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## SRC 1 Minutes

Tuesday, 23 February 2016

ANUSA Boardroom

**Appendix A:** SRC1 Agenda, including reports and other reference material

**Appendix B:** Report by Clodagh O'Doherty on her experience as NUS Observer

**Appendix C:** Report by Clodagh O'Doherty on NUS Conference Bidding Procedure Reform

### Item 1: Meeting Opens and Apologies

Meeting opens: 7:15pm

Apologies received from:

1. Stephen Yates
2. Sean Macdonald
3. Rory Larkin
4. MacCallum Johnson

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### Item 2: Minutes from the Previous Meeting

As this is the first SRC meeting of 2016, there are no previous minutes.

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### Item 3: Executive Reports

#### 3.1 President's report (B. Gill)

- Welcome to first SRC of the academic year
- Report taken as read
- Thanks to O-Week team
  - Months of effort by O-Week directors, departments, student leaders and C&S
  - Thank you!
- Strategic projects for this year – contract with OrgSync expires in January 2017
  - Need to discuss ways forward
  - Running into delays at the moment arranging meeting with Registrar of Student Life
  - Will keep SRC updated
- SSAF – thanks to Sean, Clodagh and Michael
  - Lots of work went in well before term started
  - Increase of SSAF by 5.5%

- Capital Works funding – refining the discussion and process, working on guidelines with university – see report for work to date
- Library Fines – update in report
  - Proposed increase put on hold
  - Forum this Thursday, 2pm – looking at core reasons that led to increase b/c of increase in items being lost and returned late
  - Equity issue for students not returning books preventing others from borrowing them and accessing resources
  - Budgetary pressures on Library
  - Thursday -> looking into campaigns around behavioural change
- ANUOK – launch was a huge success
  - Very quick from ideal to implementation!
  - Discussions about how to improve effectiveness, add features, online tracking (including conversation about resourcing of ANU Security)
  - Reach out to Ben to become involved!
- Q (Raqeeb): how did non-residential student events happen in O-Week?
  - Through New @ ANU FB page we provided information avenue for non-residential students, to meet others before they arrive
  - New @ ANU has facilitated this idea at this stage, but we would like to explore what other events we can have to engage non-res students before O-Week to ease transition period
- Q (Eben): does that include contacting students before they arrive at ANU?
  - Uni willing to allow us to advertise ourselves before they send out offers; close to 700 students in the group since ANU sent out the link to new students
  - Increasing awareness of welfare services
- Q (Tom): OrgSync – what criteria are we looking at re accessible web standards?
  - At the moment we are only looking at what is available off-the-shelf, but this will be a consideration down the track
  - Discussions with Chief Procurement Officer to avoid going through tender process, but that will be a consideration
- Q (Emma): what percentage of SSAF goes to ANUSA now?
  - ~ 80-85%
- Q (Anna): We've had OrgSync for 3 years, why are we deciding to go away from it?
  - Need for further discussions, but uptake on OrgSync is poor (1,500); Campus Life Officer believes this is not the best platform for us
  - No longer cost-competitive against other options out there
  - More reasons detailed in my report
  - Any future tool should be the same as our website (seemless plug in); opt-out system where all students are auto-registered
- Q (Raqeeb): limitation on when ANUOK app has to be finalised?
  - No – initial payment and ongoing maintenance fee paid – we have entered into a partnership arrangement with the app developers
  - No deadline – developed in collaboration with students and will continue this way

- Q (Linnea): regarding payment to student representatives, departments will be eager to work closely with the executive. Are you committed to be consultative?
  - Yes!
  - Update: in the process of recruiting professional staff based on advice we have received; very clear that this review will go ahead with full staff input

**Motion:** that the President's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Eben

**Seconded:** Caitlin

**Status:** Passed

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### 3.2 Vice President's report (C. O'Doherty)

- Report taken as read
- BKSS going well – great team!
  - As a manger last year, I am keen to look at ways the free breakfast program can be made more fun (we are Food, Health and Safety compliant so we can do more)
  - Student Bites operating out of the BKSS and working with the Environment Collective – speak to them to assist with giving away free food
- Overseeing review of distribution and allocation of accommodation bursaries
  - ANUSA 2015 identified issues with transparency and fairness of this process; looking at ways to reform this
  - Meeting with professional staff across ANUSA and PARSAs to introduce interim process and broader changes moving forwards
- Mental Health Committee – appointed chairs
  - Counselling Centre resourcing – campaigning university to increase resourcing
- FNP Bar – normally we outsource bar, limiting ANUSA's profit-making ability
  - Trialled running bar this year – overall not significant profit but overall success
  - University happy with us – learnt a lot about formula to use in the future
- Q (Raqeeb): when was inventory for bookshop last updated?
  - Constantly updated by the BKSS managers, but still issues with stock and record management
  - Issues with bookshop – pros and cons, but enormous overhaul very much required!
- Q (Jed): bar was successful and potential alternate revenue stream – should we do it again?
  - Potentially trial it at Bush Week and refine any issues we had this year; I am making separate and comprehensive handover document for whomever looks to take it on next year
  - Recommendations re: staffing, volunteer use (noting I didn't coordinate this very well), liquor providers

- Q (Tom): what are some issues with accommodation bursary; when was the regime last comprehensively reviewed?
  - We provide advice to students when they are applying through ANUSA Student Assistance Unit
  - Carolyn (ANUSA SAO) sits on board
  - Issue: we were providing advice but this didn't seem to reflect which applicants were successful
  - No joint consultation on board – didn't look like advice given to registrar was being taken into account by board – lack of transparency
  - Review will look at more comprehensive reform, particularly looking at Permanent Residents and how they fall into the mix
  - One process for all students
  
- Clarification from Ben: governance side at ANU – there hasn't been a review since inception of policy in 1998 – eligibility criteria does not align with policy as originally conceived
  - Unclear how changes to policy can be made – what approvals required?
  - Likely needs to be approved by University Council
  - Review looking into governance structures; we want to make sure policy goes through appropriate channels and reflects the needs of students

**Motion:** that the Vice President's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Jed

**Seconded:** Max

**Status:** Passed

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### 3.3 Education Officer's report (P. Leigh)

- First Year camps – last weekend went well!
  - Pre departure training was thorough, college reps now well informed
  - Discussions about college sponsorship ongoing, need to start this process early
  - Otherwise, next 2 camps likely to sell out
  
- Thanks to team for having me!

**Motion:** that the Education Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Kat

**Seconded:** Clodagh

**Status:** Passed

[The Chair passes to Peta to allow Sam to give his report]

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### 3.5 General Secretary's report (S. Duncan)

- Taken as read
- Flag that future SRCs might be in Fellows Road Law Lecture Theatres, better space, can more easily accommodate this large number of people
- Speaking with Raqeeb about how ANUSA communicates – would like to look into livestreaming and how we get our minutes out

- Please contact Sam with ideas
- College rep guide coming
- Gen rep guide has been released
- See Sam's report for electoral reform timelines – flagging that he would like to get a broad working group together
  
- Q: Eben: what's your email?
  - [Sa.gensec@anu.edu.au](mailto:Sa.gensec@anu.edu.au)
  
- Ben Creelman: how do you change the constitution/electoral regs?
  - Sam outlined the process as set out in his agenda – no referendum required, 2/3 majority required at OGM.

**Motion:** that the General Secretary's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Eben

**Seconded:** Caitlin

**Status:** Passed

[The Chair passes back Sam]

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### 3.3 Treasurer's report (S. Macdonald)

Sean is absent so report taken as read.

- Q (Raqeeb): how do I go about looking at receipts submitted to ANUSA for reimbursement?
  - Clodagh: speak to Brendan (Finance Office)

**Motion:** that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Eben

**Seconded:** Peta

**Status:** Passed

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### 3.5 Social Officer's report (H. Hu)

- Report taken as read
- Thanks to O-Week directors (Kat and Carys) who did phenomenal jobs
  - Everyone else mentioned in report deserve huge thanks, especially volunteers
  
- Budget – still waiting on a few invoices for Friday Night Party (FNP), so I have included rounded-up anticipated expenditure, meaning what is set out as profit is likely to be lower than what we actually make
  
- Event turn out and feedback – O-Week team on track to deliver debrief doc by end-Week 2
  - Looking at how to handover FNP in particular to build on work this year
  - Please give any constructive feedback my way! [sa.social@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.social@anu.edu.au)

- Expanding social committee to make it more dynamic and effective this year – if you would like to be involved, please sign up! Search ANUSA Social Committee on google
- GAC – if your request is pending, that is because GAC is only coming together tonight, affiliations should be processed next week
  - Surveys coming out soon – please provide feedback on GAC Handbook
  - Handbook to be published in Week 6 (hopefully)
- Sex and Consent Week – week 8 of this semester was the idea, but not possible
  - Date to be decided on soon – hopefully start Sem 2
  - Call out for directors closer to the date, plus volunteers to help on the week
- C&S Collaboration – T1 = rock music society collaboration
- PARSA Women’s Week – international women’s day events on campus, co-running Lunch
  - Friday night all-women line-up at ANU Bar
- Q (Caitlin, Jack): last year, GAC committee passed policy change. Is this still the case?
  - Everything the same as last year at present
- Q (Ben Creelman): issues getting into FNP – long line. Could you comment on this?
  - Even though we quadrupled no. of volunteers at door towards end of night and had much more security on the door than last year, we didn’t anticipate so many people arriving at once
  - Suggesting 2 entrances/exits for next year to overcome this
- Q (Raqeeb): How many people were there at Hypernova in total?
  - 136 sober volunteers
  - 3,500 people all together
- Q (Zac): why is the expenditure on events so much higher than budgeted?
  - A (by Kat): we got a really good deal on laser tag, so we came in below budget
- Q (Anna): is it true that people stopped scanning tickets, searching bags, checking IDs – underage people got overage tickets. Is this true?
  - These allegations have been raised. I had radio correspondence on the night but couldn’t be on the door
  - We double checked procedure with our event manager and Blackhawk Security, and ANU Security
  - All confirmed the same process – that by 9pm, long lines meant we changed protocol
  - We stopped scanning Qpay tickets, but security were under strict instructions to check IDs and bags; they confirmed that this has been the case
  - Sam called Blackhawk Security, head of security (Dean) confirmed security did check all bags and IDs throughout the night
  - Eben: I confirm also that this took place (I was on the door)
- Q (Kat): for next year, should we have ANUSA exec on the door all night

- I will include in handover!
- Q (Linnea): could I clarify that S&C Week preliminary meeting was an initial discussion of dates (Week 9, not Week 8) to avoid overlap with Pledge Week. All department heads will be consulted
  - Yes!

**Motion:** that the Social Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Eben

**Seconded:** Emma

**Status:** Passed

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#### **Item 4: Department Officer Reports**

##### **4.1 Indigenous Department (R. Larkin)**

Rory is absent so report taken as read.

**Motion:** that the Indigenous Department Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Tom

**Seconded:** Clodagh

**Status:** Passed

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##### **4.2 Women's Department (L. Burdon-Smith)**

- Report taken as read
- O-Week huge success
- Bossy launch increased our exposure and engagement hugely
- Expenditure report will be available next SRC
- Hunting Ground screening tomorrow night – all welcome
- Q (Raqeeb): why the delay in expenditure report?
  - I spoke to Sam about this, noted we are waiting on invoices
  - To be presented to SRC2
- Q (Liam): how has ANU responded to discussions of sexual assault on campus
  - New VC spoke the Pledge in his commencement address, ongoing support and discussions
  - VC speaking tomorrow night and PVC on the panel
  - VC noted issues around 22 reported unwanted sexual assault cases on campus – we are speaking about it and that's a positive sign

**Motion:** that the Women's Department Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Eleanor

**Seconded:** Raqeeb

**Status:** Passed

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##### **4.3 Queer\* Department (J. McKenna)**

- Report taken as read
- Queer house being used broadly – promoting location, improving access, doing walk-overs and updating website

**Motion:** that the Queer\* Department Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Harry

**Seconded:** Amanda

**Status:** Passed

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#### 4.4 International Students' Department (Z. Feng)

- The Department held 2 info sessions in O-Week, lots of support from ANUSA, PARSA and the university
  - Attendance was okay – we achieved our aim to promote ourselves as a go-to resource
- AFL Induction Program – session ongoing, practice game this Thursday
  - AFL ACT provided 30 free tickets to the game – thank you
- ISD Welcome Evening – 800 people registered and 600 attended – fantastic
  - VC, PVC attended
  - Apologies for not officially inviting other ANUSA colleagues!
- Moving forward – we have established connections with clubs and societies to work closer moving forward
- Changes to ISD team – see report for comments on composition of ISD
  - Arebelle acting as executive VP until end Week 2
  - Election for this position, and for that of Liaison VP at next general meeting
- Q (Raqeeb): when can we expect an expenditure report?
  - A: still waiting on invoices, next SRC
- Q (Raqeeb): are you aware there are 2 different ISD websites?
  - A: Yes – nobody has access to 2014 website, we are using 2015 site for which we pay service provider
  - Ongoing process to solve this!

**Motion:** that the International Student Department Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Maddi

**Seconded:** Arlene

**Status:** Passed

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#### 4.6 Environment Department (M. McKenna and O. Shenfield)

- Report taken as read
- Screening of Under the Dome tomorrow night – booked out!
- Leard Fundraiser on Tuesday – see report for information about this event
  - Help raise money for people trying to stop the logging of this area



- Please come along
- Talk to me about any environmental issues
- Expenditure report to be presented to SRC2
- Q (Liam): Brian Schmidt said positive things about Fossil Free ANU. Do you know where he stands on this issue?
  - Seems like he cares a lot about climate change, nothing public but we have high hopes
- Clarification (Anna): he has made comment to Woroni on this issue
  - His comments are positive but notes the complications. In terms of divestment, it needs to be larger than divestment
- Q (Raqeeb): what is the policy with clashing events between departments?
  - We try to minimise it
  - Linnea: we started organising our event last year, but issues with screening because it is a national campaign. It's not ideal and we aim to avoid it
  - Odette: our event finishes early enough

**Motion:** that the Environment Department Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Supriya

**Seconded:** Max

**Status:** Passed

#### 4.5 Disabilities Department (T. Kesina)

- Note in my report a definition of our department, who we represent and the work we do
- If you have questions or suggestions, please be in touch!
- O-Week went well – Spacecraft-ernoons!
- Surviving & Thriving was a huge success – 40 people attended, above anticipation
- Spoon Space: we have 600 spoons but that's not all we do there!
  - Autonomous space for students with disabilities
  - Behind Arts Centre and Gods Cage – portable space
  - Card access will be available
  - It could use some colour! Chat to me about ways to brighten it up
- Safer spaces policy – see link in report and my article I wrote in Woroni
- Autonomous discussion groups for students with disabilities – 5 planned, but open to have more
  - See form going out next week
- See expenditure report or ask me for more information
- Note: EAP Research Report – working with Ben to discuss what works well and what needs improvement for Education Access Plans – essential to students with disabilities

- Q (Caitlin): who reports on mental health committee?
  - Clodagh (VP) but I am on the panel too
  - Co-chairs are great

**Motion:** that the Disability Department Officer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Laura

**Seconded:** Daniel

**Status:** Passed

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**Procedural Motion:** that the meeting be adjourned for 4 minutes to allow for a break.

**Moved:** Caitlin

**Seconded:** Eben

**Status:** Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm

Meeting resumed at 8:37pm

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## **Item 5: NUS Delegate Reports**

### **5.1 Report by J. Buchanan**

- See report in agenda
  - Report details my understanding of NatCon (National Conference) which may not reflect the way NatCon was meant to run
    - No official channel by which people could learn of the structure of NatCon
  - Impressions: 3 groups of people who understood what was occurring on conference floor
    - Secretariats, Negotiating Teams for each faction (Unity, NLS, SALT, Grouped, Libs, National Independents, independents)
    - These people knew policy book, were consulted about what was going up for discussion when
    - Otherwise unclear to others
  - Factions bound their votes – motions presented, factions voted accordingly, discussion often stifled because
  - We didn't cover whole chapters of the policy book because we ran out of time
  - Need for drastic reshuffle to allow for all policies to be discussed as planned
  - Issues with structure: real issues with getting access to information
    - Conference was really factional at the expense of cohesive, collaborative relationships or representation of your campus
    - You cannot guarantee that you represent your campus because you bind yourself to vote in your faction
    - BUT at least you can understand what's going on
  - I didn't give away my vote, tried to remain totally independent
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**Procedural Motion:** That we vote on block at the end of this section of the meeting to accept each NUS Delegates' Report.

**Moved:** Eben

**Seconded:** Caitlin

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## 5.2 Report by L. Campbell

- See report in agenda
  - I went to NUS NatCon for second time
  - I am National Independents; I was on the negotiating team for National Independents
  
  - Head grievance officer as student – very dangerous, officer untrained to deal with potential issues
    - From sexual assault to people being unkind
  
  - NUS facilitating social drinking – originally recommended that it be a dry event; amended to include broader social drinking
    - This wasn't completely implemented
  
  - I do believe in Unionism – not necessarily the NUS
    - NUS has huge potential to be an advocate, coordinate across states and really invoke change
    - Problem: logistic and systemic issues are undermining it
  
  - Logistics: if we reaccredit or not, NUS will continue, so implement change
    - Policy access, mental health plans and health and safety issues are enormously important
  
  - Finances well improved this year, congratulations to Tom Nock for improving this
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## 5.3 Report by J. Gaudie

- See report in agenda
- I sat with Student Unity
- Generally agree with a lot of criticisms and recommendations for improvement, with the exception of some aspects of the VP's report
- Structure of NatCon – improvements have been made but things need to continue
- Ongoing benefit to ANU students
  - Fight against deregulation
  - Mental health on campus
  - See report!
  
- What did 2015 NatCon do? Finances improved, some aspects of conference organising improved
  - I understand 2016 exec intend to move forward with implementing Laura's suggestions
  
- Factionalism: balanced system this year, no one party had majority on floor
  - Promoted pluralism of views; agreement based on cross-factional support

- A lot of things were passed without discussion, but mainly non-contentious issues
  - A lot of improvements to be made pre-conference 2016
  - Unity pre-conference was very discursive, I agreed with all aspects of Unity policy; I raised a few things that were adopted
    - I was very clear to ANU students that I would be sitting with Labor and I was elected for that purpose
  - Role of SRC: read all the delegates' report – important you know what you're voting on
    - Your role is to act as elected representatives in the interests of ANU students
    - There are issues with conference, but the NUS does important work throughout the year – surveys, campaigning, lobbying, promoting reform
    - Type of reform we can effect by sending delegates is really important
    - See report for examples of what NUS has done on our behalf
  - Don't disenfranchise our student population from the national discussion
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#### **5.4 Report by E. Kay**

- See report in agenda
- I sat with the National Independents – I wanted to be independent and make my own choices, but I chose to sit with this 'faction' because I would have had no way of understanding what was going on otherwise
- Disappointed and frustrated by lack of what felt like organisation around conference
  - No agenda
  - Policy book of 400 pages, 2 to 1, disseminated 4 days pre-conference
  - Unclear what I needed to be clear about, constant changes to policy discussions
  - 1 day we started at 4pm, 1 day we continued until 4:30am
- Whole topics went undiscussed
  - International students – not discussed despite huge population of international students at the ANU
  - I feel like I let down those students because I couldn't discuss
- No direction by chair – rules not followed
  - Nobody sent off conference floor despite being named
  - No respect for system, no way of controlling conference
- Disenfranchised: candidate speeches were moot because candidates already decided by factions at pre-conference – they were 'acceptance speeches'
  - Deal brokering before conference decides who is elected
- Angering: rude and disrespectful debate of policy
  - Liberal delegates unable to speak to policies, despite lived experiences
  - Real issue for discussion of Palestine and women and childcare policy

- Ask me about my thoughts!
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### 5.5 Report by O. Shenfield

- See report in agenda
  - If NUS represents the future of federal politics, I am concerned
  - I was a small-I independent – difficult to sit alone without information, but this is the commitment I made in ANUSA elections
  - Elected on platform of environmental policy:
    - Didn't get discussed because we ran out of time
    - Divestment discussed fleetingly
    - I ran for Environmental Officer
  - Nuclear policy – motion pro-nuclear moved by Student Unity
  - Issues: told “f\*\*k no” by some, ignored by others
  - ATSI policy – NUS defunded ATSI Officer position last year; this year discussed Constitutional Recognition only at 1am
    - Not passed until 1am
    - Delegates didn't realise it went through without full amendments
    - This should reflect the NUS' view of ATSI issues
  - PIR motion: NUS pouring huge resources into this campaign
    - PIR not the reason for high cost of textbooks
    - Power trip for members of Labor Right, gross waste of resources
    - I have video of them celebrating 'victory' afterwards
  - Queer\* Officer candidate not elected because of factional deals, despite having outstanding credentials
  - NUS running pro-Labor campaign at NUS expense
    - This is denied by NUS and contentious but I am very concerned that our funds will go to re-electing Labor members
  - Should we disaffiliate?
    - Not sure yet, but NatCon not good enough
    - Sending delegates next year – real need for improvements and pre-conference support
    - Grievance officer did not assist me at all, was not qualified – need for change
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**Procedural Motion:** that the SRC hear a report by Clodagh O'Doherty, who was an observer at the National Conference in December.

**Moved:** Peta

**Seconded:** Victor

**Status:** Passed

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### NUS Delegate Report – Clodagh O'Doherty

- I was an observer – meaning I had no voting rights but I was treated in largely the same way as delegates
- I went to follow up on last year’s debate on accreditation, to assess difficulties with being independent at NUS, safety and conduct of conference and to see how all of these things happened from the outside
- I was endorsed by the ANUSA executive to go for these reasons
  
- See my report for more [Appendix B]
  
- Concerned for personal, emotional wellbeing for our delegates; angered that our ‘independent’ delegates weren’t practically able to achieve that
  - No issues with people choosing to align themselves to a faction
  - But the option of being truly independent was practically impossible – they had no way of knowing when to rock up
  
- Conference floor never opened before lunchtime – this is appalling
  - Delays because SALT wanted to attend an alternative rally; people hungover; slow getting people onto conference floor
  - Poor form for a national conference
  
- Students should be able to be informed about the views and factional alignment of delegates
  - Not the reality – even when students vote on basis of factions, voters don’t understand the implications alignment holds on conference floor because the conference process is so non-transparent
- I believe in unionism and I want this union to do well
  - If we agree to reaccredit, serious concerns
  - NUS NatCon won’t change – if we want to be a part of that, we have to accept that
  - They did an awesome job with dereg campaign, worth considering

**Procedural Motions:** That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent a Q&A session with the delegates for 10 minutes (until 9:28pm).

**Motion:** Eben

**Seconded:** Peta

**Status:** Passed

### Q&A Session

- Q (Lauren): how were the needs of ANU students specifically discussed at preconference?
  - Laura: we don’t go to NatCon for ANU or ANUSA – we look at systemic, structural issues that affect students across the nation
  - Jack: looks at issues pertinent across Australia, which affect ANU students (penalty rates, tutorial sizes – see pages 2-5 of my report)
  - Laura: I set myself up to be on NatInd negotiations team so I could promote ANU interests and be a good point of contact for ANU students
  
- Q (Lauren): is there a conference handbook that you get before you go?
  - No: see recommendation

- Q (Tom): Labor factions did not have a majority of votes
  - Jack: individually factions did not have a full majority, but together they did
- Q (Tom): issue with video footage of conference – Jack, your faction voted against filming, but then filmed and uploaded to Twitter anyway
  - Jack: people are worried about Queer\* and women’s policy for reasons for confidentiality, anonymity, etc. But I am in favour of filming, and I would take this to NUS and my faction
  - Odette: easy to put up standing motions prohibiting filming of certain sections, but I spoke with Labor people who are anti-filming because of concerns that mainstream media would run with stories against
  - Jack: we should follow UK NUS model and livestream
- Q (Raqeeb): no financial record online. Why?
  - Laura: you can go to summit in January to see financials; ANUSA reps were present (?) and EOY financial reports are public
  - \$117,020 profit last year
- Q (Liam): do you think it’s good that many NUS national exec came to ANUSA O-Week; would you be willing to meet with other officers when they come
  - Jack: Yes and yes
  - Laura: Some officers are fantastic; I have issues with some NLS members going onto the 2016 Exec – it shouldn’t be a pick of the mix that we get some good people, some bad people; hard to support system when you see so many examples of ‘sweetheart deals’ between Labor Right and Labor Left (sharing President and Gen Sec positions)
  - Clodagh: Ben and I were approached a few days ahead to meet National Exec during O-Week, we struggled but did fit in time; important to meet and have discourse. Of course we’re willing to work with them – they’re not awful people! – but I was a bit funny with how last-minute their notification of arrival was
- Jade: with NUS Queer\* Officer, I had no notice that she was coming, only received one email on standard mailing list, no specifically Queer\* issues addressed
  - Odette: nobody was notified that NUS was coming; missed opportunity. As enviro officer I still haven’t heard from NUS Environment Officer
  - Tom: also given no notice, no emails BUT I met with Hayden (National Disabilities Officer) and he is a good guy, but no further contact
  - Jack: this is a student organisation, busy people travelling across the country; not everyone does a good job of contact but we as ANUSA and delegates can always go to them
  - Clo: if you are spending student money to book flights, you know in advance – give notice
  - Jed: I saw a number of executive members, they were very busy. When I saw them and tried to say hello, I saw people I happened to recognise in Labor stalls, NOT at NUS stall – didn’t book market day stall
- Liam: market day stall was discussed, but would have cost upwards of \$50 – decided that was not an appropriate use of funds
  - Helena: set package to all groups including corporates and non-corporates, but scope for negotiation – we offered not-for-profit price
  - Sam: Speaking for Sean, other not-for-profits got stalls for \$50

- Anna: Woroni tried 6 times to speak to NUS members and were rejected all times
- Q - Ben (not president): NUS capable of doing great things, but NatCon is shit. As much as NUS is great, NatCon is very important and unlikely to reform. Can it actually be improved?
  - Odette: add filming
  - Laura: on filming, Unity attempted to pull quorum, SALT blocked doors, Honi Soit filmed it and this film was used in criminal action. Not just helping transparency, also keeps people physically safe
- Waheed (Woroni): I tried to move a motion to go but it was knocked back. We just couldn't afford it.
- Ben: can NUS reform at all?
  - Jack: there is a whole section in my report about what reform can happen; it rests on one person to organise conference – better organising structure needed, which would go a long way. Bad behaviour came from Socialist Alternative [dissent] – it's not necessarily the whole structure, but individuals in that structure. Act respectfully, film conference, improve organising committee → improvements
- Laura: I put up recommendations which were then passed at national exec, making them binding. These were not hard to implement but they weren't put through.
- Eleanor: I tried really hard to not name specific factions – it is a culture issue that comes from many different sides, factions and people. It is a culture within the conference as a whole – very difficult to change what happens at NatCon because the whole structure needs to change. I am optimistic and I want to reform from within, but I am not positive about scope for reform
- Jed: people who need to make the change are those who know the most about conference. Those not factionally aligned need the most support.

[Sam resumes Standing Orders at 9:43pm]

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**Motion:** that Jed's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Ben

**Seconded:** Clodagh

**Status:** Passed

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**Motion:** that Laura's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Ben

**Seconded:** Clodagh

**Status:** Passed

---

**Motion:** that Jack's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Ben

**Seconded:** Clodagh



**Status:** Passed

---

**Motion:** that Eleanor's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Ben

**Seconded:** Clodagh

**Status:** Passed

---

**Motion:** that Odette's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Ben

**Seconded:** Clodagh

**Status:** Passed

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## **Item 6: Elections**

**Procedural Motion:** to move Agenda Item 6.2 ahead of Item 6.1 to allow GAC nominees to leave.

**Moved:** Helena

**Seconded:** Jed

**Status:** Passed

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## **6.2 Grants and Affiliations Committee (GAC) members (8 positions vacant)**

Nominations for the positions were received from the following candidate:

1. Michael Turvey
2. Waheed Jayhoon
3. Conrad Noble
4. Alex Merrick
5. Raqeeb Bhuyan
6. Ian Fulton
7. Michael Longland
8. Oscar Jolly

As there are 8 positions and 8 nominations, each nominee is elected uncontested.

Congratulations to the new members of the Grants and Affiliations Committee.

---

## **6.1 Education Officer**

Nominations were received from the following candidates by 5pm, Tuesday 23 February:

1. Emma Henke
2. James Connolly
3. Daniel Wang

Each candidate was invited to speak for 2 minutes and respond to questions from the floor. Speeches and Q&As were not minuted.

- Sam: I call for nominations for returning officer in the election of Education Officer.
  - Sam nominated
  - Ben nominated
  - Ben elected as returning officer, Sam elected as deputy returning officer
  
- Sam: I call for anybody from the floor to nominate to scrutineer the vote count
  - Waheed nominated
  - Caitlin nominated
  - Ben Creelman nominated
  - All three were invited to scrutineer the vote count led by the returning officers
  
- Odette Shenfield would like her abstention noted as she was unable to consult the collective.

**Results of Election:** James Connolly elected as Education Officer.

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#### **Item 7: Discussion Items/Motions on Notice**

None.

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#### **Item 8: Other Business**

- Raqeeb: Is probity report out yet?  
Sam: I'll take that on notice.
- 

#### **Item 9: Meeting Close**

The next meeting of the Student Representative Council is scheduled to be on Wednesday, 16 March 2016 at 6pm in the ANUSA Boardroom.

Meeting Close: 10:39pms

## APPENDIX A



Australian  
National  
University



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### AGENDA - STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) 1 2016

Tuesday, 23 February 2016 7pm, ANUSA Boardroom

#### **Item 1: Meeting Opens and Apologies**

- 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country
- 1.2 Apologies

#### **Item 2: Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

#### **Item 3: Executive Reports**

- 3.1 President's report (B. Gill) [Reference A]
- 3.2 Vice President's report (C. O'Doherty) [Reference B]
- 3.3 Education Officer's report (P. Leigh) [Reference C]
- 3.5 General Secretary's report (S. Duncan) [Reference D]
- 3.3 Treasurer's report (S. Macdonald) [Reference E]
- 3.5 Social Officer's report (H. Hu) [Reference F]

#### **Item 4: Department Officer Reports**

- 4.1 Indigenous Department (R. Larkin) [Reference G]
- 4.2 Women's Department (L. Burdon-Smith) [Reference H]
- 4.3 Queer\* Department (J. McKenna) [Reference I]
- 4.4 International Students' Department (Z. Feng) [Reference J]
- 4.5 Disabilities Department (T. Kesina) [Reference K]
- 4.6 Environment Department (M. McKenna and O. Shenfield) [Reference L]

## **Item 5: NUS Delegate Reports**

5.1 Report by J. Buchanan [Reference M]

5.2 Report by L. Campbell [Reference N]

5.3 Report by J. Gaudie [Reference O]

5.4 Report by E. Kay [Reference P]

5.5 Report by O. Shenfield [Reference Q]

## **Item 6: Elections**

6.1 Education Officer [Reference R]

6.2 Grants and Affiliations Committee (GAC) members (8 positions vacant) [Reference S]

## **Item 7: Discussion Items/Motions on Notice**

## **Item 8: Other Business**

## **Item 9: Meeting Close**

The next meeting of the Student Representative Council is scheduled to be on Wednesday, 16 March 2016 at 6pm in the ANUSA Boardroom.

Expected Close of Meeting: 9:00pm

Released: 22 February 2016 by Sam Duncan

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ben Gill

#### Executive Summary

1. Welcome to the New Academic Year.
2. Thanks to O-Week Team.
3. Notice of OrgSync Contract Expiry at Jan 2017 and initial review findings from Campus Life Officer.
4. Overview of EAP Research Project led by President and Disabilities Officer.
5. Overview of Strategic Student Engagement Initiatives for 2016, including mature entry, honours students and students with children.
6. Legal Service Update for 2015.
7. Overview of International Student Employment Discrimination Project.
8. Notice of changes to ANUSA Staffing.
9. Opportunity of observing/representing students at University Committees.
10. Overview of 2016 SSAF Outcome and proposed Capital Works.
11. Update on Payment to Student Representatives project, including update on recruitment for external advice regarding workplace relations.
12. Overview of recent changes to Library Fines and notice of student library forum on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2pm.
13. Update on ANU OK and call for expressions of interest to assist with the next stage of development.
14. Illustration of President timesheet from 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2015 to 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2016.
15. Update on ANUSA Mental Health & Safety on Campus Committee.
16. Overview of New @ ANU.
17. Overview of Course Representative Policy project.
18. Update on Student Support Videos project.
19. Notice of aim to have bios & pictures for each individual representative by mid-March.

#### Further Information

##### 1. Welcome to the new Academic Year

Welcome to the New Academic Year and to the first Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2016. The year ahead looks exciting and full of opportunities, though it will not be without its challenges. 2016 will see the Association start having to make some difficult and transformative decisions about our future, from financial sustainability, to how we run elections, to how we engage students in the online space (plus so much more). However, I am confident that our team is up to the challenge and I look forward to working with you all in ensuring that students are represented and that we continue to improve their experience here at ANU.

##### 2. O-Week

O-Week 2016 was a huge success. While it is never without its issues, I would like to thank Helena, Kat, Carys, Isaac and Kirsty for pulling off a fantastic week which engaged thousands of new and returning students. In addition, I would like to thank Clodagh for all her efforts

towards the bar at Hypernova. Importantly, the Association has been commended by the University Executive and Facilities and Services for a well-run week, including Hypernova.

Note the Directors, Executive and key staff will be debriefing to discuss any issues which arose in the coming weeks to inform the handover documentation for 2017. If you have any feedback please direct it to Helena ([sa.social@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.social@anu.edu.au)) or Katherine ([sa.communications@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.communications@anu.edu.au)).

### **3. OrgSync Contract Expiry**

ANUSA & PARSA currently use OrgSync (<http://www.orgsync.com/>) to manage affiliated Clubs & Societies. Our contract with OrgSync commenced January 2014 and is set to expire January 2017. The cost of the platform for the three years was ca. \$100,000 and was funded via top slice in the 2014 SSAF process.

With this in mind, the Association has begun looking at how we move forward. As you can imagine the key questions at this stage are:

1. What are we looking for in an online community management tool? What does success look like?
2. What has our experience been with OrgSync?
  - a. Did it do what it was intended to do? If not, why not? What were system limitations and what were cultural?
3. What other tools/systems are available off the shelf?
4. What are our key timelines to making decisions?
5. What is the optimal time to undertake transition if not renewing OrgSync?

At this stage, Cat Martin (ANUSA/PARSA Campus Life Officer) has prepared a brief review of OrgSync based on their experience administering the platform throughout 2015. While a more detailed review is underway, the recommendation is that OrgSync is not the tool the Associations need and that we should investigate alternative options. See report here – [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_Wcao0nE9e0Z210Yk9PYVdHbGc/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Wcao0nE9e0Z210Yk9PYVdHbGc/view?usp=sharing)

Alternatives we have investigated to date include Membership Solutions (MSL) (<https://www.ukmsl.com/>), a platform developed and managed by a UK based company. MSL is a Warwick Students' Union spin-off company formed in 2005. MSL's membership management system was developed as a bespoke solution for Warwick SU to manage the needs of their diverse student community and all the associated clubs and societies.

Based on my experience within the Association and knowledge of the OrgSync implementation I do not consider us well placed to manage multi-year projects. As such, my recommendation is that the change management process from OrgSync to a different tool (should we agree to move away from OrgSync) needs to be completed by June/July with the aim of launching in Semester 2.

The added complexities of this project are closely linked with our need to upgrade our website as well as discussions regarding the potential of moving to online voting (as flagged in the General Secretary Report).

Other potential hurdles I can see with this project will be buy in from the ANU and whether the required areas (ITS, DSL etc.) have the bandwidth to assist us within our preferred timeline.

As this project progresses I will keep the SRC up to date, though in addition to Raqeeb (who has already expressed interest) I would like one other general representative to nominate to assist with this project. If interested please email me at [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au).

#### **4. EAP Research Project**

ANUSA will be undertaking a collaborative student and staff research project assessing what we currently do well and where we can improve with respect to Education Access Plans (EAP's) at the ANU. This project will be led by Tom K and myself, with the aim of assess the perceptions of staff and students regarding the use of EAP's at ANU and identify whether any differences exist. It is hoped that this project will assist identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement within the current EAP framework.

Further details are outlined in my CRC 1 report.

The first meeting of the steering committee will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> February and include:

6. Tania Willis & Julie Harrison – Access & Inclusion
7. Lynda Mathey – Registrar Student Life
8. Wayne Morgan – Deputy Dean of Students/ Law
9. Jochen Trumpf – CECS Associate Dean Education
10. Johanna Rendle-Short – CASS Associate Dean Students
11. Bronwen Whiting – CBE Associate Dean Education

For any questions please email [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au) or [sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au).

#### **5. Strategic Student Engagement Initiatives**

ANUSA represents all undergraduate students, though due to an array of reasons does not engage well with certain cohorts. As such, for 2016 I will placing strategic focus on the following groups of students:

- Mature Age Students
- Students with Children
- Honours Students

A brief overview of activities are outlined below. For any questions or expressions of interest to help out please email [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au).

##### Mature Age Students

To further engage mature age students ANUSA ran a meet and greet event during O-Week at the God's Café on 9th February 2016. The event was run in collaboration with Academic Skills and Learning Centre and PARSA and provided attendees the opportunity to join a mailing list, form social and support networks and hear about ANU services. It is hoped that from the mailing list it will be possible to form a mature age student working group which meets once per term. The purpose of this group will be to develop a greater understanding of how ANUSA and the ANU can support mature age students and provide opportunities to develop social and support networks.

##### Students with Children

To further engage students with children, ANUSA in collaboration with PARSA ran a crèche service during O-Week to allow students with young children to attend their college induction

sessions. While we recorded only a small number of students utilising this service, it is believed that a commitment of 1 to 2 years is required for this service to gain traction among the student community. At this stage we intend to provide a similar service in Semester 2, with the potential addition of reimbursing students to engage baby-sitters in their own homes while they attend the sessions rather than being required to bring children to campus.

In addition, ANUSA will be trialling a 'Parents and Carers Grant' program throughout 2016 which will provide full-time undergraduate students with dependent children a one off grant of \$250 or more to assist to alleviate situations which may become a barrier to completion of their program of study. This grant program will be reviewed at the end of 2016.

### Honours Students

To further engage honours students ANUSA launched a new program called 'Honours Roll' during O-Week at the God's Café on 8th February 2016.

This year long program is aimed at increasing engagement with and among honours students and will be run in collaboration with Academic Skills and Learning Centre. The basic idea is that ANUSA will host a free lunch once per term for honour students to attend a workshop hosted by ASLC, followed by an informal conversation group to allow students to share experiences, coach each other to address common issues and to allow for the development of social and support networks.

It is hoped that this program will assist ANUSA better advocate on honours students' behalf, prevent students seeking help at crisis point (i.e. a week before thesis submission) and empower them to share skills and support each to deal with some of the common problems as they arise through an honours year.

At this stage we have close to 100 students registered on the mailing list to partake in the program and hope to grow this as the year continues.

## **6. Legal Service Update 2015**

The legal service, which is jointly operated by ANUSA & PARSA, provides legal services to individual students and supports the legal needs of ANU student associations, clubs and societies. The service has run for around a decade, and for two and a half years since its re-establishment in mid-2013.

In the period from mid-2013 until October 2015 the service was staffed by one part-time lawyer. Since October 2015 the legal service has been staffed by two part-time lawyers. This has been the most significant development in 2015 and immediately resulted in a more than 50% increase in case load in both November and December.

In 2015 452 legal matters were created. This is an estimated 23% increase on 2014 (368 matters). In November and December, the first complete months in which two lawyers were working, new legal matters increased by more than 50% in each month. Currently, postgraduate students represent 60% of the individual case load. Work for student associations represents 38% of the total case load, with ANUSA being the most significant organisational user. International students represent 62% of the case load, reflecting the additional exposure to legal issues that international students face, including in terms of maintaining their residency status.



The full report may be accessed here –

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_Wcao0nE9e0Q3JPYW8zUnZwN28/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Wcao0nE9e0Q3JPYW8zUnZwN28/view?usp=sharing)

## **7. International Student Employment Project**

With the addition of the junior lawyer to the legal service ANUSA now has capacity to undertake more advocacy projects in the legal space and international student exploitation in the employment market will be the focus for 2016.

The objective of this coordinated project is to influence the employment practices in the ACT labour market and among international students to improve the current issues with respect to employment discrimination. A draft outline has been prepared by the ANUSA legal service which intends to identify the key issues faced by international students with respect to employment discrimination, raising the key initiatives that the project will undertake in order to improve or rectify the situation.

As a first step it is proposed to bring together interested stakeholders to establish a steering committee to work on this issue in the coming year, including ISD, PARSA and ANU Careers.

See draft project outline with feedback from CISA President, Nina Khairina –

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_Wcao0nE9e0VVIZQnV5VllaS2c/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Wcao0nE9e0VVIZQnV5VllaS2c/view?usp=sharing)

### Project Background

The ANUSA/PARSA legal service assisted 214 international students over the last 12 months. Many are engaged in the workforce as casual or part-time workers. The clients who sought our help are representative of a wider issue about international students and their right to work. In particular, ANUSA has assisted 23 international students with specific employment exploitation issues over the last two years. From conversations with these students, this represents a small percentage of affected students with clients having described that other international students are also suffering from exploitation in their workplace. The types of businesses where exploitation occurs most often are franchisees, small businesses like restaurants, and subcontractors like cleaning companies. As such, in our opinion there exists a deep-rooted environmental and cultural issue with respect to the rights of international students and migrant workers.

## **8. ANUSA Staffing**

ANUSA had added two new staff members to the team, Robert Colman as the Administrative Assistant and Susan Samson as a Student Assistance Officer. Robert will be in the office 2 days per week during the academic term to assist with the effective operation of the office and to allow the Office Manager to perform their higher level duties. Susan will be in the office 3 days per week and is on a short term contract covering the long service leave for Bronwyn until her return mid-year.

## **9. University Committees**

As you aware ANUSA has representation on a large number of ANU committees which provide advice to the Council, the Academic Board and the Vice-Chancellor on a range of matters including, finance, education, research, student experience, mental health and access & equity.

These committees are where the Association has the largest impact on the student experience, providing student insight into issues and preventing items which are disadvantageous to students being passed.

There are over 15 committees that meet regularly throughout the year and I would like to invite interested representatives to attend as observers. If you are interested in attending a few committee meetings please email [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au).

If you are interested as representing undergraduate students as nominee of the President (rather than observer) at one of these committees please email [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au). However, it is important to note that some of these committees do require substantial preparation and commitment with a few having agendas in excess of 400 pages. As such, I will be asking to meet with any interested representatives to go through expectations of each committee before I consider nominating a representative.

For a list of committees visit the ANUSA website here - <http://www.anusa.com.au/your-anusa/representation-committees/>.

## **10. 2016 SSAF Outcome and Capital Works**

ANUSA has been allocated a sum of \$1,773,922 of which \$605,623 counts for shared services and programs ran in collaboration with PARSAs, ANUSMs and University Divisions in the 2016 SSAF Allocation process. This represents an increase of \$92,850 or 5.5% increase from 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sean and Clodagh for all their work in putting together such a successful bid and in particular their efforts in the negotiation meetings with the ANU and other Student Associations. Additionally, I would like to thank our Finance Officer Brendan for all his assistance in the preparation of the bid.

The 2016 Funding Submission can be accessed here - <http://www.anusa.com.au/your-anusa/financial-reports/>.

Moving forward, the next task is the allocation of the Capital Works funding pool which will occur in late March to mid-April. In 2016, this pool was topped up to \$900,000 (from \$400,000). The discussion regarding capital works still appears to be around whether we should be funding small projects achievable within a year or larger scale projects which would require funding over multiple years.

At this stage I am currently working with F&S to put together the following proposals:

12. Minor refurbishment of ANU Health Centre
13. Shade Sails and Outdoor Teaching Furniture for Science Precinct
14. Potential Makers Space in new Physics Building
15. Furniture for a potential PhB and R&D Student Space in the Arthur Hambley Lecture Theatre
16. Potential Student Space in Ground Floor of College of Law (TBC)
17. Additional water bubblers in the Baldessin/Hedley Bull areas of campus

If you have ideas for additional projects or have questions please email [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au).

## **11. Payment to Student Representatives**

A draft policy for payment to student representatives was made available to the SRC during January 2016. To date I have received no substantial feedback and as such would encourage each of you to review the document and either comment or email at [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au).

The draft policy can be accessed here - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/13\\_OMkV6U4fwh-jrJgl4xanY\\_G1Wa7hwHefDBVEpquFw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13_OMkV6U4fwh-jrJgl4xanY_G1Wa7hwHefDBVEpquFw/edit?usp=sharing).

For a brief background into my drafting notes, I have purposefully left out how much representatives get paid in a policy as I view the policy as way to formalize a process in which we set and review payments to representatives. As such I have proposed in the policy that each year the SRC would make a recommendation as to who gets paid and how much based on evidence i.e. timesheet data etc. (though keen to hear other ideas). Therefore, if we went forward with this model we would need to come up with a baseline early this year.

Now it is important to note that one of the more challenging parts is that all of this could be pointless as we still need to figure out the workplace relations of student representatives i.e. are we employees (if so, is it all representatives or just some?), volunteers, etc. As such, we have come to the conclusion that what we need is external and professional advice as this is beyond Michael's and Brendan's expertise.

Thus far, together with the University and PARSA we have drafted a terms of reference for the work to be completed and have begun seeking for suitable consultants. The terms of reference are below.

“PARSA and ANUSA are separately seeking to clarify what the relationship of office bearers be to the associations. The review will make recommendations on what this relationship should be, including the manner of remunerating office bearers. The review will take into consideration current arrangements, including remuneration, duties and hours of work.

The review will also make recommendations what legal and policy documentation should be developed concerning office bearers.

Issues to explore will include

18. Given current financial and other arrangements for executives and representatives (including duties and hours of work) should any or all of them be treated/formally engaged as employees of the Association?
19. What changes should be made to current arrangements given policy and legal requirements (including review of current human resource policies/documentation)?”

This advice is important as we currently do not treat Executives or other representatives who receive payments as employees, meaning that I and others are not on contracts, aren't entitled to leave etc. This creates a potential exposure for ANUSA in which the Executives (in the current system) could be classified as employees by the ATO, meaning that if an Executive were to go to the Fair Work Ombudsman and make a claim of such a case the Association could be required to back pay what would be owed had they been treated as employees. The exposure here lies in the fact that in 1998 ANUSA created a Certified Enterprise Agreement which links employee salaries and classifications to the ANU Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA). For example, if the President was treated as an employee under the current system they would be classified under the ANU EBA as per their duties (note not experience/qualifications)

which would likely place them at an ANU O8 or above (i.e. \$100k+). This is not something the Association would ever wish to entertain nor in reality could afford.

Further updates regarding this process will be presented at subsequent SRC's and via internal communication channels.

## 12. Library Fines

The ANU Library notified the Association of changes to fines for late items in early February, following an email I sent regarding a Facebook inquiry to the effect.

A summary of fines and charges are below:

Fines for returning material late

1. 2 hour items: \$12 for the first hour (or part thereof) and \$6 for each subsequent hour (or part thereof)
- All other items: \$30 per item per day. This fine maxes out at \$220 per item.

Charges for lost material

- \$220 per item, including a \$110 non-refundable administrative fee (Please note that material is declared lost if it is more than four weeks overdue).

These changes are of concern for multiple reasons, of which some are outlined below:

- Lack of communication from ANU Library regarding upcoming changes
- Lack of evidence regarding a proper consultation process
- Disregard of financial hardship experienced by many students
- Potential flow on effects i.e. altering behaviour of library use by students concerned about incurring substantial fees.

Student feedback to date indicates 80% of students are not in support of the increase with the remaining 20% supporting an increase of some sort (n = 510 – see poll here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ANUstalkerspace/permalink/815701941892431/>).

In response of feedback I have arranged a Student Library Forum on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2pm in the ANUSA Boardroom (<https://www.facebook.com/events/955749497848964/>). In this forum I will outline the changes and facilitate discussion with students to understand concerns. A representative from the Library will be invited to ask questions.

In addition, I have a meeting with the University Librarian on the 17<sup>th</sup> February and will provide a verbal update at SRC as well as at the forum.

For background information to the increase in fines please read the following:

20. ANUSA – Message from ANU Library - <http://www.anusa.com.au/increase-to-library-fines/>
21. Woroni – “ANU Library Fee Increases to be One of the Highest in the World” - <http://www.woroni.com.au/comment/anu-library-fees-increase-to-be-one-of-the-highest-in-the-world/>
22. Woroni – “Library Fine Increases Put University in Students’ Bad Books” - <http://www.woroni.com.au/news/library-fine-increases-put-university-in-students-bad-books/>

## 13. ANU OK

ANU OK launched in O-Week 2016 and represents a collaborative venture by ANUSA, PARSA, ANU Security and DSL. At the time of writing, we have close to 1,000 downloads with the expectation of doubling this by Semester 2.

Currently the App is being managed by a steering committee comprised of myself, Alyssa Shaw (PARSA Womens Officer), Stephen Milnes (DSL), Joanne Fitzpatrick (F&S) and Gordon Leslie and John Sullivan (ANU Security).

As we move into the next stage of the project I am interested in including additional students to the committee to assist with specific tasks (i.e. marketing, promotion, consulting about development of new features etc.) and would ask any interested representatives or students to email me at [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au). More information about this will come available in the coming weeks.

Download ANU OK here:

AppStore: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/anuok/id1069902027?ls=1&mt=8>

Google Play:

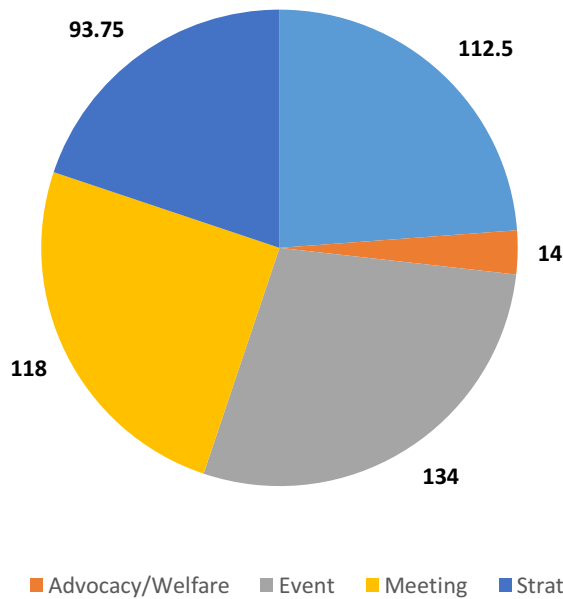
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cutcom.apparmor.anu&hl=en>

For any questions please email [anuok@anu.edu.au](mailto:anuok@anu.edu.au).

#### **14. Executive Timesheets**

Parallel to the discussion of payment to student representatives is one regarding accountability of those students who do receive payment. As a trial the Executive have been completing timesheets since taking office on December 1<sup>st</sup> and below is an example of the reporting available from our chosen platform. To assist us in this process I would appreciate any feedback on what information you would wish to see from Executive regarding workloads, time divides etc. to [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au).

## QuickTimesheets Report - President - 01/12/15 - 22/02/16



### 15. Mental Health & Safety on Campus Committee

To note that Co-Chairs of the ANUSA Mental Health Committee have been appointed for 2016, Tara Peramatukorn and Ajar Sana. Clodagh will be the Executive responsible for this committee throughout the year.

With respect to the Safety on Campus committee, no chairs have been appointed as it was considered that none of the small number of applications were appointable. Linnea and I are in discussions at the moment as to the future of this committee and as to how we can better engage the student community with these issues beyond online spaces.

### 16. New @ ANU

New @ ANU is a new initiative from ANUSA and is a peer-to-peer Facebook Group designed to help new and commencing students transition into university life. The group is monitored by a team of current ANU students, who are happy to share their experiences and help out where they can.

The group launched on 4th January 2016 and at the time of writing has in excess of 1,500 students (~90%+ commencing), which represents a substantial percentage of the incoming cohort. As the group continues it appears to be still performing a useful function assisting new students with questions and issues that arise within the first few weeks. However, the interesting aspect is that they are now answering each other's questions rather than relying on later year students.

Thanks to those of you who have been active in this space and given up your time over summer to answer the myriad of questions posted. While we will be reviewing this group more formally over the coming weeks, anecdotally it has been a huge success with awareness of ANUSA the highest among the commencing cohorts than it has ever been.

For an overview of preliminary analytics for the group refer to the Grytics report here - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_Wcao0nE9e00TRBQ082d0E0WDA/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Wcao0nE9e00TRBQ082d0E0WDA/view?usp=sharing)

### **17. Course Representative Policy**

To note that a key project of mine for 2016 will be pursuing the development of a more formalised structure towards course representatives within the University. While some academic areas have systems in place, it is unclear whether this is common practice across the ANU. Further detailed information is outlined in my CRC 1 report.

### **18. Student Support Videos**

To note the Association has secured funding for the development of videos to increase awareness of student support services at ANU in collaboration with PARSAs and the Division of Student Life. At this stage it is intended that the videos will be themed based on common student issues (i.e. student with a disability, student experiencing financial hardship) rather than a video for each specific service. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses and I will be getting in touch with Departments in the coming weeks to discuss the project and how they wish to be involved.

### **19. ACTION ITEMS - Website Bios & Pictures**

A key priority for 2016 is increasing awareness of the work of the Association and that of its representatives. As such, we will be seeking a short bio and headshot from each individual representative to include on the ANUSA website as well as an updated description for College Representatives and Departments about activities/plans for 2016.

We will be moving forward on this in the near future and I will be working with the General Secretary to have this completed by mid-March.

### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Clodagh O'Doherty

#### Executive Summary

1. ANUSA Team Retreat – November retreat went well, mid-year retreat in planning stages
2. NUS National Conference – see report – recommendations not adequately implemented
3. Meeting with NUS National Executive – positive discussion
4. Ethnocultural Committee – budget, elections and department transition
5. BKSS – staffing, equipment hire, free breakfast and student bites
6. Academic appeals – overall, many positive appeals
7. Accommodation bursaries – reform to bursary system looking promising
8. Mental health committee – Counselling Centre resources, Batyr
9. Friday Night Party bar – small profit, lots of work. See Helena's report for stats

#### Further Information

##### 1. ANUSA Team Retreat

Held 20-22 November 2015. Everything ran really smoothly and it was a fantastic team-bonding experience. I'm hoping it will have a lot of flow on benefits for how we work together this year.

I'm planning on booking a mid-year retreat at the same location the weekend exams finish. I'll be gauging interest over the next month about whether or not reps would find this beneficial.

##### 2. National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference

I attended the NUS NatCon 7-11 December 2015 as an observer. The main purpose of my attendance was to observe the extent to which the recommendations made by the 2015 ANUSA SRC were implemented. These recommendations were pivotal in the 2015 ANUSA SRC vote to reaccredit to the NUS for the 2015 academic year. These recommendations were accepted at a NUS National Executive meeting on those terms.

My report will give more detail as to my experience and thoughts regarding the NUS NatCon, but in short, I do not believe that the recommendations were adequately implemented.

##### 3. Meeting with members of the NUS National Executive

Ben and I met with a number of members of the NUS National Executive last week (O Week). The main purpose was to discuss our plans for the year ahead and ways in which we could work together. Overall, it was a positive discussion.

In lieu of a debate about our reaccreditation, I mentioned that I would like them to provide us with federal policy analysis. I think this analysis is important for us to inform students on issues that affect them in the federal sphere, but unfortunately ANUSA does not have the resources to



do this ourselves. We are also making moves to improve the communication between our two organisations this year and I am optimistic that this will happen.

#### **4. Ethnocultural Committee**

The current members involved in the Ethnocultural Committee have asked me to observe their budget and operational needs. Since the group is a committee, as opposed to a department, they need an executive to sign off their expenditure. I do not intend to strictly oversee their operations, but rather provide them with guidance where requested. All expenditure will go through the Commbiz approval process so I am not concerned with poor financial practice. So far, I have been approving costs before they have been spent and we will work to formalise this process in coming weeks.

In coming months the committee will be running elections for committee positions within the bounds of the constitution, creating a budget for 2016, and looking at their ability to transition from a committee to an autonomous ANUSA department. I'm very excited by their work so far and want to congratulate all those involved for their hard work this past year. This is going to be a fantastic year for ethnocultural representation on campus.

#### **5. Brian Kenyon Student Space**

##### Staff

The recruitment process for BKSS managers in 2016 was incredibly competitive with over 100 applicants. The interviewing process was arduous, but it has left us with a phenomenal team consisting of Divya Kaliyaperumal, Emma Murdoch, Jeremy Hoskins, Jock Webb, Max Henshaw and Tess Klu.

The team underwent a full week of training and have been working incredibly hard over the last few weeks. They were indispensable to the association during O Week. I have plans to make the rostering system more flexible to allow for more staff where there are events, etc. so that the equipment hire process is more smooth. The BKSS is a very dynamic, but often chaotic space, so I would like to congratulate the team on their amazing efforts so far.

##### Equipment Hire

I will be engaging a tech-expert to look over our equipment inventory in the next few weeks. We have quite a number of damaged items. Others have been broken/lost over the years and need to be replaced. I'm looking for someone who can thoroughly check the equipment, arrange repairs, write up an inventory and provide a list of recommended equipment for the association to purchase. I have a few names and companies in mind, but if you have worked with anyone exceptional in this area before- please let me know.

##### Bookshop

Eleanor and I are in the process of investigating whether or not the second-hand bookshop is still an asset to the association. At the moment, we are of the opinion that it is not a worthwhile ANUSA service in its present form. In its prime days, the bookshop brought in over \$20,000 to the association annually. However, due to increased competition in the sector, the shutting down of the physical bookshop in favour of a purely online one, inadequate resourcing and archaic recording systems, the bookshop's popularity and productivity has decreased in recent years.

We will be investigating this more closely after the semester 1 “rush” in close consultation with Brendan and the BKSS staff.

### Free Breakfast Program

I have started brainstorming ideas with the BKSS managers of how we can jazz up the free breakfast program at little cost. We would like to make offerings such as yogurt and fruit more consistent, but would also like to look into more exciting offerings such as Bircher muesli and pancakes. We have the scope to do this as we are compliant with Food Safety regulations- however, need to closely look at the effect this will have on the BKSS food budget and staffing needs.

### Student Bites

I had a meeting with Student Bites over the break regarding our ongoing relationship with them and the BKSS. Student Bites will continue to operate its services out of the BKSS every Monday. The Environment Collective has kindly offered their time to assist in the supervision of the food distribution.

## **6. Academic Appeals**

Since December I’ve been working on a number of academic appeals. They can largely be broken up into 3 groups- disputing grades, show cause, and failed applications to graduate. I’ve had about 10-15 cases all up, varying in complexity.

These processes can be quite time consuming and are obviously very stressful for the student involved. I’ve worked closely with Paula Newitt, Dean of Students, on a number of those cases and she was fantastic. I had more successful appeals than failed ones- which was good to see but we are still awaiting some show cause outcomes.

I have written more about trends in these appeals in my CRC report.

## **7. Accommodation Bursaries**

The accommodation bursary allocation process has been really problematic in recent years, mainly with concerns over proper consultation between those that sit on the panel and the transparency of the decision making process. Carolyn, one of our student assistance officers, sits on the panel as the ANUSA representative and has been pivotal in pushing for change in this process. Her and Ben have worked on this project through 2015, but Tania, Wayne (PARSA Student Assistance Officer) and I will be working on it this year.

Tania Willis, Wayne and I had a meeting in December to discuss concerns raised by Ben, Carolyn, and other members of the panel. From that meeting, the process has been slightly changed to involve greater consultation and better distributed decision making powers for those on the panel to address some our issues in the interim. During the year, I will be looking at more holistic reform to the accommodation bursary system at ANU along with Tania. This is shaping up to bring much needed change to the bursary system to make it more meaningful for students, and reaching students that were previously excluded or inadequately cater for in the application process.

## **8. Mental Health Committee**

I will be overseeing the ANUSA Mental Health Committee for 2016. In December, we went through the recruitment process for co-chairs and appointed Tara Peramatukorn and Aji Sana.

### Counselling Centre Resourcing

It's a well-known truth at ANU that the counselling centre is under resourced. I feel that ANUSA should be advocating more heavily on this issue. I will be working on a campaign with Tara, Aji and the Mental Health Committee to try and push the university to allocate more funds to this area as a matter of priority for our students.

I've met with Carolyn Farrer a few weeks ago to discuss the ways in which they are under-resourced and what sort of change they want us to push for. The main issue in this area is staffing. We discussed some interesting ideas to help with reducing waiting times for students, including hiring youth workers to increase the number of drop-in sessions on offer each day. They could also be a means to separate the needs of individual students based on whether they need ongoing or short-term assistance, and to ensure that they are accessing the right resources before referring them on to a qualified counsellor. They would also be able to deal with some crisis work.

### Working with Batyr

I've met with Batyr to discuss ways that we can work together in the coming year. Their main priority is decreasing the stigma surrounding mental health, so I think an important discussion needs to be had about the role of the ANUSA mental health committee to avoid double-up in the sector. I'll be communicating closely with Doug from Batyr throughout the year.

## **9. Friday Night Party Bar**

I organised the bar for Hypernova with mixed success. The main motivation for running it was to explore ways that ANUSA could generate income- especially if we faced a situation where SSAF no longer existed. In the past, the bar had been entirely outsourced which limits the profit-making opportunities for ANUSA.

We made a very minor profit on the night, but I think with a number of significant changes the bar could bring in a massive income for ANUSA. Some of these changes include: outsourcing and increasing staff, increasing the size of the bar, better allocating volunteers for setup and pack down and slightly increasing drink prices (they were very cheap).

While the university was very happy with how it operated and with the observation of RSA, it didn't give us the return I was hoping for. Overall, it was an interesting experiment but it was a lot of work and thus would need to make us more money to justify the level of effort put into it. The figures are available as part of Helena's report and I am in the process of making a comprehensive handover document for next year's team.

### EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Peta Leigh

#### Executive Summary

1. First Year Camps – pre-departure training, mentors and college reps, budget and college sponsorship, ticket sales

#### Further Information

As I am aware of the time constraints of tonight's proceedings, I have chosen to discuss First Year Camps in my SRC report. I am happy to take questions about other matters from the SRC as needed.

#### 1. First Year Camps

I request to speak to this agenda item at SRC given that by the time this meeting is convened the first camp will have occurred. At this time I will be better placed to comment on the successes and areas of improvement following the camp.

##### Pre-Departure Training

Pre-departure training for mentors and college reps will run for 2.5 hours before each camp on Friday. It will cover alcohol awareness, what to do in an emergency, procedures, contacts, basic purpose of the camps, running sheets, time to draft activities, and especially will emphasise rules and expectations of mentors' behaviour on the camps.

##### Mentors and College Reps

I have replaced approximately 7 mentors who have pulled out of the camps. We have had some issues with reps not being able to attend their designated camp, but these have been resolved through strong cooperation and teamwork.

##### Budget and College Sponsorship

I have been liaising with college representatives regarding outstanding college sponsorship. By the next SRC the education officer should be better placed to give exact figures of college sponsorship as this process will have been finalised, but is still being negotiated at the present time.

##### Ticket Sales

Ticket sales were slow initially but have begun to pick up following O Week, and I anticipate that all camps will come close to reaching their capacity. I am comfortable that we have taken substantial measures to ensure that we are doing the best we can. Tickets were sold throughout O Week. I created flyers and went personally to every academic club and society and asked them to distribute them and use their networks to help us advertise. We have

contacted Colleges asking them to help us, we have contacted Student Experience, Ben has the camps advertised on ISIS. We have college reps attending lectures.

We have sponsored posts on Facebook plus clubs and societies advertising through their social networks.

### GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sam Duncan

#### Executive Summary

1. SRCs and CRCs
2. The future of communication – suggested improvements to how ANUSA communicates with the student body. Feedback welcome.
3. Gen Rep Info Pack disseminated today
4. Notice of OGM1
5. Electoral Reform – seeking expressions of interest for electoral regs working group for Term 1; proposed changes to be released for 3 weeks of consultation end Week 7, voted on at OGM2 (Week 10)

#### 1. SRCs and CRCs

A lot of preparatory work went into organising SRC1 and CRC1 and to get the required notices out on time. Thank you for your patience as I learn the ropes!

Regarding the location of future SRCs and CRCs, I am concerned that the ANUSA Boardroom is no longer an adequate space for us to meet. This is due to a number of factors, including availability of seating, room layout, the quality of PA equipment and the lack of facilities to record or livestream meetings.

As an alternative, I propose to host future SRCs and CRCs in the Fellows Road Law Lecture Theatre 1, between the Law School and Fellows Oval. The space is far bigger and better able to accommodate our needs. Unfortunately, it looks like the earliest we can consistently secure this new meeting space is July (Semester 2), but more details to come.

#### 2. The future of communication!

As flagged, I would also like discuss ways to extend our reach across campus, starting with the way we communicate. I met with Raqeeb during Week 1 and discussed the following ideas:

- Pinning meeting notices to the ANUSA website to improve visibility.
- Creating a digital calendar of events (including meetings) to be published on the ANUSA website and easily shared and downloaded.
- Uploading minutes from SRCs/CRCs that incorporate reports set out in the Agenda, so you don't have to skip back and forth between the docs to get a full view of things.
- Releasing minutes soon after meetings.
- Livestreaming meetings, or at least recording them through Echo. I am a big fan of livestreaming, however we would need to consider privacy concerns, confidentiality issues and logistics for setting up such a system.
- Creating an anonymous form which students can use to suggest 'Other Business' or discussion items to be brought up at SRC.

I will work through these preliminary ideas over the coming weeks and report back on progress at SRC2. Any input or other ideas is very welcome!

### **3. General Representative Information Pack**

I have finalised a General Representative Information Pack incorporating material put together by 2015 Gen Rep Em Roberts and feedback from other 2015 Gen Reps. All Gen Reps are welcome to take a hardcopy today, and I will send around an electronic version shortly.

If you have any suggestions for changes or improvements, please be in touch. I hope this document proves useful.

### **4. Notice of OGM1**

I am required to give notice of OGM1 early in Week 2. OGM1 is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 March (Week 4) at 1pm to be held in the Hayden-Allen Lecture Theatre (the Tank).

Details about this meeting, deadlines for reports and motions are due next Wednesday, 2 March (Week 3). Please let me know if you have any issues.

### **5. Electoral Reform**

ANUSA elections are a necessary evil, but also one I believe can be improved. I am interested in discussing how we can improve the Electoral Regulations to overcome some of the issues highlighted in the ACT Elections 2015 report. I am particularly interested in discussing the pros and cons of a move to predominantly online elections.

This is not a one-person job, so I am seeking expressions of interest to join a working group to meet during Term 1 to discuss these issues. This is an open call to any ordinary member of the Association – tell your friends, rope in any savvy electioneers and email me at [sa.gensec@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.gensec@anu.edu.au). I will also seek expressions of interest on Stalkerspace, online and through our newsletter.

My timeline for electoral reform is as follows:

1. The working group should meet during Term 1 and reach a decision on proposed amendments by the end of Week 7.
2. These proposed changes will be put to student consultation over the mid-semester break, and into Week 8. I will actively seek feedback over this period.
3. The SRC will have a chance to comment in Week 8, and the CRC will discuss in Week 9. I will take all feedback on board and finalise the proposed changes accordingly.
4. I anticipate the proposed changes will be put to a vote at OGM2 on 4 May (Week 10).

This timeline will give more than sufficient time to incorporate those changes into the Constitution before the call for nominations for General Election goes out on the Monday of Bush Week.

I note that all provisions governing ANUSA elections are contained in the Electoral Regulations, which may be amended by 2/3 majority vote at a General Meeting pursuant to section 8(4)(c) Constitution.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Sean Macdonald

### Executive Summary

1. Year-To-Date Profit and Loss Information
2. Sponsorship
3. Term Deposit
4. Debit Cards
5. SSAF Agreement Financial Reports

### Further Information

#### 1. Year-To-Date Profit and Loss Information

1 December 2015 - 29 February 2016	
<b>Income</b>	
Bookshop Commission	\$108
Sponsorship - ANU	\$11,000
Sponsorship - External	\$36,000
SSAF Allocation	\$829,569
Ticket/Event Sales	\$130,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,006,677</b>
<b>Less Cost of Sales</b>	
BKSS Food/Consumables	\$1,073
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$1,073</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$1,005,604</b>
<b>Plus Other Income</b>	
Interest	\$1,945
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$1,945</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>	
Accounting/Bookkeeping	\$120
Administration Expenses	\$270
Bank Fees with GST	\$372
Bank Fees without GST	\$299
Bus expenses	\$1,161
Cleaning	\$1,422
Departments & Collectives	\$30,000
Faculty camps	\$13,800



Fees & Subscriptions	\$2,355
Grants and Affiliations Committee	\$1,701
Interest Expense	\$0.21
Leadership and Professional Development	\$200
Legal Expenses	\$2,851
Marketing & Communications	\$5,048
Meeting Expenses	\$470
Misc Committees (Mental Health, Safety on Campus)	\$59
NUS	\$165
Other Employee Expense	\$10,882
O-Week	\$141,643
Repairs and Maintenance	\$612
Salaries and Wages	\$110,591
Staff Development	\$5,081
Stationery/General Supplies/Postage	\$293
Student Assistance Unit Grants	\$4,215
Student Assistance Unit Purchases	\$3,193
Student Engagement	\$1,396
Student Reimbursement - Training Programs	\$99
Superannuation Expense	\$16,301
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$354,599</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$652,950</b>

Please note we have received 100% of GAC funding and 40% of our SSAF funding. These is why the net profit is currently so large. ANU Sponsorship funding is likely to increase; we are still negotiating with the various colleges about First Year Camp funding.

## 2. Sponsorship

We have so far received \$35 000 in external sponsorship. This is a great start as in 2015 the Association received \$43 000 in external sponsorship for the whole year. The Murray's deal for 2016 has been confirmed and ANU Students will be getting the best market price available for bus trips between Sydney to Canberra. This means if Greyhounds has a \$25 ticket, Murrays will also have a \$25 ticket. ANUSA has also set up a sponsorship deal with Uber where new ANU users receive a \$20 free ride. This deal runs out on the 31 March and then we will discuss a more long-term deal.

## 3. Term Deposit

We have recently opened a four-month term deposit with an interest rate of 2.84% and deposited \$1.4million. This funding consisted of a large portion of the 40% SSAF we received on the 1 February 2016, the SSAF surplus from previous years and the Associations independent savings. The interest from this 120 day term deposit will be just under \$40 000 which is a great result as in 2015 the Association received \$17 000 interest for the whole year.

Discussions have recently begun around the best way to generate independent revenue and how to ensure the financial stability of the Association in the future. Until we decide what to do with the savings we plan to open 4-month term deposits and ensure we receive better interest.

#### **4. Debit Cards**

The Association has recently applied for 2 Debit Cards – one will be given to Ben and the other to Eleanor. This should hopefully reduce the amount of reimbursements and in the future help ease some of the financial burdens individuals face during O Week and other busy periods. I will be updating the financial policy for debit cards and distributing that once updated.

#### **5. SSAF Agreement Reports**

The Quarter 4 2015 Expenditure Report (schedule 2 report) and the Annual Acquittal Statement (Schedule 4) were both sent to Richard Baker on time. These reports are required under the ANUSA-ANU SSAF agreement and we have to comply with the timelines and ensure the reports are submitted to ensure we receive our SSAF allocation. Once Richard replies that he is happy with the reports they will be placed on the ANUSA website.

## SOCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Helena Hu

### Executive Summary

1. O-Week – success! Many thanks. See budget.
2. Social Committee – please sign up
3. GAC – nominations open, reform to GAC policy and Handbook underway
4. Event Guide – project underway
5. Clubs and Societies Collaboration – planning to have an event each term
6. Sex and Consent Week – stay tuned
7. Women's Week – stay tuned

### Further Information

#### 1. O-Week

O-Week was on 8 – 12 February, and was overall a success. There are a large number of people without whom this week could not have happened, who deserve to be recognised and commended.

I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the O-Week Directors Kat Carrington and Carys Atkinson, both of whom made legendary efforts in the months leading up to the Week, as well as during the week itself. Friday Night Party Director Isaac Dugdale pulled off one of the most astounding parties ANUSA has ever seen—thank you everyone for the best team I could ever have wanted. Kirsty Dale, Logistics Officer, also did an incredible job coordinating volunteers and grocery purchases throughout the week.

#### (i) Budget

	Budget	Actual (19 Feb)
<u>Income</u>		
Ticket Sales	106000	134,000
Sponsorship	32000	35000
SSAF	120000	120000
Bar	N/A	1120
Total	258000	289,000
<u>Expenses</u>		
Merch+Marketing+Catering	27500	23,479.61
Events	20850	11378
FNP	176200	167458.56
Total	224550	202,316.17
Profit/Loss	33450	86,684

This is the most up to date budget breakdown for O-Week. We have a very precise breakdown of all expenditures and revenue, however as we are still waiting on a few invoices, these are the most accurate estimates. Unknown expenditures have been rounded up for the purpose of this report. There was no income projected for the bar because we were hesitant to rely on any predictions in the planning process, as there were many new and unknown factors to operating the bar ourselves.

**(ii)** Events turnout and feedback

Overall, we had quite a positive student turnout and engagement at the events that were run during O-Week. For some events (Life on Moose, Friday Night Party, Amazing Race) the turnout vastly exceeded our expectations, however we were able to cater to the student interest with the support of volunteers and staff. Other events had more or less the amount of interest and turnout that we expected. All numbers were recorded or noted to the best of our ability during the week, and will be included in the handover document along with some suggestions in amending events or strategies based on this year's numbers.

The O-Week team is on track to deliver a handover/de-brief document at the end of Week 2. In the meantime, myself and other exec/staff members will be attending debrief meetings with major stakeholders with whom we worked in the planning of O-Week to discuss this year's circumstances and possible improvements for next year. These stakeholders include: departments, ANU Security, Facilities and Services, Access Canberra (ORS), and external contractors.

I welcome any and all feedback regarding all aspects of O-Week, such that we can improve our events for Bush Week, the rest of the year, and next year. Please send all feedback through to [sa.social@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.social@anu.edu.au).

**(iii)** Volunteer system

One thing that worked really well this year was the new volunteer management system. We halved the number of volunteers registered, created five teams each with a Volunteer Coordinator in charge. This facilitated volunteer engagement, accountability, mobility, and efficiency. I'd like to commend the phenomenal efforts of our Volunteer Coordinators: **Eleanor Kay, Maddison Perkins, Cam Allan, Max Messenger, and Maryanne Irhia.**

## **2. Social Committee**

This year, we'd like to redefine and re-integrate the Social Committee. I see the role of Social Committee as integral to running any ANUSA events including during Bush Week and awareness weeks, as well as facilitating the Clubs and Societies Collaboration events which I hope to introduce this year. The goal is to develop the Committee into a permanent group of volunteers with organisational and event execution expertise, who will be involved in all aspects of the campus social environment.

All O-Week Volunteers, ANUSA representatives, and any member of the student body, please sign up to be a member of the Social Committee at: <http://www.anusa.com.au/services/social-events/>

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up: notification of a first meeting will be sent out soon. The meeting will hopefully be in Week 3.

### **3. GAC**

As there were no nominations or elections at the last OGM of 2015, there has been no active GAC. As such, affiliation requests and any initial payment requests have yet to be processed. I apologise for the delay—we are aiming to clear the affiliations by the end of Week 2\*, and will have the first GAC meeting and finalise GAC dates in Week 3. The Committee will also start processing payment requests in Week 3.

This year, we are planning a thorough review of the existing GAC policies. Surveys about the current policies have been sent out as of 19 February to all Clubs and Societies through OrgSync—the survey will also be distributed on the ANUSA website and Facebook page on Monday 22 February.

While responses are collected, for the next two weeks Cat Martin (Campus Life Officer), Sean (Treasurer), and I will be reviewing the GAC policies from a financial sustainability and fairness point of view. We welcome any Gen Reps or any other member of the student body to contact me via email and join the review.

After reforms have been drafted, they will be distributed for discussion and feedback for at least 1 week. If necessary, the policy changes will then be presented at an OGM to be voted on. The GAC Handbook will be published after all proposed changes have been distributed for feedback/voted in at an OGM. Thus, while we are aiming for a Week 6 publication of the Handbook, this may be delayed depending on the severity of proposed policy changes following the review.

### **4. Events Guide**

The Events Guide is an initiative that I have been working on with Departments and many other ANUSA reps for the past few months. The aim of the Events Guide project is to produce a guide to organising any event on campus. It will include information on meeting Functions on Campus requirements, writing RAMPs, and most importantly, how to make your event accessible for all members of the student body. The Departments have been working on drafts of 'accessible event guidelines' most applicable to their collective.

All drafts for the Events Guide are due on Tuesday of Week 4, the draft Events Guide will be published for feedback until mid Week 5. After any necessary amendments, the Events Guide will be published in Week 6.

The Events Guide is intended to be referenced alongside the GAC Handbook, which will include information on affiliation, funding, and tips for securing external funding e.g. sponsorship.

### **5. Clubs and Societies Collaboration**

The Clubs and Societies Collaboration Project is something we're introducing to the Social Portfolio this year. While all Clubs and Societies are overseen by ANUSA, there is little inter-Club communication or collaboration. As we would like to foster independent Club growth, I

believe it would be extremely beneficial to Clubs and Societies to exchange ideas, combine financial and man-power to create bigger and better events, and cater to a wider and more diverse audience within the ANU Community.

The C&S Collaboration project will include two parts: a luncheon will be held once a term to which all executive/committee members of all Clubs and Societies will be invited, at which there will be facilitated and free-flowing discussion of ideas, tips for Club/event management, and general networking.

We will also aim to have one inter-Club and Societies collaboration event per term. This event will need to be organised by at least 3 clubs. ANUSA will be able to offer advice and assistance in the planning/approval process through consultation with me, extra volunteers from the Social Committee, as well as potential financial support subject to the approval of the Social Officer and the rest of the ANUSA executive.

All event ideas or proposals please direct them to [sa.social@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.social@anu.edu.au). Even if your event idea is currently only for your Club or Society, please let me know and I can help facilitate discussions with potential collaborators.

## **6. Sex and Consent Week**

There was a preliminary meeting this week held between Linnea (Women's Officer), Tom (Disabilities' Officer), and myself. I will speak to this point in the SRC to elaborate on our progress.

## **7. Women's Week**

I will speak to this point in the SRC to elaborate.

### **INDIGENOUS DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

Rory Larkin

#### **Executive Summary**

1. The End of Year Tjabal Centre Celebratory Dinner 2015
2. Music on the Meadows O Week
3. New Indigenous Students Meet and Greet lunch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.
4. NAIDOC Week 2016
5. My New Role

#### **1. The End of Year Tjabal Centre Celebratory Dinner**

Annually the Tjabal Centre holds a celebratory end of year dinner where students reflect on the challenging year of study and to catch up with current students/share experiences. Australian National University staff members external to the Tjabal Centre also attend, this year Brian Schmidt spoke along with Richard Baker and the Tjabal Centre Director Anne Martine who organised the dinner. I also spoke about my first year of study and how essential the services provided by the Tjabal Centre were toward my achievements, and I encouraged more students to take part in the incredible Aboriginal community we have here at the ANU. It was a fantastic night.

This was before the 1st of December however just thought I'd share.

The Indigenous Department contributed \$1500 to the dinner.

#### **2. Music on the Meadows O Week**

Music on the Meadows this year was fantastic; two talented Indigenous artists performed and provided a lovely atmosphere to enjoy dinner. I'm not sure how many of you I saw there because I was behind the BBQ cooking the sausages! Just to add, there were more than just sausages; there were local Aboriginal chutneys accompanied by delicious salads and more!

The attendance increased substantially in comparison to last year, which is great, and seeing more students engage with the Indigenous community is a huge positive.

On behalf of the Tjabal Centre I would like to thank ANUSA for the contribution made toward the night, it was fantastic.

#### **3. New Indigenous Student Meet and Greet Lunch**

Simon O'Toole and I have organised a meet and greet lunch for new and current Indigenous students at the ANU. It will be held on the 2nd of March and will consist of a barbeque provided by The Indigenous Department. We are looking forward to this and I will report on how it goes at the next meeting.

#### **4. NAIDOC Week 2016**

This will be our biggest event of the year, preparations are currently underway and we will be working very closely with the Tjabal Centre to ensure we make NAIDOC Week as good as it can be.

More details will be provided further in.

Just a note: if anyone has any ideas regarding collaboration I am happy to have a chat.

## **5. My New Role**

Being new to the role I have many ambitions toward further improving the ANU Indigenous Community and look forward to working more closely with everyone at ANUSA. I have many exciting things planned for this year that I can't wait to share with you all, and I'm sure you all do too.



### **WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

Linnea Burdon-Smith

#### **Executive Summary**

1. O-week Report
2. Thank you Bossy Editorial Team
3. First Collective Meeting Held, Officers to be elected 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb
4. Commencement Address
5. Expenditure Report – To be presented at SRC2

#### **Further Information**

##### **1. O-week Report**

For O-week this year the Women's Department held two events, the Bossy Launch and Tea & Chats.

The Bossy Launch was a non-autonomous event held in the BKSS. The event presented some live music and light snacks to complement the free distribution of the publication. The event saw Jill Masters, one of Bossy's Content Editors, reflect on her time as an editor and what the vision was behind the publication.

The Bossy Launch was a huge success with many first years as well as later years in attendance. The musical acts, Rach Armstrong and Kaleid, were both well received and it was great to be supporting women in the music industry.

Tea & Chats was a successful alternative to the ANUSA Hypernova party. The event supplied the opportunity for women to learn about the services that are provided by the Women's Officer, the Women's Department and ANUSA itself. This was a great way for women to become familiar with the Rapunzel Room in a facilitated manner.

##### **2. Thank you Bossy Editorial Team**

Huge thank you to the Bossy Editorial Team. The Editorial Team came together in October 2015 and worked hard over summer to have the publication launched in O-Week 2016.

The Women's Department was proud to foster the Bossy magazine as an opportunity to promote women writers and editors and promote the diversity that exists within the Women's Department. The Women's Department intends to make this an annual publication.

##### **3. First Collective Meeting Held, Officers to be elected on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.**

The Women's Department has held its first collective meeting for the year and was pleased by the attendance. Nominations were taken for the positions of Deputy and others. These positions will be appointed in our next meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

##### **4. Commencement Address**

The Women's Department was pleased that the new VC Brian Schmidt promoted the Women's Departments Pledge. The Women's Officer recited The Pledge alongside the VC in his commencement speech. The Women's Department is looking forward to fostering a productive relationship with the VC to address safety on campus. The VC has committed to speaking at the screening of the Hunting Ground on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

### QUEER\* DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Jade McKenna

#### Executive Summary

1. O Week
2. Expenditure to date (see attached)
3. First Meeting

#### Further Information

##### 1. O Week

O Week was a success, with event attendance and engagement on par with or better than last year. About 80 people attended Gender Free Speed Dating, 40-50 at Movie Night at the Queer\* House, and over 100 people signed up to the mailing list on Market Day. 15 different people from the collective volunteered to help during the event and I'd like to thank them for making the Queer\* Department's events such a success.

Despite considerably increasing the amount of food provided at Champagne Brunch, we ran out of food about 45 minutes into the event, which was a good sign of how many people engaged with the department but shows that catering needs to be reconsidered in future years.

##### 2. Expenditure to date

The majority of expenditure went to O Week. The provisional budget for 2016 passed at the end of last year allowed for a maximum expenditure of \$2000, so there were considerable savings which were discussed in the first Queer\* Department meeting last Thursday (18/2) to be reallocated to another budget item.

The purchase of asexuality pamphlets were approved before my term began, and the renewal of [anuqueerdepartment.com](http://anuqueerdepartment.com) occurs every year.

##### 3. First Meeting

Attendance of 31 students, Deputy Queer\* Officer nominations are now open.

O WEEK EXPENDITURE			
Market Day			
	Market Day Deposit		\$50
		Total	\$50.00
GFSD			
	ANU Bar Tab		\$360
	Batteries for megaphone		\$20.50
		Total	\$380.50
Champagne Brunch			
	Food		\$450.46
	Liquor License		\$45
		Total	\$495.46
Movie Night			
	Popcorn		\$26
	Soft Drink		\$12.49
		Total	\$38.49
		SUM TOTAL	\$964.45

### Other Expenditure

22/12/16 Wordpress yearly website renewal \$13.00

29/01/16 Asexuality pamphlets \$140.23

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

Zhengxiang (Harry) Feng

### **Executive Summary**

1. Summary of the ISD orientation program for semester 1, 2016
2. ISD's vision for 2016
3. Ongoing changes of ISD 2016 team members

### **Further Information**

#### **1. Summary of the orientation program for semester 1, 2016**

During the O-week, by collaborating with Student Experience and Career Development Team, PARSA, organisations such as Griffin Hall, Woroni and other stakeholders, ISD hosted two information sessions providing information on student visas, legal services, health services and other important issues during the orientation week to international students.

For the first time, we teamed up with ANU sports as well as AFLACT and organised an AFL induction program that designed for international students. There will be in total five sessions during five weeks' time. By the end of it, students are expected to have the basic knowledge and skills it requires to participate in AFL 9s games.

The last event we hosted is the International Students Welcome Evening. Despite the difficulty we had with venues we eventually managed to host it on the Friday of week one (ISD tradition). On the evening, we had the Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor of Student Experience, and the manager of SEDC team joining us. Representatives from more than ten national clubs and associations also joined us for the opportunity to further reach out to the international students.

#### **2. ISD's vision for 2016**

For 2016, ISD is aiming to working not only for international students but also with international students to provide services and assistances that are actually needed by international students. This means that the ideas of activities, events and campaigns will be generated from students' thoughts and ideas but not only ours.

In order to do so, our first step is to make connections with national clubs and associations and the individuals in order to receive the first hand information. During our information session and market day in the O-week, we have already collected some information from international students. For the coming week, we are planning to host meeting in which we are hoping to have representatives from as many clubs as possible so we could listen to their opinions regarding ISD's plan for semester 1, 2016, as well as to facilitate cooperation among them.

We will then decide what events ISD will host and what services ISD need to provide besides the ones that have already been provided.

#### **3. Ongoing changes of ISD 2016 team members**

According to the ISD Constitution,

#### 15 - Casual Vacancy

15.1 Should a vacancy occur in an office other than that of the President of the ISD, the Executive Committee shall appoint an ordinary member to fill the office until the next general meeting where an ordinary member or an associate member may be elected depending on the office in question.

On the second day after the election results came out, the elected executive VP resigned due to his personal circumstance that he received a job offer. After discussing with the rest of team and Arebelle herself, we chose to appoint Arebelle as the interim executive VP which she kindly agreed to act as till our next general meeting when a new member is elected as executive VP.

In addition, our Liaison VP recently resigned due to the fact that he was not able to come back to continue studying in ANU. The discussion on whom should we appoint to fill the vacancy is still ongoing.

# DISABILITIES DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Tom Kesina

## Executive Summary

- Introduction to the DSA in 2016 – we're for all students with disability
- Review of O-Week activities – it went pretty well, and we tried some new things
- Creation of the Spoons Space – it's finally happening and is now open
- Safer Spaces policy – the DSA now has one, will undergo review later in year
- Autonomous Discussion Groups – discussion groups for student w/specific disabilities
- Finance update – we're doing a lot of things, so we've spent a bit of money

## Further Information

### 1. Introduction to the DSA

The ANU Disabilities Student Association (DSA) is a group run for students with disabilities, by students with disabilities. We aim to build up an awesome community, raise the profile of disability, and advocate for structural change at the ANU. Disability is a pretty wide term, and includes; physical disability, mental illness, dyslexia, being neurodivergent (Autism/ADHD), chronic pain, chronic illness, autoimmune disorders (lupus, alopecia), food allergies, and more.

### 2. Review of O-Week activities

In 2016, the DSA ran three things during the O-Week period (which I'm loosely including Week 1 in). The first was our market day stall, which was a success with quite a few sign ups. The second was our Spacecraft-ernoon, which took place after market day finished and had many crafts, food items and excellent people. The third was our panel event – Surviving & Thriving at ANU. This was held on Wednesday of Week 1 and consisted of three fantastic panellists (Louise Stockton, Fleur Hawes & Laura Campbell) talking about how they've made the most of ANU. Attendance was excellent, especially considering that this is the first time we've run an event of this kind during the O-Week period. Feedback from the DSA collective overall was positive, particularly in regards to the Spacecraft-ernoon event.

### 3. Creation of the Spoons Space

For the past three years, several Disabilities Officers have tried very hard to get the DSA an autonomous Space. In 2016, it's happening. The Space is located quite centrally, and has areas for hanging out, studying, reading, and even a bookable respite room. Whilst the Space is open, very few people have card access, and the Space still needs work accessibility-wise. We're currently waiting on a timeline from Facilities & Services for when and how the building works will take place – this was supposed to arrive last week.

### 4. Safer Spaces policy

With the creation of the Spoons Space, the DSA identified a need for there to be some sort of document outlining our community expectations and principles. Whilst there were several ways to achieve this, we went with the terminology of Safer Spaces because it has a specific focus on creating a positive and safe culture. Over the past two months, I've been meeting with every past Disabilities Officer since 2012, former Department Officers, and senior persons who have managed other campus spaces. After harnessing their wisdom, and putting out draft policies for public feedback, we've finally got a Safer Spaces policy. Take a read here:

<https://goo.gl/kBEqOv>

## 5. Autonomous Discussion Groups

To summarise, these are discussion groups for the students with specific disabilities. The initial plan is to run them monthly, have them run by two student facilitators, and partner with community organisations for training and resources. Based on interest from last year, I was initially looking to launch five ADGs sometime around O-Week. That did not happen. After collective consultation, I will be putting out a new expression of interest form to determine what the first five ADGs should be based on interest from this year's cohort of students. I wrote a proposal over December and January, and put it out for consultation on social media about how ADGs might function. Can find proposal at this link: <https://goo.gl/mLms3E>. So far I've met with several individuals, including a representative of the I CAN Network as well as a local professional facilitator about how they might be able to support Autonomous Discussion Groups.

## 6. Finance update

Expenditure from 01/12/2015 to 19/02/2016

<b>LINE ITEMS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Collective meetings	\$38.26
O-Week	\$444.34
Promotional	\$419.00
Spoons Space	\$223.99
Total:	\$1125.59



## ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Michael McKenna and Odette Shenfield

### Executive Summary

1. Past Events
2. O-Week Engagement
3. Upcoming events
4. Collective Structure
5. Fossil Free ANU

#### 1. Past Events

- **Welcome picnic** – great attendance, beautiful music, really great collaboration between different green groups (Environment Collective, Fossil Free ANU, AYCC, Fenner School Society, Food Co-op, Canberra Environment Centre)
- **Bike Trip and Blackberry picking** – We went for a bike trip around the lake and picked blackberries. We had a beautiful time but attendance was quite low (6 people). 3 people were first years who gave very positive feedback about the event.

#### 2. O-Week Engagement:

1. **First meeting of Environment Collective** – really well attended (over 30 people), attendees were very enthusiastic and had great ideas for initiatives this year.

#### 3. Upcoming events and initiatives:

- **Under the Dome** – Wed 24 Feb, in the Forestry Building. Viral documentary about the problem of smog in China with expert speakers.
- **Leard Fundraiser with 350.org** – Thurs 25 Feb – music, speakers, short films, food, fundraising for the protest occurring at the critically endangered Leard State Forest. Logging is occurring to make room for Whitehaven Coal's mega coal mine. The area being logged also contains Lawlers Well, a sacred site of the Gomeri people
- **Leard Trip:** 11-14 March, organising carpooling for people to go the Leard to assist the protest there.
- **Climate Café:** 4th Monday of each month, Frank Fenner Seminar Room, 1215 - 1.45. Joint initiative with ANU Climate Institute.
- 

#### 4. Collective structure

- We have weekly meetings Tuesday 5pm at the Food Co-op
- We are now operating under three working groups – though these are likely to change slightly to adapt to new members' interests: sustainable food, educational/advocacy, and events
- We organise non-hierarchically and use consensus decision making. Everyone is equal within the collective and we endeavour to give everyone an equal voice.

- Fossil Free ANU is a separate working group of the ANU Environment Collective, and has its own meetings every Monday 5pm at the Conservation Council.

Expenditure report:

- Finance officers have just returned after being away over summer, expect at SRC 2 Report.

## 5. Fossil Free ANU

### Past Events

- **Do the Math Film Night** – Hosted by Fossil Free ANU, open meeting afterwards. This was really well attended (over 30 people), and people were very enthusiastic and engaged.
- **Staff Welcome** – We attended the Staff Welcome (4 Feb) – great attendance for this sort of action (around ten people). Very positive responses from staff and Ben delivered a wonderful speech with a shout out to Fossil Free ANU.

### Current Initiatives

- **Staff Open Letter:** <http://www.act.350.org/signup/ffanu-open-letter-2/>
  - o We would really appreciate any help getting signatures for this
  - o We are also looking for staff to be in our video to promote the open letter
- **Photo campaign:** We are currently taking photos for a social media and poster campaign. Contact Odette if you would like to participate

### Upcoming Events:

- **Staff Open Letter Launch**
  - o Date TBA
- **Paris Climate Event:** Student Forum
  - o **10 March** – Fossil Free ANU will have a stall to promote the open letter and the campaign

### How can you help?

- Wear an orange square (ask Odette for one)
- Ask staff you know to sign the open letter
- Be part of our photo campaign
- Come to our events

### NUS DELEGATE'S REPORT

Jed Buchanan

Bio: I have been at ANU for four years, I have run in 3 student elections, once as a single issue presidential candidate/party, once (accidentally) with Unity for ANUSport and once as an independent with Let's. I was a GenRep on ANUSA last year and have worked with multiple clubs/societies & departments. I identify as Queer.

- This report details my understanding of the structure of the National Union of Students, and the problems that this raises for ANU's participation
- It is important to note that there is NO induction, introduction, hand-over or guide to NatCon. Laura Campbell, as a pseudo-faction head for the Indies, was able to explain some of how National Conference (NatCon) ran ahead of time. As far as I could tell this is the only way to learn how NatCon runs.
- Even once I learnt who to ask, most people from major faction, including those who were meant to be organising the conference, were unable or unwilling to tell me what was going on at NatCon
- **Because of this, it would not surprise me if low ranking members of other factions had no understanding why things happened at conference. All voting is done on block, and each faction has 'head kickers' who ensure that faction members attend conference floor. If you do not intend to propose or debate policy, this is all that you would need to know to participate in NatCon**
- Some campuses which are totally controlled by Labor do not even send delegates. They simply send proxy votes to faction heads who vote on their behalf
- The National Union of Students (NUS) is the peak representative body for tertiary students in Australia. They run campaigns and lobby federal and state governments with the aim of improving the quality and accessibility of education in Australia, as well as defending the quality of life of students. Like ANUSA, but bigger and with a travel budget.
- The NUS National Conference (NatCon) is a week long conference held in Melbourne every year purportedly to decide on the activities and the structure of the Union for the following year. Imagine a very tense, week long SRC meeting.
- The day to day running of the conference is handled by the National Executive (NX) and the National Office Bearers (NOBs). These appeared to be broadly analogous to General Representative and Executive + Department Officers respectively.
- Nat Con has a slightly difficult to understand structure
  - There is no agenda, including no start or finish time for discussions

- Effectively starting time (and to a lesser extent finishing time) for each day's discussion is decided by the faction heads telling the organisers when they will bring their kids to conference floor, as all factions can threaten (and the labor factions can break) quorum
  - The topics for discussion are drawn from the Policy Book which any student can make submissions to if they are sponsored by NX, NOB or delegates
  - The order that these are discussed in are decided by the heads and neg teams of the various factions
    - It is unlikely that all topics in the book will be discussed as there is insufficient time AND because there is a veto mechanic where discussions can be vetoed by large factions
- **Because of this structure ALL power is concentrated in a small group of people, primarily those in the bigger factions (Labor and to a lesser extent SALT).**
  - **This structure encourages deal brokering above discussion on floor, and in truth all decisions that were voted on during NatCon were decided in advance by the Negotiating Teams (Neg Teams) and Faction Heads**
  - **This factionalisation is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, barrier to change and effective governance for NUS**
- As a rule, people in large factions felt that they had the right to act and speak as they pleased, while smaller factions and minority groups had to defer to the whims of these factions. Some examples:
    - An individual from the Liberals faction who went up to speak as a Palestinian (he deliberately said that he didn't want to talk about his political position, only his lived experiences) was booed and jeered by 50 angry socialists to the point where he couldn't be heard over the microphone. After 5-10 minutes of this when the Unity students went to leave, the SALT delegated barricaded the doors and started a brawl
    - During autonomous policy discussions, members of the larger factions who did not identify in the autonomous group felt it was acceptable to jeer, harass and talk over speakers. During the Ethnocultural section, one speaker from Unity, the largest faction, stood up to speak with 4 other people of colour because speaking in front of the conference floor made her feel unsafe.
    - When Laura Campbell (who wrote the majority of the disability policies) stood up to talk in the autonomous disability discussion she was booed and jeered at by SALT delegates, with people shouting things about her dehumanising people with disabilities and not understanding disability
    - **As a tall, white, cis-gendered, straight-passing male, a person of extraordinary privilege, there were multiple times when I felt unsafe because of the way people were treated on conference floor**
  - The ANU has produced a number of notable NUS participants, primarily for the Indies and for Unity.

- I believe that it is only these 'notables' (who have attended multiple NatCons/labor Conferences/whatever SALT does) who could possibly impact the running of NUS, because they are known to the Neg Teams and Faction Heads. Someone who attends only a single NUS appears to have no more power than someone who emails in a policy/complaint
- With this in mind, it is my recommendation that no one gets sent to NatCon who does not intend to be involved with StuPol for at least two (and preferably three or more) years
- I believe that people from factions will be less willing (and they may argue: less able) to represent ANU students, however the dramatic difference in their ability to do so may mean that they are still the most effective people to send
- With THAT in mind, I feel that the experience of attending NatCon (particularly for those not in large factions: Unity, NLS, SALT) is deeply unpleasant and potentially traumatic for students
  
- Having spoken to previous delegates (from ANU and elsewhere) and observing proceedings on floor, I am unconvinced that NUS is able to represent students interests above and beyond the interests of whichever factions hold majority on floor and on NX
- To clarify, it is my belief that money/time/students sent to NUS is money/time/students given to Labor/SALT, not to students

## NUS DELEGATE'S REPORT

Laura Campbell

### Executive Summary

The focus of this report will be looking at the following:

- Contextual Motion of reaffiliation by ANUSA 2015
- NUS NX Recommendation Approval and Amendments
- Role of Unionism within the context of student associations
- Systemic issues- Factional System within NUS and how it affects policy and voting
- Logistical issues- COnference mismanagement and accessibility and safety

### 1. Contextual ANUSA Motion

Student Representative Council Meeting 5 - Tuesday 28th of July 2015.

“That the ANU Students Association approve the reaccreditation to the National Union of Students for the amount of \$5000 and requests that NUS provide the Association with and implementation plan and progress update for the recommendation made by the ANU NUS delegates Laura Campbell which was approved at the 2015 NUS Education Conference.”

Refer to Appendix 1-

Recommendations were put to the National Executive via Joshua Orchard (2015 ACT NUS President) which were then amended and passed in the The National Union of Students (NUS) National Executive on Monday 6th July.

Refer to Appendix 2

### 2. Recommendation Achievement

Recommendation	Achieved	Comment
Item 1 Any future bidding process requires host campus make available a counsellor for duration of NatCon, including nights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- provide impartial grievances officer (GO) for duration of conference (amended to ideal not necessary)</li><li>- GO would ideally have Sexual Assault crisis and violence prevention training.</li><li>- provide a factsheet with mental health crisis lines and friendly youth shelters in the area</li></ul>	Somewhat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A professional counsellor was not provided for 2015 NatCon.</li><li>2. Grievance Officers were appointed both intra and inter factionally.</li><li>3. The Head Grievance officer was National Disability Officer Alison Taylor.</li><li>4. Unable to acquire the</li></ol>

		<p>training of each individual officer, thus could have had training.</p> <p>5. No factsheet of mental health services was provided.</p>
<p>Item 2</p> <p>That NUS require all delegates and observers to sign a code of conduct and for any future bidding processes that the host university provide a safe space for people attending the conference.</p>	Yes	<p>1. Within the registration google doc, each delegate and observer had to agree to a safe space policy outlined by NUS.</p>
<p>Item 3</p> <p>That NUS create and distribute a very rudimentary guide to NUS and NUS National Conference to member organizations, to be distributed to their delegates. Such a guide should include how to move motions, a list of office bearers and a brief explanation of how conference floor works.</p>	No	
<p>Item 4</p> <p>Ensure local police are informed that NUS National Conference is ongoing. Ensure that any and all allegations of potential criminal activity are forwarded to local police for investigation.</p> <p>Ammended- have allegations raised with the grievance officer before police are involved</p>	Unsure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unable to comment on any formal police involvement</li> <li>▪ No formal processes/ reporting.</li> <li>▪ Private security presence/involvement</li> <li>▪ Limited action taken on criminal offences.</li> </ul>
<p>Item 5</p> <p>That NUS facilitate more sociable drinking habits, including bar nights and cross factional mixers.</p>	Somewhat/No	<p>People were invited in an individual capacity to join larger factional social outings. However no social outings were coordinated by NUS itself.</p>

### 3. Unionism

The National Union of Students is the over- arching peak representative body for higher education students around Australia. It is an organisation that is nearly exclusively run by students with the core belief that collective action is the best way to achieve solid and tangible outcomes for students.

I preface my views upon NUS with the statement: “I believe in unionism”. NUS conceptually and in its most embryonic form is an incredibly powerful body. The ability to interconnect student associations, autonomous departments and activist groups across the country has the potential to invoke great change for students.

NUS still maintains remnants of this through its networking ability and exchange of activist ideas and events. The Education Conference is a great example of this with a more informational focus with both students and specific field professionals sharing skills and knowledge.

National Days of Action (NDA’s) do serve as an activist platform for students to combat issues in which collective ground action is needed. A prime example being the 2014 NDA’s against deregulation that saw huge numbers of disenfranchised students given a voice and platform for their frustration.

In regards to lobbying, I do not have the knowledge or experience base to comment accurately on the work that they do.

However, there are a number of very serious systemic and logistical issues within NUS that have stunted its ability to be an effective representative body for student representation.

#### **4. Systemic**

##### **Factional System**

As outlined in previous years, NUS is a highly factional union. Many elected delegates will choose to sit with their politically aligned faction.

The major factions that present at NUS NatCon are as follows:

- National Labor Student/NLS (Labor Left)
- Student Unity/SU (Labor Right)
- Socialist Alternative/SALT
- National Independent/ NI
- Australian Liberal Students’ Federation/ALSF
- Grassroots Left/ GROOTS
- Unaligned delegates/ “small independents”

This entrenched factional system plays out at its highest and most emotionally charged within the National Conference, in which policy and officer bearers are decided upon.

##### **How does this affect policy at NatCon?**

The major factions often bind on voting. This is done through “pre natcon caucuses” in which the major factions go through policy and come to group/political consensus on what they will vote up/down. Due to the larger factions usually holding a majority of delegate voting power upon the floor, many policies for Natcon are decided upon either before the beginning of National Conference or between factional representatives.

This provides a number of issues including but not limited to:



- Dilution of individual Delegate voting power
  - o misrepresentation of individual campus and their issues
- The redundancy/lack of debate on each policy matter
- Hierarchical structure of factional decision making of policy.

### **How does this affect voting of office bearers?**

The final day of National conference is allocated solely to the election of office bearers. Each delegate enters the conference floor room and picks up their votes. Within the ballot room there is the voting and ballot collection areas, as well as tables set up for each faction to use.

For factions that bind, delegates will typically enter the room, pick up their ballots, drop them off at their faction's table and then leave. Their factional leaders then fill out their ballots. For factions that don't bind, delegates are free to vote however they want, subject to any deals that they have signed.

This provides a number of issues including but not limited to:

- Lack of transparency and democratic process
- Bottleneck of power in allocation of office bearers
- Non-merit based elections of office bearers.

## **5. Logistical**

### **(a) Conference Mismanagement**

#### **(i) Policy Book**

The Policy Book is a compilation of policy that has been sent in by a variety of students from affiliated Universities. Each and every policy that is received by the General Secretary before the due date is accepted within the policy book making it an extremely dense document. A lot of time is spent logistically working out policies that overlap, policies that need amending and policies that are just not that good. A lot of this conference time could be better used in debate and voting.

Suggestion:

The policy Book submission is opened up throughout the year and NUS sets up a representative NX committee to sipher through policy before NatCon to dilute administrative burden on conference floor.

#### **(ii) Lack of Agenda/Timetable**

The lack of Agenda and timetable is a strong and negative remnant from the factional system. Due to individual delegates being unable to access a basic timetable of conference floor starting times (which consistently change), conference floor ending times and a loose agenda of policy days, they are unable to individually assess the conference. This information is given to them by factional heads, leaving a lot of logistical and therefore political power with factions and the larger more organised factions.

Suggestion:

NUS National Conference creates a how-to guide of the formal conference floor processes as well as a basic timetable of the week and relevant sessions.

## **(b) Accessibility and Safety**

### **(i) Security Concerns**

There was a number of both physical and verbal altercations at Natcon 2015 this year on conference floor. These altercations happened between a number of students and one particularly physical altercation occurred on floor and was videotaped. Although there was a number of security guards present throughout the conference, there was very little intervention into these altercation. As well as this there was no formal repercussions for those involved and they were not immediately removed from the conference. NUS must be held to full account when ensuring the safety of delegates both physically and mentally while at the National Conference. To do this they must employ a number of safety mechanisms which may include more security with a much heavier involvement.

Without the implementation of an objective process of assault and harassment there is no guarantee of delegate safety as well as consequences for perpetrators of violence.

Suggestion:

Implementation of a full assault and harassment policy which is contingent with legislation that is in place before conference and fully utilised and made apparent to every conference attendee.

### **(ii) Accessibility and Safety Mechanisms**

In reference to last years recommendation there are a number of concerns of mental health safety as well as accessibility of the National Conference. NatCon does not provide an objective and qualified mental health professional to its delegates in what would be described as an emotionally turbulent event. There is also no objective due process for complaints or grievances. This is not only inaccessible but extremely dangerous for student attendees but also conference organisers and officers.

Suggestion:

A full mental health safety plan and due process guide which is provided to each attendee of any NUS Conference.

## **Appendix 1. - Recommendations (Laura Campbell- Josh Orchard)**

### Conference bidding procedure reform

Preamble: NUS National Conference is a passionate discussion of student issues and values. In the course of heated debate, there is the potential for overstep from delegates of all sides. Discussions with ACT delegates from the 2014 NUS National Conference have raised issues with the conduct of conference. Particularly, they were concerned with the lack of support structure at conference, training for delegates and behaviour of delegates off conference floor. These reforms were suggested by a delegate and I have agreed to bring them to the National Executive for discussion.

#### Item 1

One of the major criticisms is the lack of a qualified and trained grievance officer. While in the past this position has been filled by office bearers, the concern raised with this is the lack of formal training and factional leaning might prevent people from raising potential issues.

Linked to this is the lack of counselling services available during conference. Students should have access to qualified counselling for the duration of conference as many debates become heated and can result in stress.

Recommendation: That any future bidding process require host campus' make available a counsellor for the duration of national conference, including nights, and provide an impartial grievance officer for the duration of conference. Said grievance officer will ideally have sexual assault crisis and violence prevention training.

#### Item 2

NUS does not currently provide a safe space for delegates who feel unsafe at conference. As such, if people are at any time feeling unsafe during conference then it is usually dealt with informally.

Recommendation: That NUS require all delegates and observers to sign a code of conduct and for any future bidding processes that the host university provide a safe space for people attending the conference.

#### Item 3

Delegate training is woefully lacking for many representatives. While major factions have internal education mechanisms, truly independent delegates are often confused by the processes of national conference and unable to move policy on behalf of their student union.

Recommendation: That NUS create and distribute a very rudimentary guide to NUS and NUS National Conference to member organizations, to be distributed to their delegates. Such a guide should include how to move motions, a list of office bearers and a brief explanation of how conference floor works.

#### Item 4

While rare, assault and sexual harassment can occur at gatherings such as these. Therefore, it is important that local police are notified that National Conference, a large conference of very political young people coupled with a large amount of alcohol, is on.

Recommendation: Ensure local police are informed that NUS National Conference is ongoing. Ensure that any and all allegations of potential criminal activity are forwarded to local police for investigation.

#### Item 5

As with almost all large gatherings of students there is a large quantity of alcohol of consumed. This can lead to people feeling unsafe and fuel unsocial behaviour.

Recommendation: That NUS facilitate more sociable drinking habits, including bar nights and cross factional mixers. NUS will retain a zero tolerance policy on drug use and encourages individuals to report drug use.

## **Appendix 2. - NUS Recommendation NX Meeting Minutes**

### 11. Other Business

#### a. NUS National Conference Recommendations

Josh: These recommendations come from consultations with delegates to last national conference, mainly from delegates at ANU. Happy to have a discussion about them

Danica: Concerns item 4 - many people have safety issues with police, I think this item is unnecessary.

Tom: Standard practice is already.

Rose: Amendment to 1 – That we should prioritise getting a councillor, but don't make it an absolute necessity – amenable

Jess: Raised further concerns regarding item 4

Laura: Further Amendments to item 1: NUS provide a factsheet with mental health crisis lines and friendly youth shelters in the area– amenable.

Josh: Happy to amend item 4 to just have allegations raised with the grievance officer before police are involved – amenable

Jess: What is the process from here?

Tom: I will pass these recommendations onto the conference organisers and I will take them into consideration when organizing conference.

Motion 7-22

That the recommendations (as amended) be accepted Orchard/Wey.

### NUS DELEGATE'S REPORT

Jack Gaudie

My experience of NUS National Conference as an ANUSA Delegate has only reaffirmed that the overwhelming majority of delegates, motions, and actions of the Union throughout the year are positive, relevant, and promote the issues of students across the country to policy makers and university administrations.

I believe that NUS does work to represent ANU students interests, and there is an ongoing benefit to ANUSA members of affiliation and accreditation. In saying this, there are issues with NatCon and NUS has more improvements to be made to maintain relevance to students, increase its ability to represent student issues, and improve delegates experiences of NatCon.

#### Overview

National Conference is the yearly NUS conference which determines its policy platform and elects office bearers for the following year. It is held at Mannix College at Monash University and all attendees sleep, eat, and conference there. Attendees are made up of office bearers, delegates elected from campus and observers.

The Conference is broken up into policy chapters representing different areas. They are:

1. Administration Policy
2. Unionism Policy
3. Education Policy
4. Welfare Policy
5. Womens Policy
6. Small and Regional Policy
7. Queer Policy
8. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy
9. Disabilities Policy
- 10 International Students Policy
11. Ethno-Cultural Policy
12. Environment Policy

The conference is staffed by non-student returning officers, a secretariat and the business committees which determines what reaches the floor. The NUS President chairs general policy and other office bearers chair their respective portfolios.

Before each session of conference each delegate must be given the amount of votes they hold (as determined by the size of their campus) and these must be scrutineered. NUS runs through these policy areas through the business committee giving motions to the chair. Motions must receive have support from factions to reach business committee. There the BisCom vote whether to put a motion to floor, once this is agreed upon the motion is passed to the chair

and debated by conference. Generally each faction gets the opportunity to speak on a motion if they wish to, often factions will pass speaking rights to those who want to talk.

Once the speaking list is exhausted the motion are voted on. Often non-contentious motions that are agreed upon will be passed in large blocks with little debate. Examples of this is 5.10, 'Student Rights at Work' and 5.12 'On Campus Medical Services'. Other motions which divide conference such as the debate on HECS or free education will have lots of speakers and be voted on individually. This system works well to devote more time to policy of contention and cuts down the length of voting.

Once a motion is adopted it empowers the relevant office holder to conduct campaigns throughout the year, contact politicians or universities on behalf of NUS and take other actions such as hold rallies, conduct surveys, collect signatures in a petition, make submissions to government bodies, etc.

At NUS a national executive is elected which oversee office bearers and direct the affairs of the union for the rest of the year. In addition, NUS employs accountants, researcher and office staff.

## **Policy Passed at NUS**

My pick of policy wins for students from the 2015 National Conference:

### **1. Education**

- a. (Motion from floor) April 13 NDA - motion to call a **national day of action**
- b. (4.1) **Parallel Import Restrictions** - this motion authorised a campaign against PIRs to raise awareness amongst the student population and lobby government to abolish them. The campaign that started in O-Week has already received 2095 signatures, 486 from ANU.
- c. (4.7) **Advocating For Student Representation on University Councils** - this policy advocates for Unis to include student representatives on University Councils where key decisions are made and student voices need to be heard. This is in response to several Vice Chancellors advocating that students should not be represented on uni councils.
- d. (4.11) **A Tutorial is A Tutorial** - A motion advocating for the preservation for small group learning in response to universities moving to online and larger classes with little to no small group student support.
- e. (4.55) **Lecture Recordings** - A motion moved that lectures to be recorded for students who are unable to attend class because of commitments such as work and engage properly with their course material. Authorises an education campaign and university lobbying.

### **2. Welfare**

- a. (5.2) **Toll Free Income Support** - A motion that calls for Centerlink waiting times to be reduced and telephone support should be free to assist students to

access support without charging them. Authorises lobbying the Minister for Human Services.

- b. (5.3) **Youth Unemployment** - Advocates for more investment in higher education as well as social welfare and social services to aid unemployed students engage with their studies and combat youth unemployment.
- c. (5.4) **Raising of the Tax Free Threshold** - This motion illustrates that a higher tax free threshold (25k) will benefit low income students and contacts the finance minister to lobby for the change.
- d. (5.5) **Protect Our Penalty Rates** - This policy advocates for the penalty rates that many students rely on to survive to be protected in light of the Productivity Commission recommendation to cut them. This is particularly pertinent to students who often work penalty rate hours and will be most affected by the change. Authorises a campaign on this issue and lobbying the government.
- e. (5.6) **100% Pay at 18** - This advocates for 'equal work for equal pay' for all irrespective of age as this affects younger students.
- f. (5.12) **On-Campus Medical Services** - This motion advocates for low cost medical services to be provided for poor students and for improved services.
- g. (5.13) **Affordable Housing** - This motion looks at the expense of housing and how it can be a barrier for those wishing to access higher education. It calls for low cost student housing and authorises a campaign and survey to collect data from students across the country.
- h. (5.14) **Lowering The Centerlink Age** - This addresses the age of independence which is currently arbitrarily set at 22. This is a barrier for many students who are financially independent but denied support in their studies. Important point in combatting student poverty.
- i. (5.24) **Mental Health On Campus** - Calls for emphasis and investment in on-campus counselling and mental health services nationwide.
- j. (5.28 + 5.45) **No Cashless Welfare Cards** - This motion responds to the government's trial of cashless welfare cards which paternally controls what can be purchased. Looks to create a survey for data about students' experiences on income support and this policy.
- k. (5.51) **Student Cards Are Concession Cards** - This policy supports cheaper public transport for all students and advocates that a student card provided by a uni should be proof acceptable nationwide.
- l. (5.53) **Medicare: A Public Right Not A Private Good** - This is in response to the government's \$7 co-payment and changes to the medical rebate scheme which has impacts on individuals across the country. It also opposes the privatisation of medicare and calls for campaigns against adverse changes to Medicare.

### 3. **Womens'**

- a. (6.1) - **Supporting Women's Network** - this moves to celebrate the achievements of women at university and create a network for women to make professional connections.



- b. (6.15) - **Abolishing The Tampon Tax** - this advocates to abolish the GST tax on sanitary products and promotes women's rights to access free/affordable sanitary products. Calls on the government to remove the tax through MP lobbying.
- c. (6.24) **Dereg: A Sure Way To Price Women Out** - This illustrates the disproportionate impact the government's proposed reforms will have on women who often take time out of the work force. Lobbies government and runs campaign across campuses.

#### 4. **ATSI**

- a. (7.7) **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Conference** - passed to have the ATSI officer run a conference where ATSI students come together for skill based and leadership workshops.
- b. (7.14) **Indigenous Tutoring Assistance Scheme** - A motion in response to the funding changes reaffirming that education is essential in closing the gap, retention rates and graduation of ATSI students.

#### 5. **Queer**

- a. (8.6) **Privacy and Confidentiality of Queer Spaces** - a motion in responses to breaches of confidentiality at UTS, Newcastle and Western Sydney, acknowledging the importances of the spaces for queer students.
- b. (8.13) **Queer Students Education Survey** - Looking at the limited data on queer students and their experiences at university across Australia. Moving that the National Queer Officers conduct a survey including the impact of HECS and fee dereg, wellbeing and safety, and queer representation in student unions.

#### 6. **Disabilities**

- a. (9.1) **Caring For Carers** - recognising the disadvantages of carers who attend university and looking at ways the national disabilities officer can liaise with universities to improve carers experiences and access to education.
- b. (9.7) **How Many Spoons Do You Do?** - The NUS disability awareness campaign, requires that the national disabilities officer coordinate the campaign across universities.
- c. (9.19) **Student Wellbeing Survey** - A motion to continue collecting data on mental health, housing, accessibility of campuses, employment and other areas of welfare and disability, and working with advocacy and support groups to grow the data pool for students at universities with disabilities. This is to be used in campaigns and lobbying in order to recommend improvements and policy changes as well as call for better funding.

#### 7. **Ethno-Cultural**

- a. (10.2) **Establishing Ethno-Cultural Collectives On Campus** - Acknowledging the importance of EC collectives for students of colour and migrant students who face multiple barriers in society and on campus. This calls for safe spaces and representation for EC students across all university campuses.

- b. (10.13) **NUS Survey By The Ethno-Cultural Department** - Looking to collect data for people of colour as there is very little to inform effective campaigns and properly represent students of colour.

#### **8. Small And Regional**

- a. (12.2) **Encouraging Tertiary Education for Regional Students** - This looks at the low engagement with tertiary studies for regional students and the increased cost of going to uni from a regional town. Moves to promote degree options in regional and online universities and encourage regional students to study.
- b. (12.08) **Support Relocation: Don't Touch Our Scholarships** - Acknowledges the importance of relocation scholarships and condemns any move to end the scholarships and authorises a campaign across regional campuses against these moves.
- c. (12.12) **Public Transport for Regional Students** - Acknowledging the importance of public transport, this lobbies state governments on the lack of adequate transport to universities in regional areas.

These and the other policy passed at NUS form the office bearers campaigns and lobbying. It is important to note that while National Conference is important for deciding on policy platforms, the majority of NUS's operations is office bearers' work throughout the year. A complete list can be found circulated in the report.

This year there will be an emphasis on the cheaper textbooks campaign, a preemptive campaign against SSAF changes (which may happen if the Coalition have a majority in the senate) and NDAs against deregulation.

#### **NUS 2015**

In 2015 NUS was the key institution that represented students nationwide to the federal government while it was considering deregulating the higher education industry. While a large portion of their work goes unacknowledged, I believe the activities of NUS 2015 (summarised below) provide an important snapshot at the organisation throughout the year and its efforts to represent students.

This was the seminal achievement of the 2015 office bearers, who ran NDAs and lobbied cross bench senators. This resulted in the government delaying higher education reform. I believe this is a key example of NUS's importance to the ANU student body: it represents our interests directly to the government. There is no other mechanism that ANUSA currently uses to represent its students on a national body. I believe that we would be ineffective if we attempted to represent without NUS as we do not have the student population to sway change and ANUSA does not allocate resources or have the expertise to lobby effectively, unlike NUS.

While the NDAs and defeat of dereg were very public display of NUS's activity on campus, there are several other important 'wins for students' that NUS delivered in 2015:

- Deregulation
  - The 'Demand A Better Future' campaign saw huge student turnout across the country and was the basis for a successful campaign to lobby the cross bench senators. NUS was instrumental in representing student's voices and influenced the cross bench senators to not support deregulation
- New Start Waiting Time
  - NUS made submissions to the senate committee regarding the 6 month waiting period for New Start allowance. NUS was the only student group to submit to the enquiry. The result was that the government did not implement the 6 month waiting list.
- \$7 Co-Payment
  - NUS made submissions to the senate inquiry on the impact this would have on students and low-income earners. This helped in the government walking away from \$7 co-payment.
- Surveys:
  - Talk About It: NUS conducted a survey and produced a report on safety on campus, particularly looking and women's safety. This is the only nationwide survey that looking as safety and violence on campus, it has been used by other organisations and university administrations in looking at improving safety on campuses. The US documentary Hunting Grounds about sexual assault on campus picked up on this and want to partner with NUS to raise awareness of issues like consent and assault at university.
  - Education Quality Survey: This is NUS's comprehensive snapshot of the quality of tertiary education in Australia. This has been used by campus administrators and policy bodies to identify issues and improve the quality of learning. It is the only national scale quality survey conducted in Australia.
  - Wellbeing survey: This looks across campuses for indicators of student wellbeing from mental health provision to quality of life factors such as the availability of healthy food on campus.
  - Together all of these surveys provide a snapshot of university quality and the conditions of students. They will be run again this year to get an indication of trends and add to the body of data that NUS can draw on to conduct effective campaigns and be informed lobbyists.
- Indigenous Student's Conference
  - This conference was run for the first time last year.
- Ongoing Financial and Structural Reform:
  - State Branch Reform
    - This has simplified state branches and implemented a system of campus representatives which should encourage vastly more communication with student unions across the country and improve NUS's ability to engage students and conduct campaigns.
    - Presidents and campus reps are now welcome to attend all NUS state committee meetings which will increase oversight and communication.
  - Financial Reform

- These have come from a audit and external report on NUS as an organisation, as well as requests by ANUSA (such as improved safe spaces at conferences)
- 2014-15 NUS had a profit of \$117,000 which was largely due to cuts to honoraria, administration costs and reducing overheads such as office space.
- These funds are intended to be used to employ staff in order to professionalise NUS, increase efficiency, and retain corporate memory beyond office bearer's single year terms
- Conferences were also less expensive (Ed Con cost ¼ of the year before) through working closer with hosts and being smarter with money.
- In addition to this NUS revenue was up with most universities increasing their accreditation fees from the year before
- These reforms and changes were cemented by an intensive handover process which should allow NUS to continue to reform and improve finances and governance structures

While there have been important reforms it is key to remember that NUS as a student organisation with a funding model dependent on student unions will always face limitations. In preparing for this report I've been in contact with NUS office bearers who would like to further professionalise, but face financial limitations due to the funding model. This is the reality of a student organisation.

I believe the reforms and achievements of NUS 2015 amply demonstrate both that NUS plays an important role in representing ANU students and influencing policy decisions which affect our lives, and is committed to ongoing reform to strengthen the organisation. It is for this reason that I believe that ANUSA should re accredit for a reasonable fee in order to support NUS and ensure that our students are represented through delegates at NatCon.

### **Factions**

One criticism of Nat Con is its factionalised nature. This is a reflection of the conference structure and how students across the country vote in elections. Factions at NatCon often work together, often disagree, and some dislike others. However, factions at NatCon effectively operate the same as political parties in parliament. Despite the criticism of factions I believe that at NatCon 2015 there was a reasonable amount of balance and different perspectives were able to pass different policies. Examples of this is NLS and SAIt passing motions promoting free education, where Student Unity prefer the current HECS model. Another example is Student Unity and some independents passed a an anti-PIR policy which NLS and SAIt disagree with because of Australian printing industry jobs.

Factions often agree and do not impede passing of important policy such as the Disabilities Spoons Campaign, womens' policy and mental health initiatives. Largely, factions disagree on means to achieve policy change (lobbying as opposed to rallies), and/or genuinely disagree on policy (such as free education as opposed to the current HECS system), and/or disagree as to

what NUS should devote its time to (representing strictly student issues as opposed to having a broader wider scope).

There are some issues with NatCon factionalism especially when it comes to behaviour, which I address below and provide my recommendations for improvements to NUS. However, I believe these issues should be more closely attributed to individuals within the factional system, rather than the system itself.

Generally, I believe within the factional system that has no clear majority on floor promotes good outcomes for students. Currently, the makeup of the floor allows for different factions to vote together on specific policy and, as no faction has a majority, I believe this makes NUS quite a representative body. I believe this is reflected in the the policy passed.

On a personal note, I was happy to sit with Student Unity because my views closely align with their policy platform and I found that the pre-conference caucus was respectful, well-informed, sensible, and I believed formed policy platforms which benefit ANU Students.

## **Issues With NUS**

- ANUSA Preparation:
  - While it's often talked about preparing delegates I found that ANUSA did little support me in terms of understanding how conference works and what to expect.
  - This should be improved for future delegates with proper handovers.
- Behaviour at National Conference
  - Bad behaviour:
    - While there are examples of unacceptable behaviour, I found this limited to certain groups at NUS. These groups are largely the Socialist Alternative, who use NUS as an opportunity to shout about issues.
    - Their behaviour included interrupting speakers, shouting abuse, blocking exits, stealing microphones to deny speakers, laughing and inappropriate comments during personal/passionate topics of discussion such as Women's' and Queer\* policy
    - Before NUS I understood that all delegates were like this, however this is not the case. The large majority of delegates, including almost everyone from other factions did not act like this and were generally respectful
  - Other behaviour:
    - Others generally had fiery but respectful debate, depending on topic. There was some heckling, but this is largely directed at those who engaged or encourage it. Some speakers would often have jibes at other factions, jibes at others people in the room where there are some ongoing jokes or disagreements.
    - Generally I think that others didn't overstep the line with their jibes or heckling

- Chanting reserved for those who continued to speak despite their time ending
- After conference members from all factions mingled socially with no issues
- There is a general rule, which was made very clear to me, that first time speakers were given silence and for personal stories and sensitive topics no speaker was interrupted
- Recommendation:
  - I believe that filming could greatly improve debate, reduce bad behaviour, and make NatCon both a more professional and accountable body
  - Filming of certain parts of conference would make some policy chapters more difficult. For example filming could discourage Queer\* identifying members from feeling able to speak freely
  - I believe while representing students around the country, no delegate should say anything they don't believe or are unhappy to be held accountable to.
  - In addition to this I believe the chair should be more firm and that non-delegates who are ejected should not be allowed to return to conference
- Media Coverage at Nat Con
  - One issue I have was the online and media coverage of NUS. There was no balanced reporting, only a focus on bad behaviour of a small group of delegates.
  - In contrast to the reporting, there were numerous moving and impassioned speeches on Queer\*, Welfare, and Women's.
  - I was really disappointed that reporting largely failed to mention the positive debate and genuine discussion of policy. There were some fantastically moving speeches delivered by women of colour, queer students and students passionate about welfare which were personal highlights of the conference. However, these remain unreported.
- Motions Being Relevant To Students
  - Issues that do not directly involve students across Australia, in my opinion, should not be included in NUS's official platforms. While students may be passionate about such issues, NUS should remain a lobby group focused on student issues. To draw executive member's attention away from student issues wastes the time and lobbying capacity of office bearers.

## Conclusion

NUS is the only body that represents ANUSA members at a national level and has the ability to effectively advocate for our students. NUS provides unquestionable benefits to ANUSA members through its lobbying, NDAs, government submissions, campus networks, information campaigns and data collection. Because of this, I believe it is essential that ANUSA remain affiliated and re-accredit.

It is true that there are issues with NatCon and that NUS has more improvements to be made to maintain relevance to students, to increase its ability to represent students, and to improve delegates' experiences of NatCon. However, these issues are not sufficiently large to outweigh

the benefits of sending delegates to NUS nor to forego ANUSA members representation on a national level.

I believe the reforms and achievements of NUS 2015 amply demonstrate both that NUS plays an important role in representing ANU students and influencing policy decisions which affect student's lives, and is committed to ongoing reform to strengthen the organisation. It is for these reasons that I believe that ANUSA should re-accredit for a higher fee in 2016, in order to support NUS and ensure that our students remain represented.

Yours in Unity,

Jack Gaudie

### NUS DELEGATE'S REPORT

Eleanor Kay

#### Basics of NUS NatCon:

- NatCon is where policy is discussed and passed that will be carried out by the elected Executive and Office Bearers over the following year
- The Executive and National Office Bearers are elected at NatCon
- Conference last for 4 days – 3 days are spent discussing policy, the last day is spent voting for National Office Bearers and Executive positions
- The conference was chaired by the President from 2015
- Ultimately, NatCon is run along factional lines. The factions are:
  - Liberals
  - Unity (Labor Right)
  - NLS (Labor Left)
  - Socialist Alternative
  - Grassroots
  - National Independents
  - independents who sit with no faction

#### Myself as a delegate:

- I sat with the National Independents
- I did not always vote in the same way as other National Independents – though we sit together and operate as a faction in some senses, we don't bind our votes, which I was more comfortable with as I wanted to form my own opinion on things as they were discussed
- In general, my vote felt irrelevant as binding factions had already determined what policies would be passed by ensuring a majority and therefore my individual vote made no difference on some votes
- With close votes (campus counts) I tried to vote in the best interests of ANU students
- Feel free to ask any questions relating to how I voted, and what policies were passed. Documents outlining the policies passed are attached to other delegates reports

#### My experience and reflections:

- No agenda
  - It was generally unclear what policy chapters would be discussed in the following session, making it difficult to prepare, particularly in the first day. Factional heads seemed to make the decisions as to what would be discussed
  - Timing of sessions was controlled by faction heads – conference floor could not begin until we had quorum, and so the large factions could control when conference began. Two mornings we started late in the day (eg. one day conference floor began at 4.30pm). This meant that in order to talk through



some policy blocks, they had to be discussed late at night (eg. ATSI policy was started at 1am on the Wednesday night)

- Lack of agenda also meant we spent 2.5 days discussing 2.5 policy chapters, out of the 14 we had to cover. We did not get to discuss some policy chapters, such as International and Environment. I found this lack of organisation, and pandering to the desires of the main factions a really disappointing aspect of NatCon
  
- Frustrating
  - Inefficient – a lot of conference time was spent waiting in queues to process things, or waiting for factions to arrive in order to have quorum
  - No control by the chair – while there were rules, they were rarely followed (eg. If someone was ‘named’ 3 times they were supposed to be evicted from conference floor, but this never happened despite some delegates being named multiple times)
  
- Disenfranchising
  - Unrepresentative of ANU students – as I said above, my vote frequently felt like it did not count given the factional control of the conference floor. Given that ANU is generally not particularly factional, I felt I did not have an adequate opportunity to represent ANU
  - Candidate speeches in reality were not ‘candidate’ speeches, they were acceptance speeches – deals had already been done to secure office bearer and executive positions, so speeches and votes were a farce
  
- Angering
  - Disabilities discussion
    - Rude and disrespectful things were said by some delegates. As someone who has not experienced disability, I was still angered by the language used and it was not a safe space for that discussion
  - Palestine discussion
    - A Palestinian delegate was barred from speaking on this policy point for over half an hour due to his political affiliation. When he tried to speak, he was shouted down as some factions chanted “Liberals are not welcome here”. I was deeply angered that a person with lived experience was not able to share his perspective just because of his political views
  - Women’s + childcare policy
    - Again, a Liberal delegate with lived experience of being a carer while at university was not allowed to speak to the motion that she had written and put forward, just because of her political affiliation. I was disgusted and angry that the minority voice in the room was silenced in this way

**In summary:**

- NatCon is like a different world that in some ways is difficult to understand until you have experienced it
- I started the week mostly confused and bemused by this different world, but grew increasingly frustrated and angry over the course of the week at the blatant disrespect shown towards many delegates and the campuses they represented. I do not feel like I was an effective delegate for ANU in some ways, but I think that was partly due to the structure of conference, which I think is fundamentally flawed

### NUS DELEGATE'S REPORT

Odette Shenfield

#### Executive Summary

##### Environmental Policy

#### 1. Divestment

I was elected to NUS on a platform of getting NUS to divest from fossil fuels. Despite this, I did not get a chance to make the case for divestment, as **environmental policy did not get discussed** at the conference.

The only time I got an opportunity to talk about divestment was during candidate speeches on the final evening at **4am**. By this stage it was impossible to pass a motion on the issue. NUS has a terrible history of supporting divestment activism, despite divestment being one of the most significant student movements nationally and globally. Last year, their support extended to **one Facebook** post.

#### 2. Nuclear policy

Members of Unity (Labor Right) submitted two pro-nuclear motions. This goes against the entire history of student, Indigenous and environmental activism in this area. There is no evidence students support nuclear energy.

I submitted an anti-nuclear motion which was passed at the conference.

To the credit of NUS, when I read out a speech written for the motion by the Fire Keeper of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Roxley, the room was silent and respectful. I also received much support for the motion from members of National Labor Students (Labor Left) and Socialist Alternative. Unity also decided to abstain rather than voting against the motion after hearing Roxley's speech.

No information was provided to new attendees about how to submit motions from the floor.

Passing this motion was a very stressful and confusing experience at NUS. When I gave Unity the option of signing the motion so it could be debated, their representative responded "f\*\*\* no."

So far, I have heard no word about whether the environment officer has followed up on this policy or whether she is planning to this year.

##### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Policy

1. In 2014, NUS came under significant criticism for defunding the position of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer. In light of this, it was incredibly disappointing that NUS once again showed minimal respect or concern for ATSI policy.

ATSI policy was not debated until early hours of Thursday morning (the final day of the conference) at around **1am**.

Further, despite all ATSI speakers saying they were opposed to the Recognise campaign (for Constitutional recognition), NUS passed a policy (7.15) which supported the Recognise campaign.

While one speaker made an amendment to make information sessions under Action 2 outline the negative aspects of recognition as well the positives, the policy remains overall supportive of the campaign. I asked the speaker who made this amendment why NUS had passed a pro-Recognise policy whilst all the speakers spoke against recognise. He said he forgot to make the other amendments to make the policy neutral **because he was too tired by that time in the morning.**

There was also no Acknowledgment of Country during the conference.

### Welfare policy

1. NatCon passed a policy to campaign for the removal of parallel import restrictions.
2. In my opinion, this campaign is not in students' interests and is either wilfully misleading students, or merely ignorant. PIR's are not the reason textbooks are expensive,<sup>1</sup> and their removal will save students at most a couple of dollars (if that).
3. Since NatCon, NUS Welfare department has focused solely on this policy. In my opinion, this is an enormous waste of student resources.

### Undemocratic practices at NUS

1. One of the aspects I found most concerning at NUS was the fact that voting is profoundly undemocratic.
2. Firstly, all factions have pre-NatCon where they determine policy positions and then bind members to vote accordingly. This means debate is futile, as policy positions have been decided prior to NatCon.
3. Further, positions are dealt away through factional deals. When I ran for Environment Officer, I had no hope of winning the position as it had been negotiated prior to voting.
4. Further, one Queer\* Officer candidate was the first nationally endorsed candidate from Queer\* Collaborations and had extensive experience. Despite this, both Queer\* Officer positions went to Socialist Alternative, in exchange for a deal done with Unity.
5. One interesting element of predetermined elections was that when it came time to give candidate statements pre-elections, candidates instead gave acceptance speeches – thanking everyone in their factions and families.

### Is NUS Running a 'vote Labor' campaign?

- At the conference, there was significant controversy about whether NUS will be running a 'vote Labor' campaign this year. The conference passed a motion allowing NUS to run an election campaign targeting marginal electorates (Policy Number 4.47)
- I am incredibly concerned that this policy will be a campaign doorknocking for Labor in marginal seats. If this is the case, I believe this is prioritising the interests of Young Labor over the interests of students, and should be strongly resisted by ANUSA.

### The impossibility of independence

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<sup>1</sup> <https://theconversation.com/required-reading-heres-why-textbooks-are-so-expensive-10502>

1. NUS is not set up to allow for independence. I ran on a platform of not sitting with a faction, and endeavoured to follow this, but this was incredibly difficult. In the realisation that separately, they wielded no power, even the independents are now a faction – the National Independents.
2. Without a faction, as a “small i” independent, I had no way of knowing what time conference started, which policies were being debate, or how to move a motion from the floor.

#### Should we disaffiliate?

1. I have not yet reached a firm conclusion on this topic – I think there is no question NUS needs to reform, however I believe we need a student union.
2. Further, I am unsure whether continually threatening disaffiliation is the best way to put our energies into affecting this reform.
3. It is also worth considering the role NUS played in fighting fee deregulation when considering this issue.

#### Sending delegates next year?

1. I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I ran for NUS. Luckily pre-conference Laura Campbell briefed new delegates. I think there needs to be extensive briefing for delegates prior to the conference, and also the opportunity for delegates to step down without any judgment if they no longer want to attend after the briefing.

#### Areas for reform

1. Physical intimidation, rudeness, and plain immaturity were rife at NUS. In order to improve the environment of the conference, far greater transparency is needed.
2. I recommend some form of filming would assist these problems. The exorbitant costs for media observers should also be lowered.
3. One further step would be to actually implement the conference regulations that already exist.
4. Another step would be appointing an **external grievance officer**. I felt very uncomfortable reporting my grievances to an officer who was from a faction (in this case NLS).
5. Further, NUS needs to become more democratic – predetermined policies and positions is not a “win for students”
6. Further, it must be possibly to fully participate in the conference as an independent. One easy first step is for the [National] General Secretary to write an **agenda** for the conference. There is no excuse for NUS not to have an agenda.

**ELECTION OF EDUCATION OFFICER**

The position of Education Officer has become vacant and must be filled in accordance with clause 3.8 of the Electoral Regulations. Nominations for the position were received from the following candidate by 5pm, Friday 28 February 2016:

1. Emma Henke

A statement of nomination from the candidate is set out people (approx. 100 words).

**1. Emma Henke**

Hi, I'm Emma. I'm a second year, studying development studies / law and a current general representative. I'm passionate about higher education policy and helping ANUSA ensure every student has access to an enriching university experience.

I believe I'd be an effective Education Officer because my prior experiences have equipped me with a critical insight into education policy and strong organisational skills. I am a confident communicator and as Education Officer, I'd use this to represent ANU's interests to parliamentarians and the NUS. I'd run novel tertiary education campaigns that are tailor-made to ANU. I'd be heavily consultative with the student population to gather a consensus opinion on issues. I will prioritise this position and educate myself about all aspects of the role.

## **Reference S**

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### **ELECTION OF GAC MEMBERS**

There are eight (8) vacant positions for membership of the Grants and Affiliations Committee (GAC) to be filled in accordance with clause 3.7.1 of the Electoral Regulations. Nominations for the positions were received from the following candidate by 5pm, Friday 28 February 2016:

1. Michael Turvey
2. Waheed Jayhoon

## **APPENDIX B**

### **National Union of Students, National Conference 2015**

#### **Observer Report**

#### **Clodagh O'Doherty, ANUSA Vice President 2016**

##### **Preamble**

The National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference (otherwise referred to as "NatCon") was held 7-10 December, 2015 in Melbourne, VIC. I attended as an official observer, in my capacity as the Vice President of the ANU Students' Association (ANUSA). My conflict with ANUSA's accreditation comes from a personal belief in collective action, solidarity among Australian university students, and the union movement. NatCon has attracted substantial scrutiny from ANU students over the last few years. 2015 was no exception. However, information flow is often hap-hazard and inaccurate as a result of a vote to ban all video recording of the conference. This direct impingement on the freedom of the press contributes to an organisation that lacks transparency and accountability. I was disenfranchised and at times angered by the way the NUS operates and the implications that had for our delegates and our campus more broadly. After what I witnessed at this conference, I am ashamed that this organisation can claim to represent our students, and I am appalled that this is the face of student unionism in Australia.

Nevertheless, there is a larger debate to be had within ANUSA surrounding the importance of unionism and collective action- which are essential in the wake of on-going threats to tertiary education funding. So while we are bombarded with negative commentary around NUS' operations, ANU students, and more specifically the ANUSA SRC, need to give due consideration to our current federal political climate when voting on whether or not to re-accredit to the NUS for 2016.

##### **Objectives**

In attending the conference, I was primarily a set of eyes for ANUSA. The 2016 ANUSA Executive believed that, through my observer status (i.e. I had no voting rights), I would come away with a different, and perhaps less politicised, perspective than our delegates. We felt that this was important in light of the heated debate and incredibly tight vote on our accreditation in 2015. I went to the conference wanting to gain 3 things:

1. A better understanding and appreciation for what the NUS does and how it functions;
2. To meet people from other student associations around the country: to share thoughts, ideas and hopefully create some contacts that ANUSA and its clubs and societies could utilise; and
3. To monitor the extent to which the NUS implemented the recommendations from the ANUSA SRC that were later ratified by the NUS National Executive in 2015.

Unfortunately, I was unable to achieve most of these objectives.



To give some essential context, ANUSA pays a miniscule accreditation fee- \$5,000 (or roughly 50 cents per student) annually. Other Go8 universities pay upward of \$80,000- normally to the equivalent of \$7 per student. In 2014, University of Sydney Union paid in excess of \$175,000. The number of students you have on your campus correlates with the number of votes you have on conference floor (i.e. ANU has a virtually insignificant amount). But no matter the financial contribution, I strongly believe that ANUSA should discuss our accreditation to the NUS on an annual basis, as part of a healthy culture of discussion and accountability.

### **Our Delegates- influence and operations**

My observer status allowed me to gain an outsider perspective as to how individual delegates fit into the NUS sphere. There are two major factors that impact a delegate's level of influence- the number of votes they hold, and whether or not they are aligned to a faction. An individual's votes are allocated based on (1) the number of undergraduate students on your campus and; (2) the percentage of the vote obtained by that delegate in their campus election. For example, Laura Campbell held the most votes of the ANU delegates because she was elected 'first'. But the size of our campus means that she would hold substantially less votes than the person who was elected 'first' at a larger campus such as USyd, etc. Overall, our delegates have very little voting influence on conference floor. For this reason, larger factions would rarely consult our delegates on motions, limiting the ability for ANU students to be properly represented.

It is hard to determine whether a delegate aligning with a major political faction gives them more or less influence. On the one hand, considering our small vote pull, ANU delegates aligning with a faction can be helpful because they can push an ANU agenda at "pre conference" (otherwise known as "pre-con" otherwise known as "caucus"). However, opposing voices that are heard in "pre con" faction rooms are not aired to the real conference floor for consideration. Even when ANUSA Department heads expressed deep concern and rejection of certain motions (such as motions 8.20 (adj.) and 9.05), aligned delegates still towed the party line on conference floor.

Delegates who 'sit' with a faction ultimately cast their vote in solidarity with their faction. While it can be argued that this is okay, because students theoretically elect these delegates knowing their affiliations and stances, I am of the opinion that the lack of transparency and accountability at NUS itself means that students are not fully aware that their delegates will act in this way.

Upon attending the conference I was aware of how all our delegates wished to politically identify. Laura would be a negotiator (i.e. one of the heads) for the National Independents, Jack Gaudie would sit with Unity, while Odette Shenfield, Jed Buchanan and Eleanor Kay all wished to sit independently of all factions (known as small "i" independents). It became obvious early on that the wishes of Odette, Jed and Eleanor to be entirely independent would be practically unfeasible. Without a 'faction head', there was no way of knowing what time sessions would start for the day or what policy blocs were being discussed first (the order in which policy is discussed is also decided on through factional deals). Because of the deal-breaking mechanism, the majority of policies were passed on bloc with little or no discussion outside the factional negotiating teams. As a result, they were often entirely left out of the decision making process and, as they weren't taking instruction from a faction head, were often unaware of what was being voted on at any given time. In practice, their votes were worthless and they were forced to loosely identify with the National Independents. It was frustrating to watch as their continuous efforts to engage in the discourse independently and represent the students who elected them be so ineffective. I want to especially acknowledge the hard work of Odette in trying to get Environmental policy discussed on the floor. Unfortunately, the lateness with

which conference floor started each day meant that Enviro and International Student policy went untouched which was incredibly disappointing.

### **Is the NUS just a political breeding ground?**

At the NUS, there is representation from most groups on the political left-right spectrum, but by no means are they equally represented. I would estimate that 85-90% of the conference floor would identify as left-leaning which, in fairness, may be representative of the Australian student population. But there is no hard data to confirm this.

A lot of the concerns held by ANU students regarding NUS are centred on its role in furthering the political careers of a few to the detriment of true student representation. There is no denying that the NUS is a political stepping stone for members of Young Labor, in particular. You will see many a familiar name, including Julia Gillard, if you ever choose to peruse through the

history of the National Executive, including its predecessor organisation- the Australian Union of Students. There is no doubt that many of the people who hold ranks in the NUS will go on to pursue very fruitful political careers. This, in itself, I don't take issue with. However, in the present Australian political climate, fierce party loyalty is essential to work your way up the ranks. This has direct consequences for the operations of the NUS. Party loyalty precedes campus loyalty. Aligned delegates will always prioritise voting with their faction over voting with their campus- which I believe to be inherently problematic. In theory, students are informed about the views of the delegates they are voting for and of their factional alignments. Unfortunately, I don't believe this is our reality. As I stated above, even when students know a delegate is politically aligned and vote for them on that basis, the lack of transparency around NUS' operations means that, more often than not, voters do not understand the full implications that alignment holds on the conference floor.

### **Working towards the objectives**

While I did walk away with a better understanding of how the NUS operates, I was unimpressed. I was totally sidelined by factional representatives from other universities and thus unable to have a conversation with them. The factionalisation is so intense that they simply would not talk to me- I was not "one of them". Political factions underpin everything that happens in the NUS (Loussikian, Kylar (14 January 2015). "NUS needs to refocus on present century to survive". The Australian. Retrieved 22 February 2015) and results in the dismantling of proper democratic procedures.

I have attached my notes and comments to the third point as an appendix. The black text is the exact wording of the recommendations as they were presented to the NUS National Executive at a meeting on July 6, 2015. The red text contains my comments. These recommendations had been previously passed and ratified by the 2015 ANUSA SRC. As you will see, almost none of the recommendations were implemented. I did not, by any means, expect all of them to be actioned within a year. I wholeheartedly understand that some of the recommendations require ongoing cultural change- which takes time. But at the very least, I wanted to see that they had tried. To be frank, I found their lack of effort insulting.

The NUS National Executive spent student money to fly 3 of its members interstate to convince the ANUSA SRC to reaccredit in 2015. The promise that these recommendations would be implemented was pivotal to the outcome of the debate. From this I ask, if the NUS will not listen

to ANU students with the threat of reaccreditation hanging over their heads- when will they ever? We should not have to threaten them with our miniscule accreditation fee to get them to listen. It is their sole purpose to listen. And if anything, this point alone displayed to me that the NUS is no longer doing its job. It is clear that all our calls have fallen on deaf ears, and I was given no glimpse of hope that this will change.

## **Conclusion**

After attending the conference, I am of the belief that the NUS fiercely protects this factional system to the detriment of true student representation. I am also of the belief that the NUS is unwilling to listen to feedback and requests for change from the ANU.

However, despite my disproportionately negative feedback, I am truly unsure of where I would like the NUS-ANUSA relationship to go. I do believe that NUS has potential, and that students in the tertiary education sector could benefit from the collective action and advocacy the NUS aim to provide. Nevertheless, I am unconvinced that the NUS is capable of doing so in its current form.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Conference bidding procedure reform**

Preamble: NUS National Conference is a passionate discussion of student issues and values. In the course of heated debate, there is the potential for overstep from delegates of all sides. Discussions with ACT delegates from the 2014 NUS National Conference have raised issues with the conduct of conference. Particularly, they were concerned with the lack of support structure at conference, training for delegates and behaviour of delegates off conference floor. These reforms were suggested by a delegate and I have agreed to bring them to the National Executive for discussion.

#### **Item 1**

One of the major criticisms is the lack of a qualified and trained grievance officer. While in the past this position has been filled by officebearers, the concern raised with this is the lack of formal training and factional leaning might prevent people from raising potential issues.

Linked to this is the lack of counselling services available during conference. Students should have access to qualified counselling for the duration of conference as many debates become heated and can result in stress.

Recommendation: That any future bidding process require host campus' make available a counsellor for the duration of national conference, including nights, and provide an impartial grievance officer for the duration of conference. Said grievance officer will ideally have sexual assault crisis and violence prevention training.

There was either no counsellor available, or this service was not publicised. The grievance officer was not impartial- she was a well-established member of the NLS. She did, however, have the training.

#### **Item 2**

NUS does not currently provide a safe space for delegates who feel unsafe at conference. As such, if people are at any time feeling unsafe during conference then it is usually dealt with informally.

Recommendation: That NUS require all delegates and observers to sign a code of conduct and for any future bidding processes that the host university provide a safe space for people attending the conference.

There was a code of conduct that delegates needed to sign, but no safe space was provided.

#### **Item 3**

Delegate training is woefully lacking for many representatives. While major factions have internal education mechanisms, truly independent delegates are often confused by the processes of national conference and unable to move policy on behalf of their student union.

Recommendation: That NUS create and distribute a very rudimentary guide to NUS and NUS National Conference to member organizations, to be distributed to their delegates. Such a

guide should include how to move motions, a list of officebearers and a brief explanation of how conference floor works.

No guide was provided.

#### **Item 4**

While rare, assault and sexual harassment can occur at gatherings such as these. Therefore, it is important that local police are notified that National Conference, a large conference of very political young people coupled with a large amount of alcohol, is on.

Recommendation: Ensure local police are informed that NUS National Conference is ongoing. Ensure that any and all allegations of potential criminal activity are forwarded to local police for investigation.

There was no police presence at any stage of the conference. Unsure if they were notified.

#### **Item 5**

As with almost all large gatherings of students there is a large quantity of alcohol consumed. This can lead to people feeling unsafe and fuel unsocial behaviour.

Recommendation: That NUS facilitate more sociable drinking habits, including bar nights and cross factional mixers. NUS will retain a zero tolerance policy on drug use and encourages individuals to report drug use.

Not followed. Unsure of use of drugs.