

AGENDA – Education Council (EDC) 5 2023

Wednesday, 9 August 2023

Zoom – 6:15pm

Item 1: Meeting Open and Apologies

Meeting open 6:15pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country
2. Apologies

Reminder to attend meetings unless you've given apologies.

3. Passing of previous meetings minutes ([CRC 4 2023](#))

Moved by: Luke Harrison

Seconded by Ben Yates

Motion passed

Procedural on notice to lift standing orders.

Moved by: Ben Yates

Quick rip-around of everyone's names.

Item 2: Executive Reports

2.1 President's Report (B. Yates) [Reference A]

BY: start with a warm welcome to new PG reps, talked a lot about what it's going to be like for this body to rep PGs as well, you're the faces of that. Excited to work with you all and see the great advocacy! Encourage all reps to really think of your group of CRs as a team, across all cohorts, UG PG HDR all working together as a team.

So to get into it, most of my time over past few months has been taken up by the transition. Staffing and services, we've doubled our students assistance teams, brought on a SUAW coordinator (PG Research writing program). Really beneficial! Serving all cohorts at near parity for SA, SUAW has sold out at almost every session, great to see HDR engagement.

To dip into some advocacy issues, few things happening for HDR students - authenticate (equiv of turnitin for HDR) has been implemented - worked with reference group to implement more training . On the whole, system is better than Turnitin could ever hope to be.

Proposed details changing HDR timeline, mostly focussing around making it more productive.

Alerted to was timelines for research ethics approval blowing up to 7-8, 9, 10 months holding up PhD timelines. All are raised with dean HDR and seeing improvements on this.

Into the CW space, I'm grateful for Will flagging the issue that midsem exams are being abolished at a short notice - broadly a good decision bc fewer exams are good for students, we're an over-examined uni compared to other unis - done with a matter of weeks of notice, which is unheard of. There's a concern that many courses may be basically doing a midsem exam and calling it a 'test' which means you get none of the privileges of an exam. If you're hearing of those issues, please escalate it. Really keen to hear if that's an issue that you've heard about.

Late withdrawal timelines are through the roof atm - the university is supposed to process applications within 28 days, rn they're delayed 4-5 months, hugely impactful and stressful for students. Hearing disturbing instances where they're refused where on the face of it that looks strange. Have raised that im concerned, from the immediate team i've heard good responses but problems aren't being fixed. Will raise higher up tomorrow and advocate for better resources - timeline is currently at 2-3 months

MT: who is higher up in that scenario?

BY: This is managed by Academic Admin, by the registrar, who in turn reports to deputy VC (academic).

2.2 Vice President's Report (G. King) [Reference B]

GK: echoing ben's welcome, exciting to have you all! Just flagging two quick main things, full detail will be in my SRC5 report. If you're a new rep, welcome, I will be in contact with you on Friday about an internal induction so hopefully that will help a lot. Will include how ANUSA works, things work, welcome and intro, so check your emails for that.

The second thing is that class rep training - we run it every sem, that training is for everybody next friday from

Friday 5-6pm at Law LEcture theatre. If you are UG or PG coursework, please come or send me apologies. Really well attended last semester - 60, 70 people. Super highly engaged activist space. Good place to talk about new reps and systems going on. Also good to hear about anusa services and ways to escalate, resources etc.

2.3 General Secretary's Report (P. O'Neill) [Reference C]

PO: Welcome to everyone, exciting to have PG. Most time has gone to electing PG reps, quite a large rep so hard to verify and advertise. Good to see super high level of engagement - over 40 people nominated. Still have casual vacancies to go out over next few days. I also have included full SRC report, but only relevant thing there is AQAC where engineering nuclear major / minor were approved. Questioned them on it, not the place to put strong opposition to it. Didn't put in report, but they were framing it because they want to create nuclear engineers for the gaps in the nuclear market left by all other unis sending theirs to submarines. CECC ADE put me in touch with convenor {NAME}. Haven't responded, but am able to.

MT: For new people, what is AQAC

PO: Academic Quality and Assurance Committee, pretty high-up committee and deals with academic establishment and disestablishment among other things. Most is pretty boring. Also want to flag that after UG reps will open the floor to PG reps who want to talk.

2.4 Education Officer's Report (B. Tucker) [Reference D]

BT: I will be more specific in my SRC5 report. Will talk about what i do.

I organise a lot of campaigns on the structural level, my role is to organize on a broader level against things like aukus. In EAG, two key things:

1. Supporting staff strikes
2. Fighting AUKUS on campus and federally.

For those who don't know, AUKUS is [what it stands for] valued at 368 billion spent on building 8 new nuclear subs, currently 127mil promised into the militarisation of the tertiary education factor to push them towards supporting the drive to war. That's just this year's figures, what comes next? AUKUS is here at home and is at the ANU in the college of CECC with this implementation of a major, it's controversial but over the last few years it's cut renewable engineering and biomed but is happy to implement the AUKUS degree to vye for a slice of the funding pie no matter what it means for the students who will suffer the consequences. ANUSA has had a lot of broader discussions at SRCs but something i implore you to keep an eye on here and at the meetings you go to - might not just stay in CECC, could see JCOS implementing that very soon. This is the role that I see as being vital in terms of serving activist work of the union, people in meetings w colleges keep their eyes peeled for stuff like this then fwd any documents to me or to the executive so that we can be aware of what's going on. Doesn't just apply to AUKUS but important when we talk about cuts to degrees in CASS, this was the space that allowed us to see that they were happening if this didn't exist. Also want to say it's not on you to argue in that meeting to prevent cuts from happening - you're one student, one student in a room is not consultation w students, ANU would like to pretend that it is. Need to meet the students where they are. If you can pay attention send stuff through we can organise collectively doesn't need to be a burden on the individual. Feel free to ask questions

Mickey: keep our eyes peeled - i've been in those meetings, there's a lot of stuff, how do we know what we're looking for?

BT: exercise caution - if you think something is sus, tell me. I don't mind if i get an email that is fine. It's better than us missing something that's really important. We do the best that we can. Anything with the word restructure in particular. "new/innovative/combined/interdisciplinarity/transdisciplinarity" being used a lot in particular.

WB: did the NTEU accept the unis offer

BT: no, the NTEU has voted to not go ahead with strike action this term. Meeting on 31st of August to take that up. In my personal view, i don't think there will be more strike action, i think there should be and needs to be, inflation is far above what they're being given, cumulatively 12.5 over including 2 years w no raise. Not a good deal but staff are being fed a bit of a fear campaign of a non-union ballot taking place - means anyone at uni can vote whether to accept or

not, tactic that has only worked at not very unionised campuses. Have been 7 in the past few years. ANU fired a huge ratio of people in 2020 bc of this, now people don't trust them anymore, more complex. Haven't accepted yet but looks like they will.

Item 3: College Representative Reports

3.1 College of Engineering, Computing, and Cybernetics [Reference E]

HO: been a couple things, mostly slow over the break. First thing was in the last school of engineering CEC the main agenda of discussion was best strategy to cut courses bc of a 5% decrease. College is trying to put best case forward to uni but bc of a "tight budget" the decisions are framed as necessary. A lot of back and forth with Punit, one of the degrees most likely to be impacted is master of applied data analytics bc of low enrolments

Still trying to get accreditation for software

SELTs were down 3% from last year but still relatively happy w results

We did the handover with the old PARSA CECC rep before its disestablishment. PG reps for CECC reach out to us so we can give info to you so we can hit the ground running

BT: is there any shareable info re 5% cut?

HO: ask punit - only had sparse chats so far

MT: usually if it was in a powerpoint you can just email whoever was talking to ask for the powerpoint

BT: when was it

HO: punit attended it - on notice

3.2 College of Arts and Social Sciences [Reference F]

LJ: our CECC meeting was a lot of discussion about the new compulsory minor and the transdisciplinary and indigenous course elements - still a lot of confusion with staff about how they will materialise and what they will look like, what was decided was that there will be an example created with one course for other staff to take away and use to format those transdisciplinary uses, might be finished by next meeting

MT: staff didn't know what transdisciplinary meant - you need students from diff cohorts to do course, or brings in diff lecturers or staff members, ppl r still confused

LJ: concerned they won't meet the criteria and will have to restart. They want to start running short intensive PG courses completely online, like a module that you can do, because its PG i assume it will be expensive, not sure how much this will get off the ground bc it's one specific person trying to develop, more people are interested, reaching out to staff w lots of online resources, a lot of work in covid they want to translate. And a new extenuating circumstances form, lots of confusion about that as well. Now one form for less than 10 days, one for more than 10 days -

MT: once 10 days is up you have to apply for the big one

BT: have i ever sent you the paper that the ANU commissioned about the future of education

LJ: no

BT: sounds like the module thing - maybe not ANU - last year when i was on TLDC there was a paper circulated through all committees, how do you make higher education cost nothing? Store all data on a module, use recorded lectures (dead labour), use contractors to update course contract when it changes. Precarious work for workers. Really concerning is the point, i think we should talk to NTEU

LH: where does one go to look at the forms for

LJ: the less than 10 day one is on wattle, but if you type extenuating circumstances ANU it's one of the top links, it will say it's only for sem2 of 2023

PO: Can you also find extenuating circumstances on Wattle?

LJ: Not for this form. It's new. Not sure if they've moved it?

LH: according to the website the form went live on ISIS

PO: Slay.

MT: If any postgrad people want to hear what the compulsory minor was, ask us or Bea.

3.3 College of Law [Reference G]

WC: I'm Will, Suzie is sick. PARSA handover was good, more us just telling him stuff and not a lot to pass on, but we can do the same for the postgrad reps. All meeting minutes to handover.

We had a CEC today, good to have a chat with academics. They had some really active conversations, esp. Student activism. Touch more on that in a sec.

I think the issue of transdisciplinary issue was fascinating to talk to college - there's a broadness as to what it will mean, on one hand the college is fine bc it won't have to affect law degree for students doing compulsory courses but they've categorised students in broad adherence and strict adherence depending on the definition, there are a few of those in law but not many, other generally theoretically linked subjects. They noted that its quite difficult if its a strict approach, law is very secluded and if its a numbers game or a level of transdisciplinary course it will come down to co-teaching and marking - they said they didnt have resources to do tht kind of approach.

Another note - we had course rep applications shut, disappointingly was a small list, only 3 applications in the entire college. Had this discussion last sem in the college, part of it is - academics like tos ay the courses are well run and there's not much complaint, i'd say that's true for some but low level of engagement is missing a lot of feedback, there are courses that are quite known for being difficult that never get addressed. Not sure how to approach it in terms of approaching better. In law school you don't want to be seen as a gunner so we want to find ways for people to sign up covertly. Trying to organise an in person sign up. In any case we've directed everyone to the training that will happen.

Main thing to discuss today - had a lot to deal with for law specifically, dont think other colleges have had the same controversy - return to in person exams. As far as i know just before the semester, law sent an email about a forum, they're returning in person, a whole thing to do w accreditation but to my knowledge it really came from ANU higher up, will happen across the board, bc the CoL has been better about communicating it's gotten a lot of flack bc the college does have good intentions trying to manage it as good as possible. A big thing that's been on their mind - what should our action been in terms of this in-person exam advocacy? We have the DSA petition which includes no in person exams, my knowledge is that ANUSA has endorsed that and posted it. At the same time however i feel like there are other or hopefully paralell approaches given the conversations we've had in the CEC with law that will be conducive to material outcomes. At the same time, it's unclear how likely the outcome is seeing as the decision has been made.

Law lobbied for a bring-your-own-device scheme, similar to other GO8s. still in-person, but with your own equipment. If we had the critical mass, that would make a difference.

At the moment the uni is saying they won't implement until 2025, handwritten law exams create a lot of work, made a few comments in terms of supporting that approach, being specific about expediting BYOD so the uni would move this as fast as possible. A process they're already doing, maybe more use in pushing them to rush it. Again emphasising that giving a deadline, not this sem but next sem but the transition should be better managed. Not as applicable for all

colleges. That was the perspective taken from meeting and I do agree, some good change from advocating for that approach for in person exams. Good to talk to the CEC bc they all understood there was a role for student advocacy to push the uni to make this kind of change

GK: couple of things, i will say - it's a bit funny bc CoL are the biggest proponent for in person exams in higher up colleges. I guess also - on BYOD - there's big problems with classisim in BYOD in terms of people not having devices, sourcing them from library, not having as good quality/as fast other issue which i don't know anything about but deans seem difficult, apparently there's not software that can prove against cheating so there's a few issues, if the software doesn't work well that makes it a class issue in this uni to think about what it means for people. I also think, exams go against ANU's environmental policy explicitly bc of the use of paper, they can't do it for much longer bc it's against the rules

PO: When Phoebe and I went ot the in-person forum, two things they notes;

1. On program, they said they would be interviewing different programs to work out who is worried about plagiarism.
2. Worth noting that CoL clarified there is an online option for people with EAP in computer lab. Not saying it is an accessible option but ther efor people who need it.

For credit on why CoL is insistent it is being forced, at forum they pushed law school accreditation. Those boards work with alaw schools to meet the standards to get students there. Not sure where the truth lies, but they're saying it will impact students that are trying to accredit as lawyers after their degrees. We asked a few questions about accessibility. ANU claims it is under way more pressure than any other uni, USYD works with NSW admission boards, ANU has pressure from all states due to position as australia's National university.

HO: two things - one is that beyond this topic - the concern about people cracking programs is legitimate bc everything can be broken but my greater concern was around privacy of these systems, if you install the software, they're going to have to take some level of control. I'm not a big fan of some other authority having control over my computer even if it's only allegedly over those two hours there could be something leftover. We had something that sounds the same in terms of doing stuff on computers for an exam and it was a shitshow. Inside one of the ANU computer labs everyone wanted to bring their own equipment, conveners were pushing back, even keyboards they were worried you could plug it in and have a key logger and have someone else typing it out on your machine but software wouldn't pick that up bc it's registered as a normal keyboard. Computers vs handwritten it's a step up but ultimately not where we want to be.

The other thing I was going to say, a couple meetings ago when we started talking about transdisciplinary stuff we raised CECC and Law as two main exceptions bc of the accreditation standards you need to meet, have you heard of that changing

WC: not in terms of a transdisciplinary minor, there's no course structure, from my understanding is the college knows there will have to be some level of TD approach and that has to be part of the degree, most law students are doing DDs so there will be a push from college for them to use their other degree to fulfill TD requirements. Guessing the same w other people in Engineering. Nothing in terms of particular course strat change or degree structure change, just focus on the courses themselves.

MT: just to clarify on that point - they're talking about grad attributes and meeting parts within that, is there a certain number of courses of requirements for each attribute?

WC: my understanding is - we don't have clarification what form it will take - approach has been either specific courses that meet them or w the indigenous [missed the rest] there are compulsory courses that touch on those that they think will be satisfied. We don't know what needs to be satisfied but has been on a course by course basis. Bc it's an accredited degree there's a level of flexibility but has to happen within courses themselves.

BT: harrison's right, in the original discussions around grad attributes which btw for people who don't know what they are, [clarified what they are] being integrated in every UG courses at the ANU so when you grad you have these three skills. Essentially they're KPIs for what students at ANU will have, they could mean a lot or they could mean not much. In terms of that, any accredited degrees don't need to be disrupted so i think the idea is to try to fulfil them as best as possible but for every other degree there will be a compulsory minor for students to complete and fulfill. That was the OG idea it could change

WC: not every subject has to be TD but enough?

BT: needs to be an experience of transdisciplinarity that every student will have to experience. The og definition means to transcend disciplines which has been butchered into multidisciplinarity. Meant to be beyond understanding discipline and applying to world. It's very interesting that they're butchering something progressive

WC: it is good to understand the way that TD will be applied diff to law, my point is that they're approaching it relatively well, in terms of discussion about indigenous aspect being tokenistic i think it will go pretty well - interested in what the def from ANU will end up meaning in terms of material coursework. Back to the point in terms of in-person BYOD exams, I think it's a hard one, my response is how perfect is the online system bc i think you have to compare in terms of movement forward - online exams have been accessible there have been a lot of academic integrity issues, we do talk about the college having pressure from accreditation but i see that as a framing device bc there's only so much they can do, i don't think the college wanted this happen, it was meant to happen sem 2 last year. That's just my understanding of the discussions we've had. Moving forward, at least w law, either handwritten exams or there's the potential for a realistic alternative accessible to students that will solve issues w a majority of students. W

concern about software accessibility i don't see how those are different w online exams, there might be a level of access there but its similar if anything its a smoother transition, you're presumed to have one under current condition. ANU already on that road, getting there somewhere to have it happen quicker. ANU is an outlier in Go8. clear gap to try to make them fill. Depends

PO: Working on in-person in examination room, i don't see why you need software on your computer

WC: that can be part of the argument, is it really more about having an exam where people can plug in laptops? Different aspects, we're making a presumption that there has to be proctorio, doesnt have to be different from online. A lot of our complaints do come back down to the handwritten component which i think online is better for markers -underpaid, underworked. Find it a persuasive alternative, whatever shape it for the uni to decide i think it should be faster. Col is an outlier in terms of the ways its approached things to manage. Do people think this would be useful, a petition, advocacy, college said it had to be from each college to bring it to - they seemed to think it should be one big things.

BY: i pretty much agree with you will, i think the other thing that makes it diff is that every col exam is open book exam - differentiates it from another exam - if you're copying from something else you can take in a piece of paper you can copy a word for word. The scare on academic integrity is misguided. Sure if its BYOD with no software, could someone remote into my computer and write it for me but we have to be realistic its a fairly remote issue - it's perplexing to essentially sacrifice the reasonable and most appropriate way to run an exam for a very remote possibility. I think handwritten academic integrity is on the whole strange. I think we need to treat what's happening in col separately. Also there are more exams in some colleges than others, it's also got this particular problem of accreditation, think a petition is good, went before they had the ability to do what they had to do. Are you actually saying in 6mo or 1yr you would've been disaccredited. Concerns ab in person in general, if ur gonna do it u went before u had tech to do it, EAP system isnt an appropriate system to mop up a mess. I favour an overall campaign and i think overall DSA is that campaign then do something particular to

PO: I also want to add as well, at the meeting they said 'academic integrity issues have increase by hundreds of a percent' and they won't give us answers, but I wonder how many of those was a typed document going through Turnitin vs pre-writing it, printing it off and handwriting it. I think it was turnitin and they weren't catching issues before.

LJ: just on the individual colleges, i think its proly best to do something overall like the DSA bc for example in CASS there's a lot of conflicting views on if exams should exist in the first place, marianne has come in w presentations saying exams shouldnt be something that the ANU is continuing to do and it was quite receptive in our meeting so i think in some of our colleges

we're going towards a convo away from new tech instead having a convo about not having them in the first place

MT: just going to add on that note a lot of the rhetoric that's been said in CASS is if you can find a way to remove exams it's better than having it in person, rather do a higher weighted essay or bigger assessment

: as we're talking about online exams vs in person, if the students are taking their own devices and there's an invigilator, how is it different? A sheet of paper vs a device?

WC: p much, if in person exams come back the way they should come back is more accessible and a lot of disadvantages to handwritten, depends on the colleges but for people written exams there should be the option to write on a computer that's standard in the workplace

: is it necessary to make it standardised or can we give the students the hybrid option? Some who would prefer handwritten, some of us aren't as fast - if i can write faster that's an advantage. Maybe a hybrid exam as we have to endure for exams. So during the process if they can have choices. There's a diff between exams of science/math as opposed to humanities bc in humanities u have lengthy long answers so it's more of a personal choice but the hybrid choice should be given to everyone

WC: part of it isn't to say every exam has to be computerised but in colleges where relevant that should be the option, colleges want to implement that should be the resource ASAP. not necessarily standardising or uniform but having the option and having it sooner and when necessary. Can see certain approaches specific to col but i think in general having the option for everything if exams go back in person - i think that's a big fix or a big benefit to a lot of students who might be in the position otherwise.

: as a CASS student sometimes using monitoring software doesn't work, i was at a uni that gave people VPN (virtual private network) access - sometimes the monitoring software doesn't work w VPNs - some work well some don't if it's possible and students

WC: worth noting

EH: quick one but i think a very important thing to address will be the vague accreditation force that's going on here bc it sounds like that's a 'hands are tied' but it's not clear what that actually is right so if it's the accreditation requires exams in person invigilated then we can solve that quickly by having computers but in person, don't understand why this has to take 2yrs to sort out. If we get on paper the requirements of the accreditation. That makes proposing a model a lot easier.

MT: going to point out the obv point that ANU wifi is shit and that will prolly effect if 1-200 students in one room take the same exam

WC: not much of a differentiating factor comparing it to the same thing - halls resnet - think issues still remain dont know how much they are in terms of difference. Definitely wifi could be better and is a barrier in terms of what is changing and what is not, i dont think the change brings a greater detriment. Need to go to Suzie and discuss, post in slack. I drop my mike.

3.4 College of Sciences, Health and Medicine [Reference H]

PO: I have not received a report from COS and they are not here.

3.5 College of Business and Economics [Reference I]

WB: word of the day beyond that might be TD because CBE is currently redesigning the bachelor of econs and looking at bachelor of commerce next - going to start seeing what they mean by that, just came across this when you said to watch out so that's interesting to note. Like ben said, midsem exams are going to be a big issue for a lot of people. Lots of courses w hundreds, thousands of students, no venue on campus to accommodate in person assessments, lectures and tutes, limited spaces for not just exams but other teaching. Beyond that there's a lot of concerns about the accessibility for students if - in meeting they said midsem exams are called midsem assessments, still meet same criteria, all in wk 6 all high percent of grade, vast majority are just another exam so good that they've decided to remove midsems but they've basically just renamed them. That means students can't get certain considerations, clashes w other classes so that's going to be an interesting period.

A bit of discussion about transcripts of lectures, one of the attendees raised that theyve had a lot of issues w providing transcripts, students find them very useful but its resulted in an extra workload for lecturers, raised the possibility of getting a private company to do that but it would cost 5/6000 . their opinion is that they're going to do as much as ANU will allow them to do or support them to do, already isnt a particularly accessible college.

Hybrid learning is a big issue in CBE as well, i think any kind of joint effort on promoting or communicating what's going on, CBE hasn't sent out any comms on in person assessments which is actually shocking considering its a massive change for a lot of students who have been at uni for years, for a lot it will be a slap in the face, considering we're in wk 3 and those will happen in just a few weeks.

HO: when u say transcripts, are those the one in echo360,

WB: yes

GK: they are automatic, looked over

PO: Maybe they're referring to extra content, almost every course in law is a podcast and every time I've asked about a transcript lecturers have said 'let me get back to you' and didn't. Maybe check what they mean.

MT: with the in person exams class size and lecture theaters, is it worth pitching the idea that maybe if you can't fit everyone in a lecture theatre, you shouldn't be teaching a course that size and it should be two courses, if you have one course convenor -

WB; interesting idea, I can't imagine them being enthusiastic, in terms of quality of teaching - a lot of courses are mandatory first year

PO: I think it would be, pitch it not to courses, but talking about having 2-3 multiple course convenors and paying for more tutors, I know in CBE massive tutorials are the norm. Would be hesitant to call it 2 different courses, but you're on the right track.

Sejal: just want to add onto what will said, since I agree there's a lot of students in one class esp [missed classes] thousands of students, that's a lot. I've seen a lot of my friends fail - it's hectic, there aren't seats, the prof says don't come to me after class there's 1100 students can't answer everyone's qs . we don't get info about in person exams - but we got an email yesterday saying we have an in-class "test" in the middle of classes, no break, can't even defer it like midsem exams, very stressful for them. They weren't aware about this, 2-3 weeks, have to be prepared. Lack of communication

WC: I think that was one of the things I was going to mention, if someone knows correct me, if it's over 2 hours it has to be an "exam" but it has to be over 2 hours outside of normal class time? Not sure so please correct me

Sejal: Agree with whatever Mickey said, in courses where there are 1100 students we can have 2-3 convenors. My tutorials feel like lectures with 70 students. They're not really teaching us, stats fail high because of this.

3.6 College of Asia Pacific [Reference J]

Not a huge amount to talk about, haven't been able to get to the last couple CECs. did a survey on CAP students, questions about AI what they're using it for. He took some of the responses and have drafted some guidelines for students, not released yet, idea is that it would be a traffic light system - don't do this, grey area, this is how to use it. Just providing clarity would be useful

WB: proposing it as a guideline but not necessarily a way to enforce it?

Tess: dont think they can enforce it in any way but also don't want to not say anything and also don't want to say you can't use it. One assignment is using chatgpt. They want that clarity on suggestions for how you can use it well and stuff

Postgraduate:

Sejal: Questions. Am I here to listen to complaints, or can I organize events as well?

Ben: In the induction we'll cover how you can get resourcing and staffing support to run events. If you feel like there is a major event to partner with other people to announce here, that's fine, but slack is always an option.

: Get to know about our roles and specific things we have to do?

PO: Yes, and Grace will send out an email shortly.

Item 4: Discussion Items

4.1 In-person examinations

PO: We can skip this one, we've done it enough.

4.2 Elections

BY: quick note from me, more of an announcement, elections are coming up in week 8 annual anusa elections, people might reach out to you to consult on policy to help them decide if they wanna run and policy to use to run. There's a firm expectation you make yourself reasonably available, important that we provide that advice to people. To reiterate you make yourself available as much as possible and the second part is if you're contesting the election yourself or involved in a campaign that consultation cant be used for your advantage in the case of the election - can't tell their competitor on your ticket for example, no usage of that for electoral gain. I know there can be some awkward fuzzy situations, let me know if you wanna have a chat if those come up - if you just let me know, there's usually not a problem , so be transparent and open. Happy to answer questions now but also can have clear 1 on 1 conversations so feel free to reach out at any time

Item: 5: Other Business

No other business

Item 6: Meeting Close

Meeting closed 7:49pm.

Expected close of meeting 7:30pm

Reference A

See SRC5 report.

Reference B

Reference C

General Secretary Report - SRC5 2023

Phoenix O'Neill

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1. Introduction
2. Meetings
3. Governance reform
4. Representatives
5. Postgraduate work
6. Meeting reform
7. Committees
8. Interpretations
9. Activist work
 - a. Housing
10. General ANUSA executive
11. Timesheet
12. Project register

1. Introduction

Hi everyone, welcome to semester 2! For anyone who doesn't know me, I'm Phoenix O'Neill (they/them), the General Secretary of ANUSA. I work on all things governance and constitutions. There's been a lot happening since the last SRC, some of which I will definitely miss as it was a while ago. Please always feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about my work or if you have any feedback!

2. Meetings

Over the break meeting work was quite light. All upcoming ANUSA meetings have their notices posted on the ANUSA website and have facebook events, so you can check there for the meeting schedule at any point.

Otherwise, there was a lot of work in Week 2 for the Extra SRC and the OGM. Confirming the enrolment details of Postgraduate students and eligibility for roles in particular took up a lot of time. A massive congratulations to Luke Harrison for being elected for welfare officer, and for the postgraduate representatives that I mention later in my report.

As always, I'm always looking for more members of the SRC to help me with minuting so please let me know if you are free at any upcoming meetings.

3. Governance reform

I assisted Ben with drafting and seeking legal advice for regulation changes for OGM2 to include Postgraduates in our regulations. I will be continuing work to ensure that all regulations are up to date.

As usual, if you have any governance reform that you wish to see happen, please feel free to reach out.

4. Representatives

Ben and Grace are currently working on filling the casual vacancies on the SRC.

I am currently beginning to work on reaching out to reps who have been less engaged with ANUSA meetings without apologies.

5. Postgraduate work

I've done a lot of work to integrate Postgraduates into our union over the break. As mentioned above, I've been working on Governance changes. I also did a lot of work on advertising the positions that we voted on at OGM2. This included coordinating poster runs across campus and I reached out to HDR/Postgraduate Coursework convenors in every college on campus to advertise the positions. We received over 40 applications for these positions, with many roles being highly contested - it was amazing seeing this level of engagement with our first round of Postgraduate elections, and I am keen to keep this work up so that we can truly represent all students at the ANU.

Congratulations to the following Postgraduates who were elected:

Postgraduate Coursework Officer - Yalan Chen

HDR Officer - Edan Habel

Parents and Carers - Anastacia Jackowski

CASS Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Hejia Zheng

CAP Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Sanskruti Borikar

CBE Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Sejal Bijlani

CECC Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Jiawei Ye

CECC HDR Representative - Anjalie Edirisooriya

CoL Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Putri Riska Answendy

CoS Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Manreet Kaur

I am still awaiting confirmation of enrolment from a few candidates, but on the whole I am currently working on getting the candidates onto the Slack and enrolled, as well as putting them in contact with their Undergraduate equivalents where relevant.

For the positions that weren't filled at the meeting, we are seeking to fill the casual vacancies. This will be through an application process rather than an election. This form will be open until Saturday the 20th of August, and successful candidates would hold office until the 30th of November 2023. You can fill out the nomination form here: <https://forms.gle/FDFVAn6YjPRD1iNa9>

6. Meeting reform

Over the break I was working a lot on meeting reform.

At the end of last semester, I created a feedback form. I also held a meeting in the break with SRC members to discuss meetings, which had a small turnout so I am planning on doing it again sometime soon.

Here are common responses on the form, and what I am doing to address them/why some things won't be able to change. Basically, there are a lot of updates about the format of meetings below!

| Feedback | Response |
|--|--|
| Speaking lists too long/people repeating the same thing/shorter speaking times/meetings are too long | At the end of last semester, I started to move from recording every hand on a speaking list to doing it about three at a time. There has also been an increase of motions to close the speaking list when people are only speaking in favour of a motion. I am hoping to continue this into Semester 2 to discourage people from repeating what has already been said but without cutting off discussion at a democratic meeting. |
| Motions are irrelevant to ANUSA - i.e. world politics motions | I have a rule of putting all motions submitted on time on a meeting's agenda, and I am generally very flexible on all other topics that aren't financial or constitutional amendments. I will be sticking to this policy because there is no governance reason to deny these motions. SRC is a place of political discourse and if you disagree with motions about world politics, I would encourage you to speak on it. However I do not think it would be appropriate for a General Secretary to control the discourse at ANUSA meetings by denying motions based on their topic. |
| Graneek room is too small | <p>Completely agree!! I have spent time during the break booking new rooms for ANUSA meetings! Working with Kambri is quite difficult but most SRCs and OGMs should now be in Marie Reay moving forward. EDC (previously CRC) will be remaining in the Graneek room given that it is a much smaller meeting.</p> <p>At the moment, we will just be using the inbuilt technology to communicate via zoom, but I am investigating other options and very keen to hear feedback on how that goes. It's worth noting that we were in the Graneek room primarily because of its great hybrid abilities, so it may be a bit of a bumpy road for hybrid from here but I am committed to making it work!</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| Don't like masks | We wear masks at ANUSA meetings because we passed a motion to do so based on the health merits. I cannot change this unless there is a motion to do otherwise - which should have wide consultation before proceeding. |
| People are aggressive/not nice at ANUSA meetings | This is really disheartening feedback to receive and is unfortunately the reputation that ANUSA meetings sometimes get. This is also the hardest to solve. I started having discussions about the culture of ANUSA meetings with the SRC during the break, and I am keen to continue them. I have also started working with Michael, ANUSA's lawyer, to begin the work of writing a code of conduct that specifically covers student spaces in ANUSA, including our meetings. This isn't something that is easily fixed but we can work towards. Of course, cultural change requires more than governance fixes, and I want to keep the conversation going to begin to fix these cultural issues. Please feel free to reach out to myself or to any other member of the executive if you ever need to talk about SRCs or if you have any ideas on this. |
| Difficulty engaging/setting a culture of asking more questions | This is an issue much like the cultural issue discussed directly above. I am working on having talks with the SRC to improve the culture of engagement at SRC from all, and I don't have a good solution at the moment but we will hopefully be working towards it! |
| More advertisement on last minute changes | I generally try to make sure that any changes made after midday on the day that an agenda is released are listed as friendly amendments. This hasn't always been the case though - so I will make sure that this is the case going forward, or that last minute changes are flagged by a speaker (or myself) where relevant. I also don't allow for substantive motions to be added to the agenda late for this purpose. |
| Enjoying the longer breaks/wanting shorter breaks | This is something that people often disagree on - if we should power through meetings or if we should have longer or more frequent breaks. Ultimately, breaks are voted on by the SRC and can be moved by anyone. I understand that it may not always feel comfortable voting against a break once it's moved or asking to make it shorter, but this would be the main avenue to get it done. Breaks are longer this year as a request for accessibility and to allow people to get food during breaks if needed. It's not always possible for everyone to "power through" the meeting, so please keep this in mind. |
| Meetings start too late | This is sadly another difficult one. As classes end at 6pm, we can't really begin meetings before 6:15 or we risk making it so that people can't come. Although it could be possible to encourage SRC members to try to not schedule classes at that time, mandatory classes are outside of everyone's control. It is also the duty of the executive to ensure that meetings are accessible to all of our members, meaning that moving the meeting time could prevent regular students from attending meetings, which we already struggle with. Sadly I cannot see any clear solution to this issue even though I also don't love the 6.15 start time, but I am happy to continue discussions about options. |
| Any specific feedback about particular positions | For any feedback that applies to people in specific positions, I will talk to them about it. If you submitted feedback or have any concerns of this nature and want updates, please reach out to me personally and I will see what I can do. |

I am still working on many of these issues, so please send me any feedback that you have about changes or about SRC in general. I will be organising another chat with the SRC soon as well, so look out for that.

7. Committees

AQAC

I sit on AQAC, which is Academic Quality and Assurance Committee. The most relevant update to report is that the nuclear major and minors were passed at the last meeting of the committee. I asked a lot of questions about the connections to AUKUS and the goals of this major, and the convenor has reached out to me with the offer to discuss further. This is something that I've brought to Beatrice, our Education Officer, and the executive. Feel free to reach out if you are interested in more detail on the topic.

SSC

I attended the Student Services Council (SSC) with Ben, who will report on it.

8. Interpretations

I have done two small interpretations in the break to ensure that online ballots could take place at OGM2 and on the anonymity of votes to the Returning Officer at meeting elections. If you are interested in more detail on any interpretations, feel free to reach out.

9. Activist work

As you all know, last semester I was convening the Housing Action Collective. While Luke was interim officer, I asked if he would look over HAC for the break - and now that they have been elected as Welfare Officer, they will be officially taking over convening. I am still extremely passionate about the housing crisis and will be attending meetings (and taking minutes!), but to be completely frank the work burned me out last semester and impacted the quality of my work as General Secretary. I am excited to take a step back to focus on the rest of my work, while still being involved with it.

10. General ANUSA executive

I have done a number of things in my general capacity as an ANUSA executive member over the break, including helping out with Bush Week and other activities.

11. Timesheet

From December 1 to date, I have done 518 hours of work. That is 155 hours since my last report. Including leave, this averages out to 15.5 hours a week. If you are curious about how I spend my time or want a more detailed breakdown, feel free to reach out to me.

12. Project register

| Project | Content | Update |
|--|--|---|
| Election Regulation Reform | Reforming parts of ANUSA's election regulations, with a particular focus on exclusion zones and spending caps. | Completed at the SGM |
| Meeting safety and accessibility | Increasing the safety and accessibility of ANUSA meetings. | Big updates - see section on Meeting reform. |
| Code of Conduct rewrite | Making a new Code of Conduct for conduct at ANUSA meetings, as well as looking into ones for club spaces with Charlotte and student spaces with Grace. | I have begun conversations with ANUSA's lawyer - see the section on Meeting reform. |
| Buddy system reform & representative support | I will be working with Grace King (Vice President) on making an alternative system to the buddy system for representative support. | No updates. |
| Policy register reform | Create different registers for ANUSA's political stances, policy requirements, and staff related policy. | No updates. |
| Representative governance reform | Create a representative structure for ANUSA that guarantees representation of postgraduate students | Completed at the SGM. |
| Housing Action Collective | Organising the Collective to facilitate action for housing reform | See the Housing section. |

Reference D

Reference E

CECC Undergraduate Representatives Report, EDC 5.

Punit Deshwal and Harrison Oates.

As we start the second semester, it's great to see new and returning students on-campus. We attended the CECC welcome event out the front of Birch with the student assistance team to let people know that ANUSA exists as the union for all students.

There's been a few developments, primarily on the Engineering side of things.

Course Cuts

In the last SOEN CDC, one of the main agenda of discussion was finding out the best strategy to cut down courses because there has been a 5% decrease in the college funding from last year. The college will be putting its best case forward to the university to prevent this from happening. However, given our already tight budget, these decisions have been framed as necessary. There has been a lot of back and forth among the academics to find a balanced solution in choosing the courses that will be affected by these cuts. One degree most likely to be impacted will be the Master of Applied Data Analytics (MADAN) due to very low enrolments and high cost of blended mode of learning.

Accreditation and feedback from students

College is also in their ongoing effort to acquire accreditation for the Bachelor of Engineering (Software Engineering) program. Turning to feedback from students, the

overall SELT scores for all engineering courses are at 76% which is 3% decrease from last year, but college is still happy with the results.

PARSA Handover

We were involved in the handover process with the PARSA CECC rep before its disestablishment. We have documented the valuable work done by Vidhu and would be glad to handover the information to the new postgraduate representatives.

Reference F

CRC Report 3 – College of Arts and Social Science

Mickey Throssell and Lara Johnson

1. Introduction

Hi everyone! With a new term, students are already busy with assessments and course work, so we hope everyone is doing well and a reminder that we are both here to help with any troubles that arise with courses.

2. CASS CEC Meeting

Lara and Mickey attended the CASS College Education Meeting on the 24th of July. The key points from the CEC were:

- Further discussions on the compulsory minor, specifically the transdisciplinary and Indigenous course elements.
- Online, recorded, short Postgraduate courses.
- The implementation of the new extenuating circumstances extension form for extensions over 10 days.

3. Issues with Courses

We have received issues from multiple students regarding the process of degree transfers.

- Both students were referred to the ANUSA Student Assistant Team

4. ANUSA Events

- Mickey and Lara both attended the relevant ANUSA meetings
- Mickey and Lara attended the August 1st Rally
- Mickey attended the EAG meetings, NTEU half day strike and the snap AUKUS protest.

5. Other Events

We met with Geoff Hinchcliff to discuss the compulsory minor changes and other issues concerning CASS.

Reference G

Reference H

Reference I

CBE College Report

Prepared for EDC 5

Will Burfoot & Tanya Babbar

CBE Education Committee Meeting 6

- I (Will) attended the recent meeting, here are some notes from it
- The college is finding it difficult to catch students who they believe are using chatgpt
- There was a incident where some students were able to access past exams and assessments on wattle, no students to my knowledge have been contacted regarding this but keeping an eye out
- It was raised that the providing transcripts for lectures is becoming too much work for lecturers, an attendee raised that the cost to get it done by a private company is about \$5000 - \$6000 per course. The services that ANU provides are limiting how accessible the courses can be.
- The formal mid-sem exam period is gone, mid sem exams cant be called mid sem exams, this means students can't defer these mid sem tests, clashes have a higher possibility of occurring. Still unsure what exactly this means for things like special consideration. Would be interested to see what's happening with other colleges.
- The previous Education Committee was fairly uneventful, most involving course codes and what not.

Wattle information

- Our information was put on the wattle info blocks, especially during sem 2 start we have received a lot of emails about timetabling which unfortunately we cant help with much, been referring people where we can

Other requests/student concerns

- We have said a few issues with hybrid learning and recording of lectures, we have been able to sort out most of them but unfortunately the return to in person uni seems to be limiting options for a lot of people to engage with their classes how they want to.

- Really happy to be getting more emails, hope to see them continue so we can keep providing help.

Reference J

College of Asia and the Pacific Report

Tess Northcott & Ioan Hastie

EDC 5 10/08/23

Summary

1 Meetings

2 AI Survey

1. Meetings

I (Tess) met with the CAP student centre, the main items discussed were:

- CAP has now adopted the standard extension request form that most other colleges are already using.
- The new extenuating circumstances process for extensions over 10 days.

2. AI Survey:

- I conducted a survey of CAP students on their use of AI tools, and things they'd like clarification on.
- I then took the results to the ADE & former postgrad rep and we had a discussion of the survey results.
- CAP has now drafted guidelines on acceptable use of AI for students, which I think will be distributed through convenors. The guidelines are not a set of rules, but provide examples of how AI tools should and should not be used.

