risk of it affecting past decisions). However, I believe that decisions made by ANUSA bodies, including and especially SRC, this year, would be subject to challenge if voting members of that body were not properly enrolled. I imagine this would mean that some members of SRC would not be permitted to vote at SRC 3, and would find it hard to imagine that no members will be busy and forget to enroll for semester 2 before July 1. Probably the most worrisome scenario arising from this risk is if a member of the executive has not actually occupied their role up to this point.

I hope that these reasons make clear why this should be resolved with a greater degree of finality. I do not believe there is any reason not to refer this question to the Disputes Committee, even if you agree with the current interpretation. If there is a consensus within SRC that it should not be referred to the Disputes Committee, I welcome an amendment to remove that paragraph, however I will not treat it as friendly, as I believe a discrete debate should occur about the question of referral.

6. Reform

Regardless of the future of this decision, I am also of the view that the ongoing governance review process should be used to clarify what is clearly an ambiguity. I am of the view that there are two views which are, at the very least, not unreasonable. For much the same reasons that are set out above, this is not a desirable situation. Furthermore, there are entirely reasonable policy considerations which point towards both a belief that those who are not enrolled in classes in the current half year should not be members of ANUSA, and a belief that anyone who is active in an ANU undergraduate program should be a member of ANUSA. Work

needs to be done to decide which of these considerations win out, and to ensure that the constitution is as unambiguous as possible, one way or another.

Motion

That the SRC:

1. Notes the interpretation of the General Secretary regarding the meaning of 'Undergraduate Student' for the purposes of section 5(2)(a) of the ANUSA Constitution.
2. Refers the interpretation mentioned in paragraph 1 of this motion to the Disputes Committee for consideration, on the basis that it constitutes a breach of the Constitution, as described in section 20(3) of the Constitution. For the avoidance of doubt, this motion is not a referral to the Disputes Committee made under section 9(12) of the Constitution.
3. Refers the question of whether the language or criteria for membership of the Association should be altered to the Governance Review Working Group established at SRC1/2020, requires that Working Group to undertake consultation on this question, requires that they report on their progress on this matter as regularly as possible, and requests that they put forward a proposal for amendment of the Constitution to clarify this issue.

Mover: Jacob Howland

Seconder: Jordyn Gibson

Item 9: Other Business

Item 10: Meeting Close

The next meeting of the Student Representative Council is scheduled to be on Wednesday, 27th May at 6:15pm on Zoom.

Expected Close of Meeting: 9:30pm

Released: 28 April 2020 by Taylor Heslington

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SRC 3 – 29/4/2020

Summary

1. Internal ANUSA responsibilities
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Shout-outs
 - c. COVID-19
 - d. KPI's
 - e. Executive update
 - f. ANUSA DAP
 - g. Elections
2. University Responsibilities
 - a. Committee updates
 - b. University Projects
3. ANU Council
4. Timesheet

1. Internal ANUSA Responsibilities

a. Welcome

Welcome to SRC 3! For those who are unfamiliar with the concepts of SRC's, they provide an opportunity for students to engage with their representatives to see what they have been up to since the beginning of their terms (or the previous meeting). If you have any questions about any of the reports in this agenda, please do not hesitate in asking a question at SRC to clarify! If you have suggestions about ANUSA can help or, if you need help, feel free to email me at sa.president@anu.edu.au, I would love to hear your feedback.

I would also like to note that if people are in financial distress, they can email sa.assistance@anu.edu.au to begin the process to access an emergency grant from ANUSA's Student Assistance team.

b. Congratulations

This next section is centred around acknowledging people in and around ANUSA that have done a phenomenal job recently and deserve to be shouted out for it. Of course, all of ANUSA's reps, volunteers and staff consistently do a stellar job, however it is good to look back and reflect on some wins that have been achieved recently.

Skanda Panditheretne (Education Officer) + Grace Hill (Environment Officer) + All reps involved in the Proctorio fight.

The past few weeks have been marred with consistent push back from the university around the issue of individual student privacy. Both Grace and Skanda and many others have been at the forefront of this debate and movement and have been phenomenal in their efforts to rally students and lobby the university for change.

Shivali Trivedi (Out-going Queer* Officer)

Unfortunately Shivali resigned from her position as Queer Officer. I would just like to note my personal thanks and well done to Shivali for her time and commitment to the role.

c. COVID-19

i. Staff/Office update

Due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, campus is still closed for the foreseeable future. As a result, the ANUSA offices and BKSS have been physically closed while staff members and representatives continue to work from home. While the ANUSA offices cannot be contacted by phone, instead I would encourage student to email sa.admin@anu.edu.au

ii. Campus shutdown update

As yet, I have not received any information from the university on when the ANU will reopen for business as usual for students. This obviously creates uncertainty for certain big events such as Bush Week and clubs events and I will seek to find out this information while also noting that it is closely tied to Australia and the ACT's continued response to COVID-19 and minimising the number of cases.

One issue that has come up quite a lot over the past week is Chiefly library only allowing access to students who have non-expired student cards. From what has been communicated to me, this is a health requirement from the territory government to allow the building to still be open to students. This has obviously created issues in so far as Student Central is not able to distribute new student cards. I have been attempting to contact ANU Libraries and Security to try to find some compromise, which upholds safety standards while still allowing students who need access for equity reasons.

iii. Bursaries

The ANU has provided \$500 000 to ANUSA for the distribution of emergency grants to student in financial need. ANUSA has been distributing this through the usual SA team, with the assistance of an additional staff member who has been on boarded on a temporary basis. The be blunt, ANUSA is quickly reaching the upper limit of this fund and we will need to source additional funding if we are to continue to be able to provide financial support students in need. I have been made aware of ANU Advancement intending to fundraise during the ANU tax appeal for funds that can be distributed to students in financial need from COVID-19. I will be approaching ANU Advancement on where these funds if raised will be distributed to and be advocating for ANUSA to be a primary distributor as we have proven through this crisis that we are able to quickly distribute to students.

In addition, ANU Accommodation bursaries are open to domestic undergraduate students (both on and off campus). This has been a good referral point for students with rent based financial needs, however ANUSA has been pushing for this bursary to be extended to international students.

iv. Accommodation

A few weeks ago, residential students were encouraged to leave if they were able to and had somewhere else that they could safely go to. A number of residential student have stayed in the residences and ANU Accommodation have been doing their best to ensure that the residential halls are adhering to Social Distancing.

Recently, on a case by case basis, the university has reopened accommodation to new students who have no alternative.

It has been an increasing worry about the standard of living available to students in the residential halls due to the restrictions in place for health reasons. I look forward to working with the IHC on these issues.

d. KPI's

At SRC 2, I noted the below KPI's that I will be judging myself on, to report back at SRC 4 and SRC 8. If you have questions on the below, please let me know.

KPI #	Description
1	Make active steps towards decentralising ANUSA's power structures
1.1	Actively engage the CRC in discussions around ANUSA's projects and academic advocacy direction
1.2	Expand ANUSA's representation on university committees beyond the President and Vice President
2	Increase the level of ANUSA's consultation to the student body
2.1	Trial numerous and different methods of consultation to students across ANUSA's activities
2.2	Demonstrate the impact of this consultation in a timely manner to the SRC
2.3	Development of a centralised document summarising constulation attempts and impacts across the year
3	Develop a strategic plan
3.1	Use existing data and consultations in the development of a strategic plan
3.2	Develop recommendations for the continuation of this project in future years
4	ANUSA functionality
4.1	Foster a productive and open environment for the ANUSA executive in the operational output of ANUSA
4.2	Providing a support framework for General Representatives to complete their passion projects

e. Executive Update

The executive have been working from home since the teaching pause however have still maintained their expected hours and workload. I have been incredibly impressed in their initiative and resourcefulness in this crazy time and it is still a pleasure to work with them all.

f. ANUSA DAP

The DSA Office Zoe has reached out to me in regards to the ANUSA DAP committee and the first meeting will be on Wednesday 29/4/20. I am excited to work with Zoe and the rest of the committee on this project.

g. Casual Vacancy

Last week Shivali resigned from the position of Queer Officer. The Queer Department is holding their election on the evening of 28/4 and I keenly await the endorsement of the department in who I can appoint as the interim officer.

f. Elections

As we begin to gear up towards elections, I would encourage anyone who is considering running for President to reach out to me. I will be more than happy to chat generally about the role as well as provide feedback on policy indiscriminately.

2. University Responsibilities

a. University Committees

Academic board:

There have been a number of Academic Board meetings as well as out of session decisions. The opt-in pass fail system which has received wide spread attention, changes to domestic intake ASA for the rest of this year (including the Semester 1 2021 intake) and a noting of changes to technology being used

In addition to the above, recently the ANU Code of Conduct was passed at academic board and is expected to be endorsed by the senior management group soon. This was a huge step and was built on the backs of years of student activism and lobbying. Thank you to all past and current representatives who have been involved in this project, particularly from the Women's Department.

The AB has also indicated that there may be the creation of a Data security Working Group with the task of creating a privacy statement (similar to the statement about academic integrity in 2019). I hope to be on this WG to represent student thoughts about this relevant issue.

RRWG

Largely most major projects have been paused due to COVID-19. This received a lot of push back in relation to the College restorative practice and the WG asked for a pilot-pilot of just one hall to allow SRs and staff to learn the skills for a longer period of time.

The Student Working Group will be working on orientation matters around halls of residents to ensure that there are clearer use of resources so all halls can be on the same page, that has been largely pushed by the IHC.

Library Committee

This committee has not met since December 1

b. Upcoming University Projects

I intend on using this element of my report to pass on upcoming University Projects that will be of benefit to the student body.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the university have reallocated all "non-essential" university projects for the foreseeable future, I will update my report when these projects continue.

The university is continuing with the residential pastoral care review. The IHC is the main stakeholder group that is being consulted however ANUSA and PARSA are also part of the review. I will provide updates on this as the project progresses.

3. ANU Council

As noted in my election promises, I intend to include this section in my report as a means of providing information to the undergraduate body about the doings of the ANU council. This obviously has quite strict confidentiality requirements and these will be upheld. I would also like to note that this part of my role is necessarily separate from my role as President of ANUSA

I have recently been included in the University's Socially Responsible Investment Group. I will hope to represent students on that group as the undergraduate council member. There was also a council meeting earlier in March. If student would like to discuss matters relevant to council I would encourage you to email me at sa.president@anu.edu.au

4. Time sheet

From March 30 – April 27, I have worked 143 hours. I have taken one and a half equivalent days of annual leave. If you would like a more information about my work schedule please email me at sa.president@anu.edu.au

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Introduction

Hello! My name is Madhu and I’m your Vice President for 2020. As always, please don’t hesitate to email me at sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au for any questions, concerns or general assistance. Most of my paper based work over the last month has continued to be through my place on the ANU Teaching Continuity Committee with the DVCA, ADEs and members of the Division of Student Administration among others. This committee meets once or twice each week, where prominent items of discussion are raised through the submission of papers from various stakeholders. This is where the pass/fail grading system and the delayed census date for Semester 1 was proposed, among other key decisions. If you have any topics of interest you think should be put forward to this committee, or would like to know more about any individual elements of each change that I’ve contributed to or worked on, please reach out – more than happy to have a chat.

Over half of my hours, however, have come from handling student assistance cases and individual student support and advocacy – this is due to the fact that the need for assistance navigating the university’s administrative processes at this time has significantly increased overall, but also because services across campus are currently at capacity. Our student assistance officers are currently handling an incredible workload of processing emergency and medical grants – as you may have heard we’ve already dispensed over \$220,000 in funds to students thanks to their hard work. I implore everyone to please get in contact with ANUSA as soon as possible if you are experiencing academic or financial difficulty or if someone you know is– whether it’s advocating for you or supporting you to graduate, assistance and counsel in cases of academic misconduct or guidance in how to submit an application for a late withdrawal, we’re always here to help.

Congratulations and celebration are in order for the grassroots activism and efforts we’ve seen rise up from the disciplinary clubs and societies, ANUSA general representatives and the environment collective. It continues to be an ongoing struggle, but the collective action and mobilisation has been a privilege to bear witness to. From my end, I’m interested in opening conversations/mechanisms for feedback on how I could’ve better communicated the internal work and advocacy being done to all representatives so that future activism on other issues can progress as powerfully and effectively as possible through coordination on the occasions that advocacy does fail – such as this one. Thank you for all of your hard work – we’re lucky to have you.

I'm a big fan of the candid – and so to be genuinely candid, I've seen the last few weeks take their toll on me and those around me. I have been incredibly grateful for every encouraging message and show of support from reps and students - thank you for allowing me to keep going. To Lachy, for being there by my side through the most frustrating and difficult moments – thank you for making them feel less isolating and defeating. You've made the worst of it bearable.

Advocacy (Academic)

Administrative Processes

The following changes have occurred to the University's administrative and internal processes for Semester 1 2020. The majority of this information has been communicated to affected students directly, but will also be communicated through wider mediums if it has not been already. Please contact me if you're intending to graduate at the end of Semester 1, 2020 and are concerned about clearing an administrative process first – the earlier you get in contact, the more easily and quickly I will be able to assist in resolving the issue.

- Cancellation/postponement of July 2020 graduation ceremonies (note: this is the ceremony alone, and graduands should be able to walk at another future graduation ceremony if theirs is cancelled to my understanding)
- Putting on hold the identification, deciding and awarding of University Medals for the first half year of 2020 (until the second half of 2020)
- Halting the unresolved grades process for 2020 for results from second semester 2019 and terms in 2020 – agreed upon in principle. Some will be attended (clarification is still being received on this) and exceptions are being made for certain groups/some are being handled on a case by case basis due to priority (e.g. graduating students)
- Putting on hold the degree transfer process review for 2020;
- The delay of Academic Progress and of PhB and Research & Development Conditions of Award Committees to the end of 2020 to assess all Semester 1 2020 show cause appeals.
- A delay to the second semester timetable (with an agreed deadline)

Autumn & Winter Courses

Due to the fact that Autumn and Winter Courses have a high degree of variation for their key dates (census date, last date to drop the course etc.) it was not possible to secure a standardised new census date in the same manner as Semester 1, 2020 – however, at this stage, it's been agreed upon to treat post-census date drops for Autumn courses generously, removing both academic and financial penalties (voiding the need to apply for late withdrawal due to extenuating circumstances etc). The logistics of this remain to be finalised, and a decision for Winter courses is yet to be made.

CRS/NCN (Pass/Fail) Grading System

Exclusion of Failing Grades in GPA calculation

While this has been our biggest achievement to date in this space – securing an agreement for ANU to adopt an opt-in pass fail grading system, and becoming one of the first Universities in Australia to do so before other universities adopted similar models (the sector is...insular, who knew) it is now my belief that we can do even better. Under the current proposed model, a student who receives a Pass, Credit or Distinction grade (4, 5 or 6) for a course can ask for it to be graded as CRS instead – this makes sense as it would prevent the grade from affecting their weighted average mark (overall GPA). However, under this, if they received a failing grade, there is nothing to switch to – an NCN is also a fail grade (0) and would affect the student's overall GPA similarly. As such, we are now advocating for fail grades for this semester to also be excluded from GPA calculations – by the same argument that another University in Australia is offering this option, I am hopeful this will be successful.

Relevant cohorts and exceptions

This opportunity to opt into the CRS/NCN grading system is applicable to only coursework students –for example, the thesis units/courses of an honours degree cannot be marked by this measure, but any coursework courses can. This is due to a multitude of logistical reasons as well as reasons related to entry requirements for higher education etc – happy to discuss in detail if there is interest. Finally, it is my understanding that that there is a very, very short list of unique courses that will be switching to pass/fail grading by default due to an understanding reached between the course convenor, college and the VC due to exceptional circumstances. Students in those courses should have been contacted already, and this is not relevant to the majority of the student body.

Process of application

The proposed process at this stage is for students to be provided with a period of time from the date of release of results (after they've been able to view their grades) to submit a request via email to opt-in to the CRS/NCN grading system. The period of time is currently under discussion (but will be 1 or 2 weeks), and the specific email to contact will be publicly communicated closer to the end of semester. To be very clear, it is my complete understanding that this is an 'opt in' system – the process of application should be nothing more than a formal notice of intention. All eligible courses (coursework courses, not thesis courses) should be automatically approved.

Deferred Exams & Assessment Extensions

Another proud achievement for us in the last few weeks after longstanding discussions with the Student Registrar and the Division of Student Administration – students are now able to apply for extensions on assessment (including assignments) and deferred examinations with any of the following forms of additional documentation. Congratulations to the DSA as well as they've been lobbying Access & Inclusion directly! Colleges have been **strongly** encouraged to adopt significant leniency in responding to requests for extensions on assignments, so please do seek this reasonable adjustment if you need it, and encourage fellow students who may be struggling to also do so. The following information can also be found online on the relevant ANU Webpage.

- Online medical certificates (e.g. a medical certificate issued following a telehealth appointment)
- Certificates from counsellors and other registered medical practitioners
- Head of Halls of Residence letter of verification
- Statement from a University staff member who is familiar with your circumstances
- Medical certificates issued by a pharmacist
- A personal statement written by yourself comprising of:
 - 3-4 sentences outlining how you have been impacted by COVID-19
 - 3-4 sentences outlining why you are seeking for an academic extension

Education Access Plans

Access and Inclusion provided an initial proposal with recommendations to course convenors on the implementation of reasonable adjustments for remote learning and examinations (e.g. rest breaks, exam schedules) at a recent Crisis Management Team meeting. While they did not

address the accessibility concerns or related equity concerns associated with the potential use of, it was important for communication to be released to students and convenors as early as possible to ensure basic standards of practice were established and in place, especially for midsemester exams. I provided feedback on this document. Please refer to the Disabilities' Officer's report for more information in this space. I look forward to working with Zoe to address concerns as they arise and to gather further recommendations for the implementation of reasonable adjustments in the setting of remote learning. Big thank you to Zoe as always for her work and advocacy with Access and Inclusion and for students with disabilities.

Proctorio

I have little to add regarding Proctorio beyond what we've already said: ANUSA is disappointed by the representations made by the University which imply that genuine student consultation has occurred in the procurement of Proctorio, and the decisions surrounding its use. ANUSA has consistently maintained its opposition to the use of this software, and has continued to call for wider and more genuine consultation with the entirety of the student body regarding concerns raised by our members in all of the discussions we have been privy to. We recognise the disproportionately negative impact the use of Proctorio will have for access and equity for various groups of students, particularly those belonging to marginalised groups, and do not believe that the measures proposed thus far by the ANU fully address these issues. We reject the assertion that due diligence was undertaken in the process to date, and regret that the responsibility of ensuring it has fallen to student representatives and student advocates. We will continue to advocate on this issue and encourage students to raise their concerns regarding the use of Proctorio in courses with course convenors directly.

I am disappointed by current situation, and did not foresee this result. Over the course of the last few weeks, I've made more than one submission regarding the matter to the CMT, supplemented with extensive research, review of ANU Policy and legal counsel. You can read my first submission [here](#), which details recommendations and demands set forth – namely, that all examinations are open book take homes wherever possible to address the multiple access and equity issues that currently exist with examinations that are invigilated in any format and a call for a Privacy Impact Assessment. While a PIA has since been conducted, it neglected the crucial ask of student involvement and consultation in the process, thus ignoring that criteria too.

In terms of the current situation, while the vast majority of courses still do not seem to be using Proctorio, I remain concerned that the only option given to students who are unable to

use it or simply not comfortable doing so are not being given any other options other than having to defer their assessment – I believe this brings up even more important questions around our principles as an university on the meaning and value of informed consent and freedom of choice, and feel that this does not adequately acknowledge or support students who are even more disproportionately affected such as those intended to graduate, even more so when students are not being given knowledge of whether or not their course will use Proctorio before census date. I have been working on compiling information regarding courses that intend to use Proctorio and have been steering the logistical side of these things through ANUSA's own internal teaching continuity working group.

I will continue advocating and pushing for these issues through internal and external channels, especially the fact that ANUSA's emergency grants have not been intended as a resource to mitigate the impact of Proctorio to fund items such as equipment, but for students in financial need.

Libraries

Chifley library continues to be 24/7 and 2 levels continue to be operational for students who require use of the computers, printers and space. While all resources have been made digital where possible, the librarians have been extremely generous in offering to undertake retrievals for academics, honours students and HDR students. If you need a physical resource that you are unable to locate digitally and belong to one of these groups or have exceptional circumstances, please email library.infor@anu.edu.au. More information about the libraries can be found [here](#).

SELT Reviews

An alternative survey to Beyond SELT is being developed for this semester due to the fact that remote learning has created different and unique challenges and learning experiences for students – the feedback gained from responses to this survey will seek to improve those issues. I have been invited to provide feedback and assistance in the development of questions for this survey, and have been involved in the process of doing so.

Timetabling Committee

This committee is in the process of forming a tender evaluation panel which Sam (CASS Rep) sits on to procure a new timetabling system for the University. The project is likely to be finalised in 18 months' time. Outside of the committee and in specific regard to the timetabling project itself, Sam and I have been working with members of the ANUSA student

timetabling steering group to assist in developing a process for effective communication and consultation with students from all demographics and educational backgrounds – so far, this has included identifying relevant stakeholder groups and reviewing the efficacy and validity of survey questions.

University Research Committee

The majority of discussion at the last meeting of this committee centred around concerns regarding access to labs and research facilities for students involved in research.

Advocacy (Welfare)

ANUSA Mental Health Committee

Content warnings: mental health, discussion of mental health

The ANUSA Mental Health committee now has two deputy chairs – congratulations to Madeleine Chia and Kez Roy. Interviews were conducted via a panel (massive shout out to LC and Sophie for helping out!) and it was a privilege to have so many applicants. I genuinely hope everyone who applied and interviewed will continue to stay involved one way or another. This committee has unfortunately not been something I've been able to give my full attention to with recent events but extremely keen to kick off some small initiatives with my committee with University Mental Health Day approaching on May 5th that engage in the conversation in a meaningful way – especially now of all times. If you'd like to get involved, please message the group page or email me, always super keen to have people on, even more so as we start planning for the year ahead!

BKSS

In line with the university closure, the BKSS will remain closed until Semester 2. I continue to work with my staff and am now holding regular check-ins and planning days and to ensure that the transition to a remote working environment is sustainable and conducive. If you have any burning ideas or suggestions, as always, just shoot me an email.

Healthy University Strategy Committee

This committee has not met again since my last report.

IDEA Oversight Committee

This committee has not met again since my last report.

Student Assistance

Over the last four weeks, I have worked on 32 cases of student assistance – this has included academic misconduct, formal & procedural appeals on award rules, show cause applications and other similar processes. If you are a student faced with any of these issues, including situations such as intending to graduate but being informed that you have not met your

degree requirements, please reach out to me at sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au. ANUSA is here to help – but so is the Dean of Students as an alternative if that is a better option for you!

SASH

Content warnings: mentions, references and discussion of sexual assault and sexual harassment, family violence, domestic violence.

The UA Survey is no longer going ahead this year. We are waiting to receive updates regarding the SVPS Video. The code of conduct passed academic board (finally) and is now awaiting approval from the Senior Management Group and then the Vice Chancellor before it can become an official ANU policy. The CRCC's contract will end just past midyear this year, and conversations remain to be had about funding and the future of the CRCC's role on campus. At the latest RRSWG, we met and discussed with the RRU plans regarding communications and resource provision to the student body regarding information of services available to those for whom home may not be a safe space. I look forward to working with Jin in developing these in conjunction with the RRU. Please refer to the Women's Officer's report for more details!

Timesheet

I have worked 157 hours in the last 4 weeks, and 823.5 hours since December 1st. My timesheet for the last four weeks can be found below.

Week	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	Total
30/03/20	9	9	11	6	1	0	0	36
6/04/20	8	8	10	9	0	0	0	35
13/04/20	3	7	10	9	11	0	0	40
20/04/20	10	6	8	11	11	0	0	46

SRC 3 REPORT: EDUCATION OFFICER

Summary:

1. Introduction
2. COVID-19 Update
3. Education Committee Update
4. University Committees Update
5. Campaign Update
6. Other ANUSA Duties Update
7. Budget
8. Timesheet
9. KPIs

1. Introduction

Welcome to my third SRC report of the year. In these reports, I hope to keep you up to date on my work and the work of Education Committee. If you have any questions about anything in my report, please do email me at sa.education@anu.edu.au, or ask me about it directly at SRC!

2. COVID-19

I want to again begin by extending my sympathies to all students affected by COVID-19. ANUSA is here to help, and please do email us at sa.assistance@anu.edu.au if you are in need of assistance in any way. I'd also like to thank all those involved in assisting others with COVID-19, whether that be the amazing ANUSA team who have worked tirelessly to achieve outcomes for students, the students involved in mutual aid on campus or in their communities, and of course, the frontline health workers who put themselves on the line every day.

This month, I've worked with the NUS on the campaign to lower the Youth Allowance age of independence. I was deeply moved by the students who wrote in sharing their experiences, and hope to have a story in the media about it soon. I apologise for not following up on this as quickly as expected, due to other fast-moving events.

3. Proctorio Update

This situation has been very fast moving, so this information may be outdated by SRC. I will attempt to provide a verbal update getting it up to date.

Some context, firstly. I believe that a collaborative, constructive approach to student consultation and partnership with the university is not fundamentally impossible, if approached with good intentions from both sides. I have had my concerns about the way the university has historically addressed a number of key student issues – and I highlight the historic role of student unions, student media, and student activists at holding the university to account – but I note that in a national context, ANU has certainly claimed to be one of the better universities in terms of partnering with students. I think that students' interests should be the university's interests, and I believe that with good faith efforts from both student unions and university management, in most cases the university can be persuaded to see that. That is why I am deeply, painfully disappointed with the way that ANU has addressed Proctorio and the student response to it. I have lost a considerable amount of faith in the ANU and its desire to genuinely consult with students over the past month. I am, however, inspired by the way that student activists have united to respond to the issues presented by Proctorio, and am genuinely moved to be part of the grassroots student activism on this issue. From the

earliest stages of this discussion, I have advocated for ANUSA to be involved in crafting a broad student campaign on Proctorio, and I am glad that we are now pursuing that as an association. In terms of ANU's response to Proctorio criticisms and why this has damaged my faith in the university, I can't put my feelings into words better than three excellent opinion pieces in *Woroni* recently have, by [Jonathan Tjandra](#), [Kai Clark](#), and [Callum Dargavel](#). I urge every student to read them, and most importantly I urge ANU management to read them, to understand the massive impact their actions have had on students' trust in the university. This has been a fiasco of the university's own making. More than "a small group of students" are concerned about Proctorio. The university has repeatedly failed to address concerns about privacy, equity, accessibility, and integrity; instead hiding behind a fig leaf of 'consultation' that failed to genuinely listen to students at any point. Yes, we understand that these are difficult times, and that there are no perfect options. We have been willing to work collaboratively with the university to find ways forward that work for students and the university alike. However, the threatened misuse of the student code of conduct against students has genuinely undermined trust in these collaborative approaches. ANU will have to take major steps to repair its relationship with the student body, and I urge them to genuinely listen to students' voices.

I have been involved in the Proctorio campaign in a number of ways, as I have been chairing the internal ANUSA meetings on the campaign in the past couple of weeks. I have created an email template which will be going out through ANUSA channels encouraging students to ask their convenors if they plan to use Proctorio. I have also created a Google Form to collate responses from convenors, so we know where to focus our activism. I also wrote and submitted a number of questions to Brian's Q&A last Friday, most of which were answered, and will continue to push ANU on this issue. I would like to commend the efforts of grassroots student campaigners from clubs, CRC, Gen Reps, and every student who has raised their voice to be heard. I will continue to work in every way I can to ensure that the university hears those voices, and that the use of Proctorio is shaped by those voices.

Where do we go from here? I hope that the above measures will help us get a sense of the scale to which course convenors plan to use Proctorio, and that this can be minimised at the first instance. I am planning to convene further meetings with discipline societies and ANUSA reps to discuss further steps, and I expect these steps will include the creation of a white paper analysing the specific problems with Proctorio. I want to press a continued line of questioning about how students will access the resources to use Proctorio, as I would consider the university's assertion that students should simply access an ANUSA emergency grant to purchase equipment to be a fundamentally arrogant approach that misunderstands how student emergency grants work. I plan to seek out further research on eye-tracking, and push for a university-wide ban on the use of such software when setting up individual exams. Our focus should still be on stopping Proctorio wholesale, but I believe this approach can be in tandem with encouraging individual course convenors to avoid its use, or at the very least use the least invasive security settings necessary to ensure academic integrity. Fundamentally, there are other ways to conduct assessment that are less invasive, less discriminatory, less inequitable and less inaccessible. We will continue to advocate for course convenors to choose take-home exams, open-book exams, or other forms of assessment that do not present the same issues as Proctorio, while continuing to research how other universities are tackling the issue in better ways.

4. Education Committee Update

I would like to thank my deputies for their continued hard work during the mid-semester break. Unfortunately, the regularly scheduled EdCom on 28/4 will not be taking place, due to an unavoidable clash. The next EdCom should run as expected.

5. University Committees Update

I have not attended any further university committee meetings since SRC 2.

6. Campaign Update

We have continued to focus on wage theft, in the wake of two highly concerning investigative pieces from the ANU Observer, which revealed allegations of staff mistreatment and wage theft at ANU. I'd like to congratulate Observer for their reporting on this issue, and repeat the statement that I gave in response to the first article:

These allegations of wage theft and abuse of workers are horrifying, and describe truly abhorrent and irresponsible behaviour from ANU employers. ANU must conduct an independent investigation into on-campus wage theft and working conditions at University House and in the PAL program, and investigate whether similar abuse of workers is taking place in other parts of the University. I would encourage any student workers who feel they may have been the victims of wage theft or employer abuse to email ANUSA at sa.admin@anu.edu.au and the Young Workers Centre at youngworkerscbr@unionsact.org.au. I'd also encourage all workers to join your relevant union - whether that be the NTEU, the United Workers Union, RAFFWU, or another union - to join the collective fight for workers against abusive employers.

I'd like to thank my Deputy Jacob Ellis for helping me follow up with ANU management about these allegations to demand an investigation.

7. Other ANUSA Duties Update

It has continued to be a very busy month for ANUSA, and moving to working from home has presented some new challenges. I am pleased to say, nevertheless, that the team has been working well together, and I am excited to face these challenges together.

8. Budget

In the SSAF allocation this year, we received \$7500 out of a \$12,000 request for Education Committee (down from \$10,000 received last year), and \$3500 out of a \$10,000 request for First Year Camps (down from \$10,000 received last year).

\$52 was spent on food for EdCom 1, from the Education Committee line item. Due to the cancellation of First Year Camps due to COVID-19, \$2000 of that line item has been moved to Student Assistance Grants, while \$1500 was moved to Education Committee. The Education Committee line item may continue to be altered throughout the year to respond to the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation.

No money has been spent since the last SRC report.

9. Timesheet

I have worked 58 hours from 30 March to 26 April. Please email me at sa.education@anu.edu.au for my full timesheet.

10. KPIs

In my election promises, I set out various commitments, which I intend to use as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure myself against during the year. Each SRC report, I hope to update you with progress on said KPIs. Please email me if you have questions about any of them.

KPI	Timeline	Progress
Run innovative, effective local actions against policies which hurt students in conjunction with non-traditional activism	Throughout the year	As in-person actions are off the table for the foreseeable future, have been attempting to collaborate with online actions.

When feasible, work with the National Union of Students against government policies which hurt students	Throughout the year	Was proud to support the NUS' #saveourstudents campaign, which successfully lobbied to include Youth Allowance in the coronavirus supplement. Continuing to work with the NUS on further campaigns to benefit students.
Invite local and national media to stunts and rallies, followed up by press releases about said events	Throughout the year	Nothing to report thus far. Has been impacted by COVID-19.
Actively seek out students who are willing to share their stories about how government policies impact them and connect them to media outlets	Throughout the year	Have sought out student stories on Youth Allowance age of independence.
Lobby crossbenchers and university stakeholders to stop bad policies before they're policy	Throughout the year	Have worked with ANUSA on policies affecting students, and with the NUS to lobby politicians on student interests.
Create shareable infographics educating students of their rights in relation to work, housing, Centrelink, and visas	Throughout the year	Nothing to report since SRC 2.
Run an expanded "Get Enrolled, Get Informed, Get Voting" campaign for the ACT Election	Second semester	Not yet applicable.
Organically grow viral online activist campaigns	Throughout the year	Have collaborated with the No Proctorio campaign on online engagement.
Post fortnightly schedules of campus activism activities in the Education Committee Facebook Group	Throughout the year - Failed	Will not be occurring due to COVID-19.
Investigate the feasibility of an Education Committee Facebook Page	First term	In progress, to be discussed at the next EdCom.
Run stunts and protest art in co-ordination with broader campaigns	Throughout the year	Nothing to report thus far. Impacted by COVID-19.
Seek out incoming College Reps or Gen Reps who are interested in planning of First Year Camps	Over summer – Completed	Completed over summer – met with College Reps in November and again in February.

If First Year Camps are again unfeasible due to lack of student interest, run a First Year Beach Day instead	First term – Failed	First Year Camps and similar events cancelled due to COVID-19.
Implement a Terms of Reference (ToR) expanding on the ANUSA Constitution’s description of the committee’s role and functions	Completed	Already completed before my term began.
Introduce an additional Deputy, and split the Deputies into Marketing and Events portfolios	First term - Mixed	Two Deputies have been appointed. However, portfolio will not be split due to lack of physical events due to COVID-19.
Run an Education Speaker Series, with at least one event every term	Throughout the year	Unlikely to occur in near future due to COVID-19.
Investigate moving EdCom meeting times to be held the week before SRC	First term	Due to the fast-changing pace of COVID-19 advocacy, necessary to hold fortnightly meetings for foreseeable future.
Coordinate teaching and learning advocacy with the College Representative Council (CRC)	Throughout the year	In progress. Have consulted with College Reps about topics for joint TLDC meeting, which was postponed due to COVID-19.
Advocate for a change back to 13 week Semesters	Throughout the year	Nothing further to report after SRC 1.
Advocate for lecturers to post a summary or introductory lecture on WATTLE	Throughout the year	Nothing to report thus far.
Be prepared to campaign against any move to trimesters	Throughout the year	Nothing to report thus far.
Work with ANUSA Departments on activist campaigns	Throughout the year	Nothing to report thus far.
Meet with each of the incoming Department officers before we start our terms, and regularly consult with them throughout the year	Before December and throughout the year	Nothing further to report after SRC 1.
Support the activist campaigns of ANUSA Departments via Education Committee providing manpower, resources, and lobbying assistance when requested	Throughout the year	Nothing to report thus far.

Reach out to campus environmental groups to discuss how we can work together to pressure ANU into divesting its investments in fossil fuel companies	Throughout the year	Nothing further to report after SRC 1.
Reach out to other campus activist groups such as the RAC to discuss how we can collaborate on campaigns	Throughout the year	Nothing to report thus far.

**General Secretary SRC 3 report
Taylor Heslington**

Executive summary

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Elections**
- 3. Queer* Officer casual vacancy**
- 4. AQAC**
- 5. 2020 projects**
- 6. Timesheet**

1. Introduction

Welcome to SRC 3! As I'll remind you all at every meeting, if you're ever confused about meeting procedure or anything to do with ANUSA governance, please don't hesitate to set up a Zoom chat with me or email me at sa.gensec@anu.edu.au. A great place to start for understanding how these meetings work is the Standing Orders (page 23 of the [ANUSA Constitution](#)), but I'm always more than happy to have a chat. If you're confused about something, odds are that several other people are also confused!

2. Elections

I've started to formulate a plan for elections this year. This planning is still very much in the beginning phases, but I've started to put together a timeline for when things need to be completed. I'll start doing an elections update at every SRC, so it'd be great if people could wait for those updates (or any other public updates) before they ask questions about elections, as I'd prefer all information to go out publicly at once to avoid anyone receiving an unfair advantage by receiving information early.

3. Queer* Officer casual vacancy

On Wednesday 22nd April, Shivali emailed through her resignation as Queer* Officer to me. I'd like to say a massive thank you to Shivali for all her hard work this year, and I wish her the best of luck for the rest of this year.

I'm currently in the process of following the constitutional requirements for a Department Officer vacancy. Thanks to Vincent Lee for acting as my delegate to organise the meeting to elect the new Queer* Officer, this meeting will occur on the night of Tuesday 28th April.

4. AQAC

There have been no AQAC meetings since SRC 2. The next AQAC meeting is on Thursday 21st May.

5. 2020 projects

Project	Timeline	Comments
Governance Review	Underway but postponed	The Governance Review Working Group will be meeting on Tuesday 28th April at 2pm. I'll provide an update on this meeting when I speak to my report.

Interpretation register	Underway	<p>I've begun creating an interpretation register with my own interpretations from this year. It's currently taking the form of a table with three columns: date of interpretation, section of the Constitution/Regulations/Policy it relates to, and either a short explanation or a link to my full interpretation (depending on how long the interpretation is).</p> <p>This has involved a lot of going through emails and finding small interpretations I've made and putting them into a cohesive form.</p> <p>It's looking quite neat (if I do say so myself), and I'm hoping to have all my own interpretations in the register by exam time.</p>
Meeting summaries	Postponed	No updates from SRC 2.
Regulations working group	Underway	<p>At OGM 1, a motion was passed to enable me to establish an Elections Regulation Working Group.</p> <p>I'll release the first meeting time soon.</p> <p>The committee is open to everyone, so if you're interested in election reform I highly encourage you to attend and share your thoughts!</p>
Risk register	Semester two	No updates from SRC 2.

6. Timesheet

From March 30th 2020 to April 26th 2020, I have worked 40.5 hours. I have taken four days of leave and there have been two public holidays (which explains my shorter than usual report).

If you'd like a detailed breakdown of what I spend my time doing, please email me at

sa.gensec@anu.edu.au.

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Total hours
30/03 - 05/04	3	3	4.25	1.25	2.5	14
06/04 - 12/04	LEAVE	LEAVE	2.75	3	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	5.75
13/04 - 19/04	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	2.5	4.25	LEAVE	LEAVE	6.75
20/04 - 26/04	3.5	2.5	2.5	3.25	2.25	14

Reference E

[TREASURER]

SRC 3 Social Officer Report

Sophie Jaggar

Executive Summary

1. E-vents
2. Bush Week + Clubs Ball
3. Clubs Training
4. O-Week + FNP expenses
5. Timesheet

1. E-vents

I put out a survey for what students want to see from online events during quarantine. I received some feedback with really good ideas, so I have been reaching out to Clubs and Societies to see if they are interested in collaborating on events. I am also working with Kate, the ANUSA Communications Officer, to work on promoting student and ANU events run around campus to be able to provide students with more opportunities to get engaged with what's happening. Keep an eye on the ANUSA page to see more promotion and more online events coming up over the next couple of weeks and stay engaged with the Clubs and Societies that you are a part of to see their events!

Finally, the Social Committee page at the time of writing this report is in the middle of being set up and I hope to provide a verbal update at the meeting.

2. Bush Week + Clubs Ball

At the time of writing this report, I have not as yet received any further updates as to the feasibility of Bush Week and Clubs Ball. Obviously, the feasibility is reliant on the easing of both government and university restrictions in the current climate. I will attempt to keep the SRC updated and will soon be looking to start planning an online Bush Week.

3. Clubs Training

Charlotte is still working on the Clubs training module and I am helping her out! We have a lot of material that we are covering which is why it is taking a little longer but we are covering a range of topics, consulting with different stakeholders around the uni to provide Clubs with the best information possible.

4. O-Week + FNP expenses

This year, my aim was to build on last year's events and try to make them even better. The executive supported my goal to prioritise safety and accessibility at Friday Night Party, and that necessarily came with increased costs. There was also a lot of feedback around the perception of the event from previous years that I aimed to overcome, with the help of Tom, Rohan and Erin, and I think we achieved that for the most part this year. I have received a lot of positive feedback of people who want to come to the event again next year, which will increase ANUSA's profit margin as there will be both returners and first years. I believe that in the coming years we will be able to make substantial profits from this event while still keeping in line the safety measures that we implemented this year. I am happy to answer further questions about this at the meeting.

5. Timesheet

I have worked 53 hours from the 30th of March to the 24th of April, at an average of 13.25 hours per week. Due to public holidays I was only required to work 12 hours for 2 of these weeks, which is why the average is below the normal 14 hours. For any further questions

about my timesheet or how I spend my time please feel free to email me at sa.social@anu.edu.au.

Reference G

[INDIGENOUS OFFICER]



WOMEN'S OFFICER REPORT 3

Siang Jin Law

As at 23rd April 2020

Content warning: this report will mention family and domestic violence under the Respectful Relationships and Pastoral Care section.

Executive Summary

1. #WDStaysHome
2. Completed Projects
3. Continuing Projects
 - a. Respectful Relationships Advocacy
 - b. Campaigns
 - c. Proctorio
 - d. Women's Revue
 - e. Bossy
 - f. Pastoral Care
4. Income and Expenditure
5. Timesheet

Further Updates

1. #WDStaysHome

Due to COVID-19 the Department has had to adapt the way we interact with our collective members; as such we've come up with #WDStaysHome, an initiative that utilises our social media channels to create a sense of community whilst we are all in self-isolation. This has included Facebook threads about favourite movies, journal pages, music, routine sharing, women who inspire us, recipes and pets, with many more to come. We've also done a few Instagram takeovers where a committee member takes over our Instagram for a day, as well as blog posts about various things on our website. There's been a lot of engagement with these posts within the collective and we've received feedback that people have been enjoying the sense of community created through these posts.

We are continuing to work through our schedule of posts that we've created and I would like to say a massive thank you to my amazing committee for all their work in creating all this amazing content and building and sustaining our community especially in these isolating times.

2. Completed Projects

a. Virtual Movie Night

On the 19th of April, the Department hosted a virtual movie night of the teen classic Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging. The movie was on Netflix with an option for people to rent it on Youtube with the Department reimbursing that

cost. We had a Facebook group chat for chats while we were watching the movie - it was a huge throwback and was very wholesome. There were about 10 people who participated.

b. Women* In STEM Coffee Catch-ups

In collaboration with the ANU Science Society, the Women's Department have been hosting Women* in STEM virtual coffee catch-ups on Zoom every Wednesday at 10am, with people bringing their own drinks and chats about science and women.

3. Continuing Projects

. Respectful Relationships Advocacy

i. Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy Consultations

The Respectful Relationships Unit have been running the SVPS consultations online via Zoom, as well as opening up a SurveyMonkey form for written submissions if people are unable to attend. I will be able to update on how these have been going at SRC 3, as I will be meeting with Sue on the Friday after this report is due. If you are interested in attending a session please check out [this link](#), and if you would like to make a submission please check [this link](#).

ii. Code of Conduct

This was recently passed at Academic Board and is likely to be passed at Senior Management Group; this may mean that we will have a Student Code of Conduct passed this year if there are no further disruptions. I will continue to provide updates as I get them.

iii. Nationwide support services resource pool

I am currently working on creating a nationwide resource pool for people dealing with domestic violence or family violence; this will cover the resources in all states and territories as well as a range of different resources for everyone to access. I am also looking into creating resources about how to deal with difficult family or home situations in these times while also taking care of ourselves. I anticipate this will be done by next SRC.

a. Campaigns

We're currently in full force of organising our Sex and Sexuality Campaign - we are in the process of organising a panel that looks at the concept of sexuality through a critical lens with some really exciting panellists. We are also in the process of organising our photo-campaign and discussion hubs, and are hoping to launch the campaign in full during Week 8. A big thank you to Miriam and Queenie for all their work on this campaign so far, I'm super excited to see what this brings.

b. Proctorio

Like most of the student body, the Women's Department and our collective are staunchly against the use of Proctorio for invigilated exams at the ANU. Beyond the issues with privacy and security, we are also concerned with how this will be inaccessible and discriminatory for many of our members. In our Week 6 Collective Meeting there was strong opposition to the use of Proctorio from everyone present, and we commend ANUSA on its advocacy on the

matter so far. We are proud to stand with ANUSA and the rest of the student body strongly against this issue.

c. Women's Revue

I'm happy to report that Women's Revue is still on track to perform their show in August pending the situation Australia-wide. The cast are now doing cast rehearsals over Zoom and improving on skits, and can announce that they will finalise the show's name within the next fortnight. A huge thank you to Jadviga, Eve and Zoe for all their work in continuing on with it even in these tough times.

d. Bossy

Bossy is currently producing and publishing content on their website and Facebook page and are currently on track with planning their physical edition. If you would like to write or create for Bossy please email your expressions of interests to anubossmag@gmail.com. A huge thank you to all the editors and sub-editors who are working hard to produce amazing content in these times.

e. Pastoral Care

I've received a number of pastoral care incidences and have since passed them on to the appropriate channels. I have also been posting a number of support resources around domestic violence support services as well as resources in response to certain events, such as the George Pell case verdict. It's been an incredibly difficult time for everyone and it's especially worsened by news of cases like this. I'm sending all my love to everyone and would like everyone to know that there's always support available no matter your situation. Survivors, we believe you, we support you and we are always here for you.

4. Income and Expenditure

There has been no change in income or expenditure since the last SRC report. This is likely to change as we start to do more work with our campaign.

5. Timesheet

Since SRC 2 I have worked 20 hours. Most of the hours involved administrative tasks such as Facebook posting, responding to emails, attending meetings, and events. If you would like a more detailed timesheet please feel free to contact me at sa.womens@anu.edu.au.



QUEER* OFFICER'S REPORT 3
Aisling Arnould (Deputy Queer Officer)*
As at 23rd of April 2020

Executive Summary

1. Introduction
2. Completed Projects
3. Continuing Projects
4. Income and Expenditure
5. Timesheet

1. Introduction

I'd like to start by thanking my predecessor Shivali Trivedi for all the work that she put in as Officer. I'm Aisling (Ash) Arnould, currently Deputy Queer* Officer, and I am submitting this report in my role as interim Officer until a replacement can be elected.

2. Completed Projects

The Queer* Department has been transferring our events online, and to facilitate this a Discord server and a large group chat have been established.

3. Continuing Projects

a. Social

- i. As mentioned, we are in the process of transferring our events online. Our Community Coordinator Luca is looking at running digital Movie and Board Games Nights.
- ii. We are looking at expanding the number of autonomous groups in addition to Ace & Aro Tea and Queer* People of Faith, which are currently running

b. Advocacy

- i. As Parliament has been adjourned until August, discussion of the Religious Freedoms (sic) Bill has been pushed back. As such, our campaign against this Bill has been relocated to Semester 2. We are looking at producing two zines as part of this campaign, one on Queer* People of Faith, and the other on the impacts the Bill will have on the lives of Queer* people.

c. Rebranding

- ii. A design competition will be opened at the Collective meeting on the 28th of April. Contestants will have two weeks to submit a new design for a Department logo.
- iii. Once a new logo is chosen, all of the Department's digital platforms will be updated. We are also planning on ordering some merch with the new logo. Details to follow.

d. Other

- i. Queer Collaborations, the national conference for Queer* students in Australia, will be held online this year and facilitated by the University of Melbourne. The

Queer* Department will be sending a delegation, and we are looking at reaching out to other Canberra universities to establish an ACT Caucus.

4. Income and Expenditure

To the best of my knowledge no changes in income or expenditure have occurred since the last SRC. Once the banking transfer has been completed, I will confirm this to the SRC.

5. Timesheet

The following is a breakdown of time spent on Department work since the preceding Officer announced their resignation on the 19th of April.

Category	Time (Hours)
Correspondence	4
Finance	0.4
Administration	2.3
Meetings	2
External Meetings	1.8
Total	10.5

Reference J



International Students' Department (ISD) SRC Report 2

(Last Update: 20th April 2020)

I've mostly been working on assisting individual students this past month given the impacts COVID-19 has had on many international students.

1. Increased reports of racism on-campus

I have received a drastic increase in reports of racism on-campus, and it pains me to realise most of these racially-charged remarks are from one ANU student to another.

This is an incredibly difficult and trying time for us all and we need now, more than ever, to support one another. Just because we are experiencing a global pandemic does not mean anyone should be treated with any less respect. Racism is not under any circumstances acceptable -- it will never be.

If you are an international student who has experienced racism on campus, please reach out to me at sa.international@anu.edu.au.

I have mostly been working on this with individual students, making sure they feel supported and the matter is addressed especially in instances where ANU staff and/or course reps are involved. I will be discussing possible next steps during our next collective meeting on 24th April.

2. Projects

There has been a couple projects that have been put on hold for now. Before all this started I wanted to work on international student engagement and the pastoral care model in residential halls. Will be keen to follow-up this during the winter break if the ongoing situation dies down.

Other projects I will be looking to follow-up on when things die down include working with Madhu and Zoe on increasing support for international students across ANU services such as ANU Counselling.

3. COVID-19 Resource Document

ISD and the Ethnocultural Department have published a resource document for culturally and linguistically diverse groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19. Thank

you to Markus (Wellbeing director) and Zenia for spearheading and doing most of the work on this!

4. Working on translating resources

I am working closely with Vincent to compile resources into A5 sized postcards for translation. While we are not sure when classes will move on-campus, I thought it might be good to have them printed and ready to disseminate once students return on-campus. We have identified five categories: Academic support, wellbeing/health, sexual health, LGBTQIA+ and ANUSA. Big shoutout to Vincent for working on this with me.

5. Online engagement

ISD has many events and plans for online engagement in the works. Thank you to my entire committee who have been working hard compiling information for infographics and coming up with creative online events to help our community stay connected. We have a pen pals event coming up and online shut up and write sessions to be released. We also plan to engage external organisations to run online series.

6. Financial Report

No spending since the last financial report submitted.

7. Timesheet

Timesheet from 21st March to 20th April is as follows. I have worked on average 22 hours a week.

Task	Hours
Individual Catch ups with my committee	6 Hours
Admin Hours	~30 Hours
Interviews	2 Hours
Meetings	10 Hours
Assisting individual students	~40 hours
Total	Approximately 88 Hours

Reference K



[Image Description: DSA logo with purple spoon]

Disabilities Officer Report - SRC 3

Zoe Ranganathan

Officer Update

Committee updates

- University Disability Action Plan Committee
- Mental Health Committee
- Governance Review

Advocacy and Campaigns

- Remote Access Learning Plan
- Campus Transport
- A&I
- Disability Action Plan
- Online Learning Transition - Accessibility Issues
- ANU Graduate Jobs Programs

Collaborations

- ISD
- Residential Halls
- Academic Colleges

Community

- Spoons Space
- Spoons Week
- Events
- Social Media

Finances and Administration

- Expenditure
- Constitution
- Officer Timesheet

Officer Update

Since the last SRC, the department has focused mainly on planning for the rest of the year and electing the rest of the DSA committee. I would like to congratulate Zac Martin on being elected publicity officer and Zoe Adam on being elected DSA secretary.

For the time being, the department is not holding any events in person as a result of the university's event ban which I am interpreting to extend to the operation of office hours. So if you would like to chat to me about any accessibility concerns or ideas/suggestions you have for the DSA, please email sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au to arrange a time to talk either via email or Zoom call.

Currently, engagement with the DSA both in person and online via Facebook groups is relatively low considering that at least 20% of students at the university have an EAP and even more identify as having a disability. I would like to stress that membership of the DSA extends to anyone who experiences added difficulty to their university experience due to a range of health reasons, including but not limited to: mental illnesses, autoimmune diseases, physical disability & neurodivergence. Feel free to join the [Facebook group](#) or email me to discuss how you can be involved. There is no such thing as not being 'disabled enough' to be part of our community. I will discuss how I plan to tackle our lack of visibility and engagement later in my report.

Due to changes to how university life is panning out for the rest of the year, I have slightly adjusted my projects for this year:

1. Online Accessible Learning campaign
2. Formation of the ANUSA Disability Action Plan
3. Improving Engagement and Publicity of the DSA online
4. Standardising mental health and disability support at residential halls

This report will aim to detail my plans and progress on these areas, but if you would like further information on this or have questions or concerns about these projects, please email me at sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au and I would be more than happy to elaborate on this. Aside from this, I look forward to collaborating with the other autonomous departments to find out how I can assist with building resources and awareness of disability support in their communities as well as collaborating with some great advocacy groups in the ACT such as WWDACT on events later this year.

Committee Updates

ANUSA Disability Action Plan Committee

In the last month, the committee has been formed, and I would like to thank Ben Yates, Sam Lee and Celeste Sandstrom for joining Lachy, Madhu and myself on the committee. The committee will have its first meeting on the 29th of April and the focus of the discussion will be the formation and timeline for the ANUSA Disability Action Plan framework.

Mental Health Committee

I have no update for this committee at this stage as the committee has taken a backseat due to coronavirus responses taking precedence. The committee is in the process of electing a chair and deputy chair.

Governance Review

I have no further update on the Governance Review. Please refer to Taylor's statement regarding our progress. I would encourage any member of the DSA who has comments or

thoughts about the structure of the student union to email me and I would be happy to pass on your thoughts at the next committee meeting.

Advocacy and Campaigns

Remote Access Learning Campaign

This campaign is based around 4 demands, which have been altered slightly from SRC2 due to further developments and updates from different university groups:

- 1) Classes are made available online for in-person courses to students with EAPs
- 2) A mandatory alternative for participation marks available for all students
- 3) Greater awareness of online Access & Inclusion appointments
- 4) Counselling & NHC psychology appointments to be both available online

This campaign will be centred around social media (graphics and a video), a possible petition, as well as meetings with university stakeholders. The launch of this campaign has been pushed back to Semester 2 due to the current prioritisation of coronavirus related issues. If you would like to know more about this campaign, or want to get involved, please email me at sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au - I would highly recommend any student with a disability to get involved, there are low spoons actions that you can do that will greatly assist the campaign!

Campus Transport

I am currently investigating the changes to Campus Link and Campus Traveller that have been made over the last year after hearing some negative feedback from students about the former service. This is a low priority issue at the moment as there are very few students on campus however I will endeavour to have a clearer picture of changes to these services by the time that on-campus classes resume.

A&I

The DSA has been working with A&I to restart the newsletter to all students with EAPs, with information on how they can join the DSA Facebook groups and seek help from myself if they need assistance with EAPs.

ANUSA Disability Action Plan

At present, there is discrepancy in how academic staff across faculties, and ANUSA across its departments and members participate in making events, courses, meetings and social media interactions accessible. I will be working through the DAP committee to establish an ANUSA Disability Action Plan framework that the union must adhere to in order to make all aspects of university life more accessible, such as club events, OWeek/Bush week, social media posting and appropriate training for members of leadership.

Online Learning Transition - Accessibility Issues

As highlighted in my previous report, the transition to online learning has been a difficult period for us all, particularly students with EAPs and special requirements. The transfer of EAPs online has proved a frustrating task with some academic staff acting in ableist ways and not believing students need the conditions of EAPs now that learning is online. I would encourage that has experienced difficulties in this area to please email me the details of your issue so I can chase up problem areas and provide better feedback to the ANUSA executive and ANU.

The main focus of my work in the last month has been discussion with other ANUSA members about Proctorio use. Unfortunately the ANU has not seemed to listen to student concerns, particularly those from students with a disability who have serious concerns about their physical disability being filmed. The only response I have received from the university about accessibility and Proctorio is that 'students will be given their normal special considerations, such as rest breaks', which frankly does not address the complex concerns from students in the DSA. I look forward to continue campaigning against the use of Proctorio via actions such as department statements and emails to course convenors.

ANU Graduate Jobs Programs

I have been in close consultation with the university's 'AccessAbility and Employability' department to provide feedback on graduate job opportunities. We have discussed changes to [this](#) website and partnering with [GradWISE](#).

A few opportunities that we have collaborated on to promote are the Neurodiversity Hub: Career Development for Neurodiverse Students (having its [launch](#) in the next few weeks) and the CareerHub community of practice, a space for students to provide feedback on graduate opportunities for students with disabilities. If you would like to join the community of practice group, please email friederike.gadow@anu.edu.au or sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au

The persistent issue with these programs being that there will be very few people who take up the opportunity. Students with disabilities often feel like they are not 'disabled enough' or that someone 'more disabled' needs the opportunity more and therefore they will refrain from applying.

Collaborations

International Students Department

The DSA has been in contact with the International Students Department (ISD) to work on resources for managing disabilities as an international student, including accessing free mental health resources and bulk billing GPs. Also, the DSA will discuss the lack of engagement in the collective by international students with the International Students Department officer as well as explore the barriers towards hiring a CALD counsellor.

Residential Halls

I have started working on standardising disability advocacy at colleges and have been in discussion with Wamburun and Bruce Hall.

I am working towards creating the position of disability officer at each res hall for the start of 2021, and then a working group between all disabilities advocates and the ANUSA DSA officer to try and standardise disability advocacy at each college.

Ideally, I would like to merge the mental health advocates and disability advocacy positions so that the mental health advocate is seen as a position under the disabilities advocate, rather than separate from it. I also think that it would be beneficial for the disabilities advocates to work closely with academic teams at colleges to assist students with their learning and be able to refer them to the DSA officer for help, and run sessions during OWeek and Bush Week on how to register for an Education Access Plan.

Clubs Council

As part of the ANUSA DAP formation, I am working with Clubs Council to develop accessibility guidelines via PDF for all clubs, particularly focused around online events and social media for

the time being. These guidelines will then be shaped into the 'clubs' component of the ANUSA DAP.

Community

Spoons Space

The Spoons Space remains open purely for accessible entrances to the other offices in the building. The DSA recommends that students do not access the space for the foreseeable future in line with the university's response to coronavirus.

Spoons Week

Spoons week has tentatively been flagged for semester 2 week 8 however the details and events of this are subject to change due to coronavirus.

Events

All of our events are online! We are hosting a weekly collective meeting (Thursday 4pm), light stretching/yoga on Tuesdays at 10am (over Zoom) and a Netflix & tea night on Fridays at 5pm. Please join the autonomous Facebook group to gain access to the Zoom and Watch party links to those events.

Social Media

We are now on Instagram! Please follow @anudisabilities for more updates. I have also been in touch with the ANUSA comms manager to provide feedback on how ANUSA's social media can be made more accessible in the way of image descriptions, and hope to extend this to university wide social media channels through the Disability Action Plan. If anyone reading this report would like to know how to make social media channels that they run (or even their personal social media posts) more accessible, please feel free to email me and I'd be more than happy to guide you through image descriptions, captioning and accessible hyperlinking or please see [this](#) website for a handy guide.

Finances and Administration

Expenditure Report

Due to myself only having been voted in as officer a short time ago and then the Coronavirus shut downs, I have still not been able to transfer the bank account over as yet as the process requires going into the bank physically and therefore I am unable to access full bank statements. Since SRC 2 we have spent \$80 on social media advertising. If there are any concerns about finances please contact me and I am happy to talk through this further.

Constitution/Policy work

We are looking at possible changes to the DSA constitution in order to provide for greater accessibility of our members to collective meetings, i.e. specifying online attendance to meetings and events. Updates to the constitution regarding the evolving duties and requirements of the officer and executive are also being looked at in order to keep the constitution up to date.

Officer Timesheet

Week	Hours/mins
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Mid semester week 1	21hrs
Mid semester week 2	18.5hrs
Week 6 (until Thursday 23rd)	15.5hrs

Reference L

Environment Officer report

Since the last SRC the crisis triggered by the COVID pandemic has deepened. Comparisons with the Great Depression are useful despite their limitations - the US economy has contracted by a quarter in 3 months, a contraction of the same size took place in the Depression over four years. No one can know how long the health component of the crisis will last, the future is uncertain, but the idea being thrown around of a "V shaped" recovery, where this rapid downturn is matched by a rapid "snapback" to normal seems fanciful.

Things that 6 months ago would have seemed impossible are now reality - Virgin Australia has collapsed, and there's debate about nationalisations, free childcare has been implemented, welfare raised, etc. The Government has been careful to emphasize that we will be returning to a more normal type of operation in 6 months, and that the positive changes will be rolled back. In 6 months there will still be masses of unemployed and underemployed people, renters who can't pay, students who need support, etc., and so we'll need to be prepared to fight to keep these 'temporary' boosts in social spending.

University students are going to face massive attacks - Universities Australia has flagged 21,000 job losses, and it's clear that uni administrators will implement massive restructures to deal with the destruction of their funding model, and the reshaping of the national economy. Staff on some campuses, like USyd, have begun to fight back against cuts to their wages and conditions, and we'll need to support them and be prepared for when we see similar measures implemented at ANU. We need to take a combative approach right out of the gate - it's never good to start with conciliation, but especially so now when the funding crisis is so severe. To fight against uni cuts we need an approach of combativity. Conciliation will not save us, and will leave us with massive decreases in our rights and conditions which may take years to win back.

As the crisis has gone on, so too has the destruction of the environment. Following the NSW and Victorian governments' acceleration of environmental destruction during the crisis, the OLD Labor government has welcomed Shell's \$10b Surat gas project, set to be the biggest coal seam gas project in Queensland, bringing as much as 90 billion cubic feet per year of new natural gas to market at peak production in just the first phase of the project.

Internationally, we're living in an era of intensified capitalist competition. There's much talk of the shut down decreasing environmental destruction, but this is not correct. While some industry has been halted, resulting in lower emissions, a contest is being waged between Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the US among others over oil production. In order to edge out their rivals, Russia and Saudi Arabia have increased oil production, resulting in a glut, obviously with the potential for extreme pollution. The crash in oil prices may result in the destruction of smaller competitors, entrenching the power of the largest fossil fuel companies. In Morrison's press conference today (23/4) he lauded the new speed at which environmental approvals are being granted, The economic downturn is inspiring the environmental vandals in the LNP and ALP to increase their destruction in order to get more revenue. We can expect to see more expansions of fossil fuel projects during the crisis.

All of this makes protesting for the climate more urgent than ever. In lockdown and with this political climate it is unlikely that climate actions will draw large numbers online, however maintaining some presence and having a few actions before the end of the lockdown will be

important for what we are able to achieve later.

The other thing going on is obviously Proctorio, which is opposed by the overwhelming majority of students. It's been great working alongside the many others in the campaign, from gen reps to clubs to ordinary students and staff! I have been able to contribute by helping organise the campaign meeting and starting the petition. Given the indications given by the university admin that they intended to proceed with the use of Proctorio whatever we thought, having a public-facing campaign is extremely important, and I thank all the students and reps who have been involved so far!

Since the last meeting I have mostly been concentrated on these projects:

- Joining the campaign against Proctorio alongside other ANUSA reps and members
- Encouraging members of the EC to make their opinions about Proctorio heard
- Spreading awareness about the potential implications of the crisis in the higher education sector
- Environment Collective meeting/activity organising (thanks to the new students getting involved in the collective in these zoom times!!)
- Planning for the May 15 digital climate strike, including how the ANU event links with national efforts, how ANU students can contribute to this but also take action that is specific to ANU, how the digital format could work to reach new students, and how the campaign can be promoted.
- Planning for an online EC forum about the environmental challenges we face in the COVID and economic crises.

1. Expenditure

Purpose	Item	Amount
No spending since last meeting - the online activity has had no cost!		

Ethnocultural Department SRC Report 003

1. Projects completed

a. Zoom collective meetings

Meetings are continuing online – engagement has been a little hard, but the meetings are always quite productive in terms of a dialogue between the exec and the collective!

b. Anonymous submission portal

Suggested by a collective member at a meeting, this was set up to allow people to ask questions, to vent about an experience or reach out to other collective members for advice anonymously. It was used in this intended manner which was great to see!

c. COVID-19 resource document (information, services & FAQ)

Worked on this resource document with ISD and DSA to try to connect those who need particular services the most are aware that they exist and have access to them. CALD communities are often disproportionately impacted by national issues (least because of language or culture barriers), so this document was sectioned off by group (international students, migrants and refugees, indigenous students and other people of colour) to provide information particular to them.

2. Projects still underway/updates

a. Ethno Newsletter

We published our second newsletter last week, sharing past and upcoming events, as well as book recommendations. We hope to continue this to keep the collective in the loop with what's been happening in the community. Due to more of our work being online, we also now hope to make this more information based with links to interesting articles, videos, and ideas of movies to watch or things to do while staying at home.

b. ZOOM Chai & chats (WOC, MOC, QTIPOC, BPOC)

We have shifted our Chai & Chats event online. We will have structured discussion around the chosen theme, but also just a chill way to connect to people while staying at home. This will be hosted by collective members who identify in the following groups and the events will be autonomous to these groups:

- i. Women of Colour
- ii. Men of Colour
- iii. Queer* People of Colour
- iv. Biracial People of Colour

c. Instagram take overs

Weekly takeovers of our Instagram account, through which exec and collective members can share parts of their day, fun facts, their hobbies or what's been on their mind. Trying to keep the community connected and engaged through as many means as possible right now!

d. Ethnocultural Revue

Currently uncertain about the status of Revues. The Revue team (which was chosen through a round of interview earlier this month) has decided to continue the creative work (writing, production, etc.) online while waiting to see how the situation progresses. Also is a good way for people to work on a project while staying at home.

e. POC Mental Health Week

Currently planning our mental health campaign for week nine, with a range of activities from an online journaling session to an academic conversation about the exclusion or appropriation of POC culture within 'self-care' mechanisms (yoga, Indian clay face masks, etc.).

f. Book/ TV show club

The plan is to have a weekly or fortnightly gather online where people can discuss particular shows or books which

g. POC Art Competition

Opening up an art competition for the Department to submit any creative work around the theme of 'Resilience'. We will have prizes, which we're planning on buying and delivering to people who win.

h. POC TALK podcast

Planning a fortnightly podcast which takes up different ethnocultural issues – the first one will be about privilege and guilt in the POC/ immigrant community. We hope to have collective members get involved with the conversations we facilitate through this new project.

3. Expenditure (especially important for Treasurer and possibly departments)

Ethnocultural Department
Income and Expenditure Report

For the period from 01/01/2020 to 26/04/2020

Income	\$
ANUSA Funding (Food Workshop Reimburse)	\$ 463.73
Other Income	-
Reimbursement from Ekta for movie night	\$ 122.50
Interest Income	-
Total Income	586.23
Expenses	
Bank Fees	-
Bush Week	-
O-Week	-1083.79
Event - Movie Night 2	- 88.84
Panel Discussion	- 42.00
Other events (meetings, Coffee Catchups)	- 175.03
Merchandise	- 1,248.50
Total Expense	- 2,638.16
Surplurs / (Deficit) of the year	3,224.39

4. Timesheet since last report (for positions paid by stipend, this is essential)

a. April

In April I worked roughly 22 hours.

Reference N

[CLUBS COUNCIL]

Appendix A

[To whom it may concern]

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused all ranges of “exceptional circumstances” and been the cause of a huge amount of stress and difficulty for all students, but student leaders in particular. So from the start I would like to congratulate the hard work of all ANUSA officers and representatives, alongside the amazing efforts of Clubs executives, Residential Committees, pastoral care teams and beyond.

The reasons for bringing this situation to the attention of the SRC are not, to be clear, done so out of any animosity over the current decision (I intend to comply fully with the current interpretation made by the General Secretary) or ill will as a result of not being able to continue in the roll I was elected to. My position is not critical to the functioning of Clubs Council, and whilst it is disappointing to not be able to continue, there are no urgent issues arising to my personal circumstances or Clubs Council as a result of this interpretation I do however believe that the “exceptional and unprecedented circumstances” we are dealing with expose a very valid issue that would benefit from being addressed.

It is my understanding that the interpretation made by the General Secretary is in line with a generally understood precedent surrounding eligibility to be an ANUSA member and a similar understanding as to the circumstances under which access to ANUSA services would still be provided (wording included in preamble of motion) and that this interpretation is the first instance of formalising this understanding.

In saying this I support the conclusions reached by Jacob Howland that there are grounds to refer this case to disputes. The specific outcome of the disputed interpretation is however not the chief priority in raising this issue.

The basis of discussion is that “program leave” i.e. enrollment in a program, but not courses, for a given semester would result in someone no longer being labelled an Undergraduate student for ANUSA’s purposes and therefore no longer a member of ANUSA.

In light of the current Governance Review and imminent changes to the Constitution I think it is important to consider the ambiguity arising in this case. I also retain a role as the Secretary for Griffin Hall in which capacity I have been involved in a similar discussion surrounding membership eligibility and ensuring we were still able to provide key services (including essential pastoral care) to those who were put in a situation where they were forced to or made the decision for wellbeing reasons to take program leave. Due to the specific circumstances of Griffin Hall and the nature of the Constitution of our Members’ Association the decision fell along the lines of the University’s apparent administrative outline that a “student” is a person enrolled in a “program” meaning a degree, and that taking program-leave under current circumstances would not invalidate their membership as they remain a student despite not being enrolled in “courses”. It is my intention to undertake further investigation into changes and clarifications that may need to be made for Griffin Hall that will follow very similar lines to the discussion items I describe here.

It is valuable to consider that the decision made by ANUSA regarding this issue has interesting precedents for a range of organisations beyond just ANUSA and its subsidiaries. At current the constitution of ANU Sport refers only to the University guidelines. The Constitutions of almost all Clubs at ANU refer to membership of ANUSA and PARSA in their definitions of eligibility for Ordinary or Associate membership (I personally have been involved in re-writing a Constitution for an ANU Club as Secretary of the Biology Society in 2019). Interhall

organisations and other Residential Committees may also be influenced by the decisions that come out of this process.

I would argue that clarifying this point is of huge importance – regardless of the outcome for me individually (which I would say again is far from a priority consideration); although I do note that I had been an engaged member of the Clubs Council and had a strong desire to continue in my role, as such being rendered unable to do so because of circumstances outside of my control seems counterintuitive.

The primary value to me however is determining whether others – potentially those most in need – are able to access key ANUSA services. Covid-19 and the bushfires are both prominent examples of extreme circumstances - this year alone - that may lead to someone needing to take program leave. Others would include serious mental or physical health complications that require long-term treatment and intervention, or being required to care for someone experiencing said issues. In all cases the person on program-leave may be in particular need of financial, wellbeing or legal support that ANUSA would be prevented from providing. This ineligibility also applies to students undertaking a semester exchange. I would argue that this is not a desirable outcome.

Additionally, in all above situations the person would also appear to be prevented from standing for or voting in elections, or from having involvement at SRC or General Meetings. There are several valid reasons that this should be the case, to prevent manipulation or abuse of ANUSA governance systems. However I would argue that it is the case that someone currently on program leave (in particular a person on semester 2 exchange) should not be prevented from standing for election even if they are unable to vote when they have an intent to be enrolled for a full term the following year.

It is also fair to point out that someone on program leave will not pay SSAF fees for that semester and therefore contributes no money directly to ANUSA. This is a reasonable (if not to my mind entirely persuasive) argument to consider against providing services to those on program leave

It is my opinion that regardless of the fashion in which this matter is resolved it is nonetheless important to remove ambiguity and give due consideration to the circumstances under which we provide services to “students” as defined by the university.

To me there are 4 broad courses of action that could be considered in the course of Constitutional review (although this is not an exhaustive or detailed list of options, only a suggestion of possible strategies, some of which could be combined). Naturally any change should require careful thought and analysis, and free and open debate.

A) Reinforce the Interpretation made by the General Secretary and ensure that membership of ANUSA only refers to undergraduate students enrolled in “courses”

B) In line with the disputed interpretation allow membership of ANUSA to include undergraduate students on program leave (with no change to the relevant sections of the current constitution, or with restrictions as to the acceptable duration of program leave e.g. to a single semester)

C) Introduce explicit or discretionary provisions to extend membership under extraordinary circumstances that allows affected individuals to retain access to services and/or remain in an elected role

D) Introduce a category of Associate Membership (non-voting) that would allow students on program leave to retain access to services but not participate directly in governance while unenrolled (with or without restrictions on acceptable duration of program leave) – noting that Associate membership of some form exists in many other ANU organisations

I do not directly endorse any particular outcome; I believe only that there is a strong imperative that this discussion be had. I hope my contribution as a person directly involved with the case is capable of shedding some light on why I think there are important talks to be had in the context of Constitutional review. I would also like to express my deep appreciation again for everyone working hard to deal with this current crisis, and for the exceptional competence and grace with which these circumstances - which are genuinely exceptional and unprecedented - have been handled so far.

Heather Johnston