

FEEDBACK ON DRAFT ALLOCATIONS TO STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS 2017

| | Comment | Response |
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| 1 | <p>I only have one comment, the Budget provided to ANU Sport must be carefully reviewed as this department is not equally supporting all clubs at ANU.</p> <p>As part of the swimming team representing ANU during UniGames 2016 in Perth, our team had the bad experience to request support from ANU Sport without success and not having the same equality treatment as the other competing teams representing ANU.</p> <p>Subsidies are not distributed equally and no clear explanations are provided.</p> <p>I'd advice ANU to review this carefully as this type of actions seem not to be aligned with budget allocation and more importantly with ANU core values.</p> | <p>ANU Sport applies strict criteria surrounding the eligibility for subsidies for students attending Australian University Games (AUGs).</p> <p>This is to ensure that monies are expended in a fair manner and only for the purposes of supporting competitive athletes attending the games with a positive attitude in representing the students and the University. Criteria are clearly communicated on a number of occasions to all teams attending the AUGs. This requirement includes proof of preparing appropriately for AUGs competition.</p> <p>In the case of the swimming team, the matter has been resolved once the appropriate documentation was furnished.</p> |

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| 2 | <p>Referring to your email about the new year's amenities fee, I am going to share my own concern about the issue. Although I think that all other students have the right to support this fee, I have a difficulty in paying that even by having my own scholarships. For some poor overseas student like me, specially from my own country ..., which they have a few number of people who support their issues, it is very hard to deal with financial problems in the real world. I am going to mention just one of the biggest issues which we are confronting right now: This issue is finding a cheap accommodation for couple-overseas students. In one hand, the living costs are much higher than our limited scholarships, and on the other hand, the rental price of an apartment even in far from the university, is very very high. Sometimes we need to put some money on top of our scholarship to cover the cost of renting! Furthermore, we also need to pass the applying process of agents to have a chance to be eligible in renting the apartments. Therefore, in this bad condition, thinking about the other fees such as high telephone bills, electricity bills, amenities fee, high price of clothing, and so forth, increasing the stress of living here by our tight salaries (oh sorry: not salary but scholarship!). I hope my point of view do not bother others.</p> <p>Wish to see the better condition in the future especially for overseas student at great ANU.</p> | <p>This is an unfortunate but not uncommon experience for students as per the results of the Student Barometer. ANUSA and PARSA will continue to advocate for affordable accommodation for students at the ANU.</p> <p>Noting the difficulties the student in question has expressed, SSAF does fund a number of supports that they could access. These include the International Students Department (ISD) in ANUSA and PARSA's International Officer (sa.international@anu.edu.au and parsa.international@anu.edu.au). Both Associations have a Student Assistance Unit that can assist with issues around accommodation (sa.assistance@anu.edu.au & parsa.assistance@anu.edu.au). They can assist students in applying for our grants and bursaries that provide financial assistance to students in need.</p> |
| 3 | <p>To the team supporting the Pro Vice-Chancellor,</p> <p>An email was recently sent around asking for student comment on the allocation of the budget based on funds obtained from the student services amenities fee.</p> <p>Taking a quick glance at the proposed allocation, it seems the majority of funding is allocated to providing subsidised events, services and social and sporting activities for students living on campus. This is indeed a great allocation for those students living on campus.</p> <p>However, as a student who does not live on campus, it is only a natural response to ask why they should be paying the SA fee, given such a student is provided with essentially zero services in return. This is very much in light of a trend of already greatly inflated course fees and the deletion of the 5-10-or-25% HECS upfront payment rebate.</p> <p>Listed below are some examples of how the funds provided by off-campus students will actively be directed into activities that are entirely irrelevant or unavailable to them, either due membership restrictions, proximity, or</p> | <p>Thank you for your feedback on the SSAF process.</p> <p>Your comments on access and fairness to off-campus students has been very insightful, and should you have suggestions as to how off-campus students can be better supported please contact the Associations.</p> <p>ANUSA, PARSA and ANU Sport aim to ensure equity and access to all students and provide a variety of offerings to enhance the student experience. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BKSS – free breakfast, cheap meals in evening and Universal Lunch Hour - Gym open all day from early to late - Clubs hold functions on and off campus - 24 hour libraries <p>Your information on the services provided by the Technical University of Munich is very informative and provides great opportunities as to what the University, and Associations' could look to in the future.</p> |

scheduling reasons. Often these events occur when off-campus students are not on-campus, or when taking public transportation to university become prohibitively inconvenient. The proposed allocation is detrimental to the well-being of off-campus students. It is worth noting that together these items also form the majority spending of the budget:

- Providing food or drink to students
- Supporting a sporting or recreational activity
- Supporting the administration of a club whose members are students
- Helping students secure accommodation
- Providing libraries and reading rooms for students
- Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment
- Promoting the health or welfare of students
- Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students
- Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled

It may be interesting to compare the allocation of funding and the offering of services provided by the ANU with that of other well-regarded international institutions. Presented here is a comparison with the offerings of Technical University of Munich.

Firstly, it is important to mention that there are no course fees for European students in Germany. (An entire Bachelor degree equates to around 1000 AUD.) The semester fee (equivalent to the ANU's SA fee) amounts to 117 Euro (170 AUD). These fees cover the entire student-contribution to the operating costs of university services. By paying this fee, students can undertake a full-time study load, and participate in a raft of university services, with no distinction made between (and hence no discrimination between) "on-campus" and "off-campus" students.

The following is a list of services and events provided by the university to all students:

- For 7 Euro per semester, *all* students have unlimited access to over 30 different sporting courses at the sporting campus. These services

On this note, given the funding restrictions of SSAF, and the function of tertiary education in Australia more broadly, while many of these ideas would be wonderful to realise, some would simply not be possible under the current structures. However, we very much thank you for raising this comparison to enhance understanding of international offerings to students.

Your point regarding upfront HECS payments is also very important and something ANUSA and PARSAs wish to address.

are offered to students of all 13 universities serviced under the responsibility of the [Munich Student Union](#), which has over 600 staff members. This extensive role of the Student Union in taking care of its students is anchored within Bavarian law.

- For 15 Euro per semester, students have access to the Munich Olympic Swimming Pool and Olympic Gymnasium
- The [student union operates 8 large-scale cafeterias](#) capable of serving upwards of 10,000 people each per day with low cost (<4 euro) high quality meals
- The student union operates over 10 student cafeterias offering high quality lunches and snacks at prices less than 5 AUD. There are, furthermore, several student union coffee shops offering high quality coffee and sweets for less than 3AUD.
- The student fee covers access to the entire public transportation system of Munich from 6pm to 6am on weekdays and all day on weekend
- For an additional fee of 260 Euro (375 AUD) students are provided with unlimited access to the entire public transportation system for the entire 6 month duration of the semester (see the network map attached below). This network extends to a radius of 40km outside the city, and provides high quality and high frequency public transportation service to all areas, including the central station and airport. The university campuses are all directly served by a train line with 5-10 minute frequencies from 5am to 1am. This facilitates a high degree of interaction of students within the city at large. The university campuses are not isolated islands within the city - in fact, they are integral to the vibrant atmosphere of Munich. It is worth noting that the pricing for the (in comparison entirely lacklustre and inconvenient) ACTION bus services result in almost the same monetary amount per semester, when only for commuting trips to university. The ACTION "student deal" does not include unlimited access to the (in the case of the service level provided in Canberra, extremely limited) network, nor any longer (since 2013) to student discounts in NSW.
- A majority of students (local AND interstate and international) are able to live in student accommodation, with standard rents equating to 300 Euro per month (434 AUD per month OR 108 AUD per week). It is worth noting that a FREE parking spot is included with all rental accommodation, and all student accommodations are within 2 minute walking distance of a subway line.
- The Munich Student Union offers a variety of free advisory services including but not limited to student loan, scholarship, legal,

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| | <p>psychotherapeutic, psychosocial, sexual abuse, discrimination, violence against men and women, general advice, social counselling, as well as advice for disabled students. These services are offered at multiple service locations within Munich and its surrounding areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The university hosts regular student-run festivals in which entire faculty buildings and lawns are converted into a positive social atmosphere. Attendance is usually between 2000-5000 per indoor events (ESP and Unity), and upwards of 20000 students for the outdoor music festivals (TUNIX and GARNIX), as well as the university's own beer festival (TUM runs the world's oldest brewery) • Local students are provided with university funding to organise tours (hiking, sightseeing, museum tours, theatre, cabaret, opera, brewery tours, inter-university engagements such as sporting and debating trips) in the local region to promote the integration of international and exchange students • The university offers a weekly student-run "Language Cafe" in which exchange students and local students alike can sit at "Language Tables" to communicate in their native language, or to practice a language they are or want to learn • The university's TU Film club offers subsidised (3 euro = 4.5 AUD) film screenings of recently released movies (almost the same timing as in cinemas) in screenings twice a week, on what until recently was the biggest cinema screen in Munich. Given that all students have access to the extensive public transport network that runs in regular intervals (10 minutes) until at least 1am every day, this allows ALL students to attend while still having transportation to get home. I cannot stress the importance of access to effective public transportation enough. <p>In light of this, what is hopefully a fairly evident disparity in approaches taken to the allocation of funding to provide effective student welfare, I hope (and expect) that the allocation of the services and amenities fee budget can be adjusted to provide fair access to services that are relevant and accessible to *all* students. Furthermore, this reasoning applies to the policies and planning approaches taken by the university as a whole.</p> | |
| 4 | I am writing with some concern about several portfolio allocations within Student Experience. | Thank you for your feedback. |

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| | <p>1. The extra funding for LGBTIQ and Ally training.... while in fact this could be a great idea, I wonder what will happen in practice as to date there has been little action on the Ally network by Access and Inclusion. Neither has the training been offered in a way which is motivating for people to participate in the Ally Network. Therefore I wonder whether this money is going to be used by some other part of our organisation to provide a better service for those of us interested in being Ally's and for those that may need to use the network.</p> <p>2. I am concerned that there is no direct funding to deal with the issue of sexual assault on campus, both perhaps building an Ally network for survivors, let alone your stated intention of improving web access to support and counselling information, let alone the VCs stated intention to actively address the issue of male violence head on, perhaps by having open communication about appropriate standards of male behaviour, peer to peer education, and providing dedicated counselling service to deal with the consequences of violence.</p> | <p>Currently the Student Associations' are discussing with University delegates and stakeholders from around the University as to how to revive the Ally program, which has experienced many changes throughout the years. This is a priority for the Associations. If you are a supporter of this program you could write to both ANUSA and PARSAs as well as the PVC University Experience, to ensure this is kept on the agenda.</p> <p>Discussions are also progressing with ANUSA/PARSA and the University regarding sexual assault support. In particular looking at additional resources to support survivors and an education program that would bring much needed change to the University community.</p> |
| 5 | <p>First of all, I was very pleased to see confirmation on the website of the Non-Residential Hall Co-Ordinator to work with Griffin and to work on developing the non-residential hall experience. I think I can speak for a large number of our members in saying that this has been very positively received and has greatly enhanced confidence for next year and beyond. I am very pleased to see this position commence at full-time, as you know, this is something I have advocated for some time (So I'm glad that I was able to see it happen before finishing).</p> <p>I think this role will be valuable in finally providing stability for Griffin as we look towards the development of Griffin Hall Alumni and furthering our working relationships with ANU services across the campus. This will provide some much needed relief in terms of funding stress, and will hopefully provide a valuable opportunity for our members to continue to look (more optimistically) towards Griffin's long term future. Further, I think that the 'top slice' allocation here is appropriate, especially in light of other programs being funded through SSAF in 2017.</p> <p>As I have said on previous occasions, I believe that considering other programs (including many of those which are organised and run by student-led organisations) provide services for a select few students, and have done so since SSAF became the major funding, I believe this is an appropriate use of SSAF funds.</p> | <p>We hope that this funding will be used to ensure that Griffin becomes self-sustaining and grows to become a more diverse community. Non-residential engagement is an important part of the university experience it is important that Griffin become sustainable in the long-term freeing up SSAF for additional projects noting that Griffin at present supports 400 students out of the entire non-residential cohort.</p> <p>Concerning ANU+, all Associations are looking forward to collaborating on ANU+ to ensure that it is inclusive and appropriate for all students. We appreciate your enthusiasm for the project.</p> <p>Finally, all programs by ANUSA/PARSA/Woroni/ANU Sport are open to all students with the exception of a few autonomous events. These events are a critical feature of a vibrant and diverse campus.</p> |

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| | <p>I was also very happy to see ANU+ is getting off the ground well, and that this will be funded. I'm looking forward to seeing where it goes. I am happy to provide further comment as needed if required to do so.</p> <p>All the best for the rest of the SSAF process</p> | |
| 6 | <p>In response to the proposed SSAF arrangements for 2017 I think more money should be given to sporting funding. Sport has been an integral part of my university studies and would hate to see any defunding to the program.</p> | <p>All Associations believe that sport is an integral part of many students' university experience and that were SSAF to be a larger pool then there would be a collective desire to see funds allocated to additional projects including sport.</p> |
| 7 | <p>.... a large component of that was dedicated to the extracurricular opportunities offered by ANU Sport. I was involved in multiple Eastern University Games competitions, intervarsity sport and lunchtime competitions. These were a highlight of my time at ANU and certainly enhanced my university experience and those of a lot of other students.</p> <p>I don't believe the proposed allocation for 2017 reflects how important ANU Sport is for student life. I definitely feel ANU Sport is deserving of a higher level of funding, especially compared to the amount proposed for PARSAs and ANUSA.</p> | <p>All Associations believe that sport is an integral part of many students' university experience and that were SSAF to be a larger pool then there would be a collective desire to see funds allocated to additional projects including sport.</p> |
| 8 | <p>I write to express my fondness of University sporting activities and sporting clubs. Involvement with University Sport at ANU has been easily my most memorable co-curricular activity whilst being a postgraduate student at the institution.</p> <p>ANU is blessed to have a vibrant set of sporting clubs however they often extensively rely on volunteers to keep them running. There is no doubt that with further support they could reach further levels of excellence and student experience. Sport not only serves as an excellent social activity but develops skills for life in the form of leadership, perseverance and teamwork to name a few.</p> <p>Please consider additional allocations to ANUSA as part of your SSAF allocations for 2017!</p> | <p>All Associations believe that sport is an integral part of many students' university experience and that were SSAF to be a larger pool then there would be a collective desire to see funds allocated to additional projects including sport.</p> <p>To note, sport is the responsibility of ANU Sport rather than ANUSA.</p> |
| 9 | <p>I think the amount allocated to caring for children of students is paltry, especially for postgraduates.</p> | <p>Thank you for responding to the SSAF consultation.</p> |

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| <p>Postgraduate students in particular are likely to need assistance with childcare.</p> <p>I suggest this is most likely in two circumstances. First, for intensive subjects that happen to occur on a day a child would not otherwise be in childcare (including Saturdays); and second, after business hours when part-time students who work need to attend compulsory tutorials. This need is greatest for under school age children and should diminish until children are in later primary school.</p> <p>This is not an easy service to provide. However, the amount of funding allocated suggests no-one is really trying.</p> | <p>PARSA agrees that support for parents is limited at ANU and support for parents– both for parents living away from their children, and for parents with children in Canberra – is an issue that largely affects postgraduates.</p> <p>For this reason PARSA has been working closely with parent support groups on campus to discuss current issues experienced by this group, and what advocacy is needed to realise positive change at ANU.</p> <p>As part of this, PARSA brought a business proposal for the ANU to consider during SSAF negotiations this year, to start a sessional day care service. This service would address some of the issues currently raised by parents who are students – which you have noted - namely access to affordable and flexible child care. This is just one of many solutions that has been investigated by PARSA.</p> <p>Unfortunately due to budget restrictions this project was unable to go forward, however we are currently investigating other ways of supporting students who are parents, including: ensuring adequate services in the Union Court Redevelopment, investigating alternate models of child care, advocating for family accommodation, and exploring the feasibility of crèche services on campus that can be offered at peak times of the year, or for key events.</p> <p>Currently the University has plans to build another childcare centre, but further efforts from the University are necessary.</p> <p>This is certainly a complex issue which requires careful consideration. Please contact PARSA if you wish to discuss this further: parsa@anu.edu.au</p> |
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