

FEEDBACK ON DRAFT ALLOCATIONS TO STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS 2018

	Comment	Response
1	<p>My experience of the University's Administration is such that not one cent of it should go to the Administration. The Administration already takes MORE than enough from our tuition fees and provides fewer and fewer teachers and less and less learning opportunities whilst deciding to expensively knock down student owned and run facilities and replacing them with expensive facilities designed with public sector wages in mind.</p> <p>The whole of SSAF should go to ANUSA and PARSa in compensation for the failure of the Administration to behave in a manner which suggests that it actually gives a **** about students (at any level, but particularly undergraduates), educating or generally equipping successful Candidates with the skills and/or successes they might have reasonably expected to be able to acquire at an institution with</p> <p>Capital Works should be properly explained as it sounds rather like you'll be putting it towards the abominable monstrosity which looks like it will only put more environmentally damaging pressure on Sullivan's Creek. And SEEF should be properly explained.</p>	<p>Comments noted, and relevant information provided separately.</p>
2	<p>I am currently studying at ANU as an online student. I don't use any services or amenities at ANU.</p> <p>Despite that, I would not normally have any objection to paying for a student service and amenities fee because I think it adds value to the student experience for the overall co-hort. [...]</p>	<p>Comments noted and an issue relating to a specific College referred on for action.</p>
3	<p>Good morning Professor,</p> <p>I had a number of questions relating to the proposed SSAF allocations that I was hoping you might be able to help answer. My understanding of the SSAF fee is that, for at least the last few years, it is the primary source of funding for the ANU Students Association, ANU Sport, ANU Student Media and the Division of Student Life. Each of these organisations seems to offer</p>	<p>The University can use SSAF to provide student services in eligible categories, or can contract third parties to do so. (https://www.education.gov.au/student-services-and-amenities-fee)</p> <p>The Observer approached the University about the possibility of providing student services using SSAF funding. Given their functions are within the SSAF category of "supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is</p>

	<p>a distinct service; at the risk of stating the obvious, ANU Sport provides opportunities to play inter-university sport, ANU Student Media run the Woroni newspaper, and ANUSA provide the on-campus social experience.</p> <p>This year, in addition to the above, we are being asked to entertain funding another organisation purporting to provide student media. It's not immediately clear what qualifies the "ANU Observer" to submit an application for SSAF funding; there are literally hundreds of other student organisations on campus who may also be worthy recipients of this funding.</p> <p>So my question is, what is the process for submitting a bid for SSAF? Is bidding open to any organisation that cares to put a tender together? Are there any restrictions on organisations which can and cannot bid for funding? Where can I get more information about this? This information doesn't appear to be readily available on the ANU website, and every student organisation that has submitted a SSAF bid has been silent on the issue as well.</p> <p>Best regards,</p>	<p>provided by students" the University determined they were able to submit an application but would need to be able to comply with the University's SSAF contract. The key to the Observer being able to do so are strict governance and reporting requirements that apply to all organisations receiving SSAF from the University.</p> <p>So, in agreeing to an application, it was stressed that the Observer needs, before any SSAF funds would be awarded, to have equivalent governance structures as the existing eligible parties to enable them to comply with the University's SSAF contract. One example is that the Observer will have their constituent documents approved by the University Council.</p> <p>The SSAF webpage http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/costs-fees/services-amenities-fee states that the Observer's provisional allocation is subject to approval of their constituent documents by the University Council. They will also need to sign the SSAF contract and agree to be bound by its terms.</p> <p>PVCUE</p>
4	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>May I propose this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher degree research students who are on an extension of program after completing four years and are offshore; <p>to be ammended to include those who are doing it on shore.</p> <p>Most international students who are in their 4.5 or more years are often out of scholarship (like my self) and must spend every single dollar in their pocket to survive. Also, senior students do not really care much about activism as they mostly focus on finishing their thesis and carry on with lives.</p> <p>Regards</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
5	<p>Hi</p>	<p>Comments noted</p>

	<p>I've received the announcement of Student service fees. My comments is strongly disagree. From my own experience, I didn't participate much activities as the budget listed. That's unfair for students to pay for activities that they are not participate. If ANU decides to charge on students, I think it would be better to list price for each service and activity and charge people who joined!</p> <p>Cheers,</p>	
6	<p>Hi Richard,</p> <p>Two quick things re: the SSAF allocation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of SSAF line items that seem to provide obvious and tangible benefits to students from all backgrounds, but especially from low SES ones. Given the chronic complaints of under-funding of things like the University Counselling Centre, and given how high the marginal benefit of additional health/mental health/legal services would be, it seems equitable to reduce a fairly substantial portion of Woroni's budget and reallocate it towards the 'tangible benefit' services. Assuming that Woroni keeps sufficiently high-quality financial information to be able to provide it, it isn't clear why they automatically merit more than the costs of printing, website-hosting and office rental — at the very least, the amount they spend annually on the very expensive end-of-year dinners should be reduced from their budget. • The above becomes compounded to the effect that the ANU Observer is now running on \$32,000 per year. Even bearing in mind the greater breadth of content that Woroni provides, if a student paper can be run on next-to-nothing (this year) and on \$32,000 (next year), at the very least Woroni should have its funding for news decreased (given how much more popular ANU Observer's news coverage is in any event). <p>Thanks,</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments; we appreciate all the feedback we get from students. We agree with you entirely regarding the importance of services like the University Counselling Centre and that the University should be putting more funding into them. It is our opinion, however, that student money such as SSAF should not be used to fund essential services such as counselling—instead, it should be the University's responsibility and students should not have to pay a fee in order to access these essential services.</p> <p>Our operations span a much wider range than providing the news. Our name, Woroni, means 'mouthpiece' and our aim is to be a mouthpiece for all students, which includes news but also includes being the primary outlet for creative expression through all forms of media. Thus, our spending is greater than just print, office space, and website-hosting, and includes the creative magazine, expenditure on Radio and TV, equipment, professional development for student volunteers, supporting the arts, and much more, as detailed in our SSAF Bid for 2018.</p> <p>Woroni does not hold end-of-year dinners. In 2017, we spent \$369.05 in food and drink expenses, which was spent on providing food to attendees of our General Meetings and on our public events to promote our print editions. All students are welcome to attend these meetings and events.</p> <p>We are unable to comment on the Observer's operating costs; however, as noted above, we provide a greater breadth and depth of services than the Observer and rely on the work of a large team of people, with over 100 students directly involved every semester. Our print readership numbers just over 1600 weekly readers, and our website on average receives 60 000 unique views each month. The funding we get from SSAF is essential to maintaining a high-quality independent student media organisation.</p> <p>Thank you again for your feedback. Please let us know if you have any further comments and questions; we would be delighted to hear back from you!</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>

		Jonathan Tjandra, Woroni Managing Editor.
7	<p>Hi and thanks for the opportunity to comment:</p> <p>Allocation of PARSA funds to 'Shut Up and Write' is a such a good spend. This method really works - and it would be so beneficial to have Thesis Bootcamps once a month.</p> <p>At the moment, camps are held only every two to three months and the places go to students under pressure and approaching milestones - which is wonderful - but it would be good to target other students as a support to getting things written along the way too.</p> <p>Anything you can do to support 'Shut Up and Write days and nights in 2018 would also be terrific. This stuff is practical and really, really helps [...]</p>	<p>From PARSA</p> <p>Thank you so much for your comments. PARSA is committed to delivering SUAW, Thesis Bootcamps, and other programs to support postgraduate students at ANU. This year we piloted an expansion of SUAW which was met with great attendance and positive feedback. Given the limited budget provided by ANU we will be maintaining the increase to SUAW in 2018 and will pilot some expansions, particularly for SUAW nights, where we have budget to do so.</p> <p>In terms of the Thesis Bootcamps, PARSA continues to commit to funding 4 of these camps per year given their high expense. However our discussions with the Office for the Dean of HDR have indicated that this Office will prioritise the expansion of the Thesis Bootcamp program in 2018, so that both PARSA and ANU are funding the and delivery of more boot camps.</p>
8	<p>I'm not sure what budget the cleaning of toilets comes out of but more money needs to be spent so the frequency can increase of both cleaning the toilets and emptying sanitary bins.</p> <p>The female toilets on campus are absolutely disgusting and very often the sanitary bins are overflowing and have used pads and tampons sitting on top of them. This is a health hazard and needs to be rectified. Most of the bathrooms I have used were like this but particularly CBE, the building across from CBE and the Copeland building.</p> <p>Regards</p>	<p>This matter has been drawn to the attention of the College of Business and Economics and Facilities and Services.</p>
9	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Reviewing the budget for student amenities fees in 2018 it appears that a significant amount of money is being taken from the general body of students to benefit the few especially when other means of funding are available. This is of particular concern as it disadvantages low income students and is not offset by the benefits these students would gain from the university activities. It would be good to see cuts in:</p> <p>+ Supporting the administration of a club whose members are students: As clubs should be pushed to be self sustaining. It makes little sense to take money from all students to fund the narrow interests of</p>	<p>From ANU Student Media</p> <p>Thank you very much for your feedback. We will respond to your third and fourth points as those are ones which directly relate to us.</p> <p>Woroni prides itself on being the primary outlet for the creative expression of students on campus. Our printed publications (both our fortnightly paper and Creative Magazine) sources artwork from student photographers, graphic designers, and artists, and features a wide variety of artistic media, including collages, paints, graphics, and sketches. They also feature and support literary works, including satire, poetry, and short stories, as well as reviews of films and theatrical works. Our Radio</p>

affiliated clubs. Especially when those most disadvantaged by the SSAF are those that would not possess the time for the majority of invested recreational club activities. If you shift the payments to the actual users this would cut the financial load on the student body through SSAF by 25%.

+ Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers: This field has year over year had diminishing returns and can be easily covered by government support systems.

+ Supporting an artistic activity by students: The investment in this field is minimal but there are other avenues for this. Student works should support themselves and where this funding is actually going isn't clear to the artistic community.

+ Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students: I assume this money is mainly going to the Observer and Woroni. Overall it makes no sense to take money from the entire body of students to provide a barely used service that would be generated by the students anyway if there was a niche.

+ Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled: Digging through the services provided by ANUSA and PARSA I can't actually figure out what this money is going towards? Seems like a lot of money for a service that isn't visible. If this is supposed to be department outreach then it shouldn't be getting passed through these organisations.

So all up that's slightly more than a third of all funding allocated could actually just be cut. Potentially more if items inside those systems are reviewed. It seems like ANUSA and PARSA are just requesting more money from the general student body than they actually need driving up student debts for a minimal gain. Please consider that the taxing of the general population of students actually makes it significantly harder to be a student.

Cheers,

and TV Teams are an important part of Woroni, and they support audio, visual, and film artists, producing everything from live radio shows and short films to podcasts, vox pops, and mixtapes. SSAF funding is essential to allowing Woroni to support artists in the ANU community, especially by supporting low-SES students to pursue their creative endeavours. Cutting this funding will disproportionately disadvantage low-SES students who cannot afford to devote time to artistic work whilst also working and studying full time.

It is our mandate to provide an outlet for student-created content, which does not include just the news, but all the variety of media forms as outlined above. The dissemination of news which is relevant to students is important to keep the University accountable. We rely heavily on the work of our student volunteers, with over 100 students directly involved in the Association every semester. SSAF funding goes towards relieving the financial and administrative burden on our volunteers so they can devote more time to creative and journalistic endeavours.

Our print readership numbers just over 1600 regular readers, and our website on average receives 60 000 unique views each month. The funding we get from SSAF is essential to maintaining a high-quality independent student media organisation as they allow us to support students in pursuing their journalistic talents when they otherwise would have had to work to support themselves. Our volunteers have dedicated huge amounts of time to providing these services to the student community.

Thank you again for getting involved in this process, and please let us know if there is anything else we can do to address your comments.

Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Tjandra, Woroni Managing Editor.

From ANU Sport

ANU Sport works hard to support clubs in achieving financial sustainability, particularly through supporting acquiring sponsorship and fundraising. Sports Clubs provide a valuable service to approximately 2000 ANU students, providing not only an outlet to engage in weekly physical activity, but also a social outlet. 53% of students engage in club activity for at least 2 hours per week. The average student engages for 1.5 hours per week. This equates to annual engagement hours of 144,300. The return on investment for SSAF in 2017 with respect to clubs was

\$0.70 per student hour of engagement. This does not include competition time. This is a very well used and efficient spend of SSAF funds.

These clubs are vibrant communities within the broader ANU Community. Sport Clubs can often be quite expensive due to high costs of affiliation (referees, insurance, management, coaches, facilities) and equipment. Without the SSAF support some of these clubs would not be accessible to students, especially those from low SES backgrounds.

From ANU Observer

This money is indeed going largely to ANU Student Media (Woroni) and The ANU Observer. It is incorrect to call these services "barely used" - Observer articles are each read, on average, by 1000 people; this is significant on a campus of 10 000 undergraduates. Some articles are read by over 5000 people. Student media is therefore widely consumed and provides a significant benefit to the student body. This benefit extends even to those who do not directly consume the media as they gain a generally more informed campus.

The reality is that without funding these services could not be sustainably provided. Producing media requires equipment, such as cameras and computers; websites, which cost money to make and maintain; and lots of time. Observer and Woroni editors tend to work the equivalent of full-time hours to produce, edit, and publish content for students. Some amount of payment is necessary to be able to fill these important roles, and to make them more accessible to self-supporting students.

From PARSA

Thank you for your comments. You have raised several key points relating to the use of SSAF funding and the distribution across Associations.

The SSAF funding allocated to administration primarily supports paying for PARSA's staff who are crucial to the work we do in support our advocacy and student representatives, delivering a variety of events and programmes, and delivering front line service support such as free and confidential legal advice and student assistance.

Given that SSAF is a finite and uncertain pool of funding it is PARSA's position that core functions of the ANU that are to support students should be centrally funded i.e. by the ANU, not SSAF. This would include careers advice.

		<p>PARSA is very supportive of our student media groups who disseminate information and provide opportunities to students, such as creative activities, and developing skills for study other than through academic pursuits. PARSA does note that there is room for improvement in how these organisations engage and appeal to postgraduates. PARSA also has a role in ensuring support for building skills and employability which we aim to achieve through our Skill Up program next year.</p> <p>As a general comment, postgraduate students are a diverse and often marginalised group at ANU and PARSA undertakes a range of initiatives to appeal to different groups within our community. SSAF funding is crucial for our core operations and our initiatives benefit and support a wide range of postgraduate students.</p> <p>From ANUSA</p> <p>Thank you for your question. We would however politely disagree about the justifications for cuts you have proposed. We would argue that these ANUSA services are vital and foundational to the university experience of many undergraduate students. E.g. supporting the Clubs Council and ANU Clubs and Societies supports communities within ANU, and helping students upskill and obtain employment facilitates financial security and stability, and allows students to excel academically and otherwise. In regards to specific expenditure, ANUSA's SSAF bid provides direct insight as to why we believe funding is necessary and essential.</p>
10	<p>[...] I am writing to you in regards to the SSAF allocation, more importantly, in favour of the bid and allocation of any funds that have been directed towards the Griffin Hall Member's Association (GHMA). I must first declare that I have been a member of Griffin Hall for the past 3 semesters [...] The purpose of this email is to stress to you the importance and absolute need for a full-time Non-Residential Hall Coordinator to oversee and manage the affairs of Griffin Hall. I will speak to my experiences as a general member, and as a member on leadership.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>I honestly could not imagine Griffin being able to move forward, let alone operate at the level it does without [...] the role of the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator. I implore you to fund/maintain the allocations provided</p>	<p>The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.</p>

	towards the bid made for the SSAF allocations for the NRHC position into the 2018 year, and hopefully many more to come.	
11	<p>[...] I am writing to you in regards to the SSAF allocation to Griffin Hall.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>and I have been involved in the arts, social, sports and informal activities run through Griffin.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>I fully endorse and stress the need for a full-time Non-Residential Hall Coordinator (NRHC) for Griffin Hall and Walter Wing.</p> <p>[...] It has been very important for leadership to have a full-time staff member to refer up to who knew both the ins and outs of Griffin as well as knowing university regulations and procedures. For general members it was important to know their situation was not just being handled by students who, although had training and life experience, were not unlike themselves, but also by someone who had a more professional role.</p> <p>I have friends at other universities such as University of Canberra who would have regretted the fact UC does not have a full-support program like Griffin Hall for undergraduate students. Without an NHRC, it would be extremely hard to maintain the level of support Griffin Hall is able to provide.</p> <p>Please continue to fund the NHRC at Griffin Hall during 2018 through the SSAF allocation.</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.
12	<p>Hi Professor Baker,</p> <p>I have just completed my third year at the ANU, and will graduate in July next year.</p> <p>I am e-mailing you to provide feedback on the proposed SSAF funding allocation for Griffin Hall in 2018.</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.

	<p>I have joined Griffin Hall every year since first year and believe it is one of the best decisions I have made while at university. It has been extremely helpful in giving me an outlet to destress during difficult assessment periods, in gaining academic advice from my peers, and in allowing me to find a home away from home.</p> <p>A particularly important role in Griffin Hall's success is the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator. The leadership team have been very helpful over my three years here, and as a CA myself last year I found the support of an official non-member leader invaluable. [...].</p> <p>I can vouch for how important the student leadership team is for making Griffin successful. [...] you will find no shortage of Griffin members who have fond memories of someone in leadership who helped them out of a tough spot or just provided a fun and safe environment for them.</p> <p>I would love to see [...] appropriate SSAF funding to continue in 2018, even though I won't be around to benefit from it, purely because I think every off-campus student should receive the opportunity to be a part of such a supportive and welcoming community, and the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator is a huge factor in creating that community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>	
13	<p>To Professor Richard Baker,</p> <p>[...] Griffin Hall provides a sense of belonging and community to off-campus members who would likely otherwise feel isolated by the lack of off-campus social groups/events. Importantly this includes having a support structure of students and community assistants to help with personal and professional problems.</p> <p>I am writing from the perspective of a mature-aged student who has spent considerable time working in a highly structured environment. While I do not mean to downplay the role students have in building their community, it is painfully obvious that without the dedicated administrative support [...], Griffin Hall would be in danger of collapsing.</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.

	<p>I would like you to consider the amount of work it has taken to build the community into what it is today, and how the decision to remove funding in the future could undo that work rapidly. For this reason I would ask that you consider a guarantee of funding for the Non-residential Hall Coordinator.</p>	
14	<p>Dear Richard Baker,</p> <p>I am just here to let you know just how much Griffin means to me.</p> <p>I moved here from Sydney, knowing almost no one in Canberra. I pretty much owe my degree to the countless people who offered all the support they could. It may sound excessive but I would not have got through first year without Griffin Hall, and I know that I am not alone in the matter.</p> <p>The amount of motivation that I get each time a CA comes up and is just genuinely interested in how my day went, is literally what kept me going through uni.</p> <p>It's something we can't afford to lose, as I hope you will agree.</p> <p>kind regards,</p>	<p>The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.</p>
15	<p>[...] I am writing to you in regards to the SSAF allocation for Griffin Hall.</p> <p>I have been in Griffin Hall for the past three years of my undergraduate degree [...] I have seen how invaluable our Non-Residential Hall Coordinator (NRHC), [...] has been to the Griffin Hall community.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Without [...the] NRHC, I struggle to imagine how Griffin Hall's leadership team would continue to provide the community with the same quality leadership that it has done over the past few years. As a result, I implore you to maintain the allocated SSAF funds currently proposed for Griffin Hall's NRHC position for 2018.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	<p>The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.</p>

16	<p>I write in regards to the proposed SSAF allocations for the 2018 Calander year and in particular the ANU Observers Saf allocation. Given the many benefits I believe that the Observer has provided to myself and other students, I am writing to support an increase in their SAFF Amount.</p> <p>By providing a highly professional and responsive source of campus news, which is both accurate and up to date, it is my belief that they have and continue to provide many great benefits to students. They are my principle source of news and information for campus and I rely on them to learn quickly about changes and incidents at the university which may affect my life.</p> <p>I have personally experienced their professionalism when dealing with controversial topics, and their ability to provide a strong independent viewpoint has reinforced my belief in their ability to provide for students.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The due diligence in their articles, as well as their willingness to consult with the subjects of their articles, show an intention to develop as students and as an organisation. This keenness to achieve and the setting of such high standards should be encouraged and promoted in the university environment.</p> <p>I note with some consternation, that the Observer has received less than half their original bid, despite a notably well detailed and informative bid, that details the exact spending nature and ammounts. In comparison to some other recipients which have less detailed and more general summaries who have received a far greater proportion of their bids, I believe that the Observer is deserving of a larger proportion of their original bid. In fact, the bids for PARSA, ANU Sport, and the Division of Student life, were not publically accessible and could not face public scrutiny, and both ANUSA and Woroni received far closer amounts to there respective Bids. While these both may be established organisations, the Observer in the past year has proved that it is not in for the short haul and has created a reputation for high-quality work and due diligence, these should be considered and the shortness of their existence not held against them.</p> <p>The current allocation is not able to provide the support necessary for the observer to continue to exist in the long term. In comparison to Woroni who in their SAFF bid are proposing to increase their editors pay, the</p>	<p>From the PVCUE</p> <p>ANU Observer is yet to put in place organisational and governance structures to enable it to manage and account for any funding received. The 2018 funding allocation is subject to ANU Observer putting such structures in place. In future years and once it has demonstrated its capacity to manage and account for funding, higher levels of funding can be considered.</p> <p>Richard Baker, PVCUE</p> <p>From ANU Student Media</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We would just like to take the opportunity to explain the reasoning behind the increase in editor honoraria. The increase was first raised by our Financial Controller as the honoraria had not been increased since at least 2015. The proposed increase in the honoraria in the 2018 is to index the honoraria to CPI so that it retains its real value. In addition, we rely heavily on the work of our many sub-editors and contributors, many of whom are volunteers. SSAF funding is used to relieve the financial and administrative stress on our volunteers so they can devote more time to creative and journalistic endeavours instead of worrying about their own personal finances. Cutting this funding will disproportionately disadvantage low-SES students who need to work in order to support themselves.</p> <p>We have also extended to the Observer an offer to share equipment, for example, the microphones in our joint SSAF bids. We allow any students to lend our equipment, provided they have been trained in using it (we also offer training), and have extended this to the Observer as well.</p> <p>Please get in touch if you have any further questions!</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Jonathan Tjandra, Woroni Managing Editor.</p>
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	<p>Observers bid allows them to access basic equipment necessary for relaying the latest news and information. Without such funds, we may lose access to this unique and valuable student service which is not currently being met by any other organisation. They have also undertaken significant structural reform, ensuring democratic and accountable control. They have spent many hours undertaking an investigation into how best to achieve this and come up with a model specifically tailored to the requirements of receiving SAFF funds while ensuring they will not sacrifice their professionalism.</p> <p>I, therefore, ask they you reconsider the existing SAFF bid and consider providing an amount of their bid consistent with those provided to other organisations providing student services on campus.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
17	<p>I heard that this email is how I should contact in response to the recent SSAF funding allocations. I'd like to say thank you for granting Griffin the funding to continue appointing a Community Coordinator.</p> <p>Griffin could not function without [the Community Coordinator who] provides support to general memembers, trains and works with leadership to make sure everything runs smoothly, and does so much behind the scenes work that I couldn't describe it all. [...] Griffin does so much for non-residential students. Thank you for making it so this can continue. It's a massive benefit to the students in Griffin and at ANU.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.
18	<p>I am writing to you to express how important Griffin Hall is to the lives of hundreds of ANU students and how it would crumble without the continued funding of the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator position [...].</p> <p>I will be doing Honours next year [...] and have experienced a whirlwind of emotions throughout this time from being quite unhappy at ANU to finally loving and being proud of it in my third year, largely thanks to my involvement in Griffin Hall. In my first year, most of my Canberra friends had moved interstate and were having the times of their lives at residential colleges. I lived at home and was not satisfied by the off-</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.

	<p>campus experience at ANU (a very common story). I was not very involved in Griffin Hall, participating in a couple of sports but not realising the amazing potential of the community. [...]</p> <p>[...] trained the leadership team on retreat and throughout the year we learnt so much about being an effective bystander and listener, discovered and discussed our strengths (Strengths Quest) and completed first aid and mental health first aid training. [...] we organised and ran events within the community and resolved any issues that arose. We met weekly to check in with our own wellbeing and that of the community [...]</p> <p>In short, Griffin Hall is a thriving and supportive community that is positively impacting the lives of hundreds of ANU students and it is crucial that it continues to receive SSAF funding for the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator position so that they with our Honorary Head of Hall can train and help a strong leadership team to support current and future Griffin Hall members and radically improve ANU's experience for off-campus students.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	
19	<p>I am writing this email to advocate how important Griffin Hall is to ANU and its students. I am from Melbourne and have just finished my first year at university in Canberra. Living out at UC, and not on ANU campus, made me feel distant from ANU life but joining Griffin Hall was the best decision I have made all year. It really made me feel like I belonged and I loved competing against all the other colleges as it included Griffin Hall and myself as a part of ANU too.[...]. Regards,</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.
20	<p>I am writing to you in regards to the SSAF Bid Allocation and the funding of Griffin Hall Member's Association through SSAF.</p> <p>I have been an active member of Griffin for two years now and my university experience has been enhanced enormously by the community Griffin provides. The Community Assistants [...] have assisted me through difficult times and I fear I would have failed my course work without their support and guidance. [...]</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.

	<p>Further, since the Non-Residential Hall Co-coordinator role has been established mid way through my first year, the atmosphere in Griffin has become significantly more positive. I credit this to the leadership team's ability to focus on the student's experience and allowing administration to be handled by someone qualified and dedicated to the task. [...]</p> <p>For these reasons, I strongly urge you to accept the proposed SSAF bid so this work can continue.</p> <p>Thankyou for your time</p>	
21	<p>It has come to my attention that the Australian National University has recently proposed to stop PARSA from subsidising alcohol at events. I understand the university's concerns around encouraging certain unsociable behaviour, but I am writing to you to nevertheless encourage you to reconsider this decision.</p> <p>I am proud to be a student at the ANU, one of Australia's leading universities, and greatly appreciate the strongly academic and scholarly atmosphere on campus. Having said that, I hate to say it, but when it comes to the social atmosphere, the ANU has one of the least appealing campuses in the country. There is little sense of social community and fun. More needs to be done, not less.</p> <p>I know sponsoring "piss ups" is not what the ANU would want to do, but events like PARSA's Unwind are nothing of the sort. They're very relaxed, with generally older students and a more mature vibe. These are not events which encourage reckless behaviour for which the university would be liable.</p> <p>Socialising at the ANU is difficult. Simply continuing the existing practices is not enough, especially when food and drink here are possibly the most expensive on any university campus in Australia (and I used to attend the University of Melbourne!). Nevertheless, stopping PARSA from funding drinks at events would be an absolute step backwards and would actively discourage collegiality on campus.</p> <p>Please reconsider this decision. Best regards,</p>	<p>The decision to disallow the subsidisation of alcohol from SSAF revenue was taken during the allocation process for 2017 SSAF funds. The decision applies to all groups in receipt of SSAF funds, not just PARSA. The decision only relates to the subsidisation of alcohol. PARSA can continue to run Unwind and other social events and can use SSAF revenue to purchase food and non-alcoholic beverages. Attendees at such events may be able to purchase alcoholic beverages, but not at SSAF-subsidised prices. The restriction on the subsidisation of alcohol should not interfere with the purpose of the event which is to provide postgraduate students with an opportunity to socialise and network.</p>

<p>22</p>	<p>[...] I am writing to you in regards to SSAF allocation, and more specifically, in support of Griffin Hall's bid for funding for a Non-Residential Hall Coordinator.</p> <p>I joined Griffin Hall as a first year in 2017, after attending high school in the ACT. It was my intention to move away from home to attend university so I could have the full university campus living experience, however, I did not have the savings or financial support to provide for myself in another city, hence, I live at home with my parents who continue to provide for my living expenses while study at the ANU.</p> <p>I appreciate that I have made many new connections and friends through Griffin Hall, and have received a social, sporting and community experience that I did not believe was possible while living off campus during university.</p> <p>[...] I have had more interactions with the current Non-Residential Hall Coordinator than most Griffin Hall first years. As a member of Griffin leadership and a new first year to university, [...] has been extremely valuable, providing mentoring, training and general support during the past year.</p> <p>I feel that without a Non-Residential Hall Coordinator, Griffin would not be able to continue its growth and I feel it would also be difficult to continue operating as successfully as it does today.</p> <p>I believe that having a Non-Residential Hall Coordinator and Griffin Hall in general benefits the ANU greatly, by encouraging locals (such as myself) to view the ANU as a viable, affordable option for university studies, while also being able to experience the "university experience".</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	<p>The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>Dear Prof Baker,</p> <p>After inspecting the proposed allocations and what I could of the bids for the SSAF process, I would like to offer some feedback. I believe the ANU Observer needs an increase in their allocation before these are finalised. Please see the letter I have attached.</p>	<p>See comments above (3) relating to the ANU Observer allocation.</p>

Note that I am friends with some of the Observer exec, but I am not offering this feedback on their behalf, and they didn't ask me to.

Thank you very much,

Professor Richard Baker
Pro-Vice Chancellor (University Experience)
pvc.ue@anu.edu.au

Dear Professor Baker,

I write to you concerning the proposed SSAF allocations we were informed about in your email on 10 November. I wish to express my dismay at how little ANU Observer is slated to receive from the SSAF pool.

ANU Observer has provided a huge and tangible benefit to me as a student, by providing a timely, accurate, highly professional and responsive source of campus news. I genuinely rely on them as a reliable source of information on the goings-on at ANU. This is a testament to their founders and the editors who have made this nascent organisation into a robust team, who continue to deliver quality to the student community.

My own interactions with Observer have instilled me with a respect for their institution. [E]very interaction I have had with Observer has been appropriately professional, and my feedback has been welcomed on the relevant articles. This high level of professionalism and diligence is not common and it should be given every chance to survive and thrive.

I wish to see it continue into the future.

The allocation with which Observer has been provided at this stage – in comparison to their bid – is far below what all other organisations have received. While I could not find the bids for PARSA, ANU Sport, nor DSL, ANUSA and Woroni's proposed allocations are respectively 98.2% and 95.8% of their bids. Observer's is 46.6%. Of course, they are new. However, it is the nature of student organisations that they are all continually refreshing to the point where true establishment doesn't really

	<p>exist. Furthermore, the quality of the Observer bid does not seem notably lower than the other bids I found; in many cases it seemed higher.</p> <p>The allocation does not seem tenable, because it will continue to incentivise people financially to involve themselves with Woroni, whose editors are receiving a pay increase. I believe that increase is justified, but it still means Woroni editors would receive triple the allowance of Observer editors. This allocation also does not allow for the same extent of equipment, nor enable Observer to print at all. Furthermore, the ability of Observer to operate as a full journalistic institution is hindered by a complete deprivation of funding for subscriptions to news services, as well as freedom of information requests. All of these are key to providing quality news.</p> <p>I therefore would implore you to increase the allocation to a viable amount. While this year was fuelled by the impressive tenacity of those running a new organisation, money is required to keep the institution functional over the long-term.</p> <p>Observer is good for students, but also causes Woroni to offer more to students, as seen by their increased coverage after Observer's launch, and their recent Editorial board campaigns, which centred on this competition. The proposed allocation is anticompetitive, and denies students the opportunity of a hugely beneficial usage of SSAF. An increase of a mere \$10,000 would enable the institution to function properly, and I am under the impression there is sufficient flexibility within the pool to allow this.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
24	<p>Good Afternoon Professor Baker,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback into the SSAF allocation process, and for the university's efforts so far in ensuring that students are informed of matters concerning the allocation of their SSAF Fund.</p>	<p>Comments noted and additional information along the lines of that suggested will be provided next year.</p>

Transparency in the use of SSAF dollars is the keystone in good governance in this field, and crucial for ensuring that SSAF dollars are both responsive to student interests and needs, and that support for SSAF remains strong in the student body.

My submission as a result will not be on the exact amounts allocated, but on the need for transparency from both the university and the various SSAF receiving organisations on where SSAF dollars go and what they fund. [...]

The University and certain SSAF bidding organisations have made valuable steps in this regard, and I'd like to recognise the efforts of ANUSA, ANUSM and ANU Observer in producing publicly available bids, and holding advertised public consultation sessions on these bids.

These efforts to ensure the greater student body has some idea where their money is going and why it is going there is highly valuable, and imposes a substantial burden on the students who undertake to do it, both in consultation hours and otherwise. ANU Sport has since published a one page summary of their allocation, but PARSA still has no publicly available information on their SSAF bid or allocation, and DSL's description of their use of 642,000 dollars of public money still amounts to a series of dot points. In future allocations, all bodies should be held to a similar standard as ANUSA, ANUSM and ANUO have already demonstrated.

Similarly, there is no description of what purposes, projects, objectives or other reasons behind the allocation of 350,000 AUD to Capital Works. How was this number reached at? Why does it fluctuate so heavily from year to year? How was this fund evaluated against the bids of student organisations? I don't know, and more importantly, neither does the student body.

A lot of attention has been drawn to how little funding ANU Observer has been allocated in this SSAF round, but it certainly casts the process in a poor light when a comprehensive bid by a student organisation with an extensive consultation process and dollar by dollar expenditure breakdown receives an order of magnitude less funding than an undefined fund with no bid and an unclear purpose.

	<p>On a related matter, while the University's intent in providing a breakdown of SSAF funding by organisation on SSAF Funding Webpage is valuable, the usage of the different SSAF criteria as the main method of breakdown does I feel, obscures the actual use of SSAF money and stands to confuse students.</p> <p>For instance, PARSA has been allocated 905,580 dollars, or the majority of their budget under the SSAF criteria "Supporting the administration of a club whose members are students". But for the average student, it is nearly impossible to figure out what purposes this money might be used for- the line item is so large. And the obvious conclusions that students might draw- that the money would contribute to the funding of the Clubs Council would be largely wrong- that is an ANUSA body. Perhaps embracing a more relevant breakdown of funding- such as by professional staff salaries and wages, student staff salaries and wages, administration, grants, and other recognisable programs or at least categories of expenditure, students would be better able to navigate the SSAF breakdown.</p> <p>Providing students with relevant, understandable and accurate SSAF expenditure is a crucial measure to ensure that the student body has confidence in SSAF as a valid use of their money.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback into the SSAF allocation process.</p>	
25	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am a postgraduate student studying one unit at Fenner School, during the semester two.</p> <p>My comment regarding the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF) - Proposed 2018 Allocations concerns PARSA funding.</p> <p>I notice that PARSA are allocated \$905,580 next year for "supporting the administration of a club whose members are students" - Yet, at no stage did I receive any emails from them regarding PARSA events, news, changes in policy, [...]</p>	<p>From PARSA</p> <p>Thank you for making the time to reply to the SSAF consultation. We are sorry to hear that you have not been contacted regarding our events and programmes. PARSA is one of the most active postgraduate organisations in Australia, hosting a variety of events and programmes, as well as free and confidential support (student assistance and legal advice) and advocacy initiatives to improve the lives of postgraduate ANU students.</p> <p>PARSA sends monthly newsletters with our activities to our members that have 'opted-in' to giving PARSA their details. The opt-in function is located in ANU ISIS and must be selected by the student at the commencement of their study, or actively sought out should any student originally not select this. This is likely the cause of not receiving our regular newsletters. We are very happy to assist you with</p>

	<p>They are allocated \$103,372 for "Supporting a sporting or recreational activity" next year, yet there were no activities I was informed of this year, including one off events like balls.</p> <p>Compared to activities I did as a postgraduate student at Swinburne University, Melbourne, the postgraduate association here does not have that many recreational events. They really don't seem to be there for part-time students. Let alone put us on a distribution list.</p> <p>So, I would consider the money they are allocated next year - \$1,521,484 - is too much considering the lack of attention paid to domestic part time/non-award students.</p> <p>Regards,</p>	<p>setting this up as we would love you to be involved! Please contact us at: parsa@anu.edu.au.</p> <p>Otherwise our events and programmes are advertised on our website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and WeChat.</p> <p>We welcome any suggestions and feedback you have on events so that we can continue to improve our offerings for 2018 and beyond.</p>
26	<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>I am writing to you in protest of your decision to disallow PARSA from subsidising alcohol, resulting in the discontinuation of their fortnightly 'unwind' event. This event is one of the very few opportunities that postgraduates have to get together and network, and make connections outside of our our own areas of study. I, personally, have benefitted significantly from these events, and would find it very difficult to find other opportunities for engaging socially with my fellow students. For the good of our individual, and collective mental health, please reconsider your decision.</p>	<p>See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.</p>
27	<p>UNWIND is important for the post-grad community. Not only does it give us a way of meeting one another in a less formal setting but it allows us to take a break from the stress that we encounter from juggling work and study.</p> <p>... this event is incredibly important for maintaining our mental health!</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT GET RID OF THIS EVENT!!!!!!</p>	<p>See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.</p>
28	<p>Hi Richard,</p> <p>We met at the PARSA wrap up event on Monday.</p>	<p>See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.</p>

	Just voicing my support for the Unwind event -- it's phds have very few events to socialise in general, much less with other phds across uni.	
29	<p>To Whom It Concerns</p> <p>PARSA Unwind is a such a key event on the postgraduate calendar, and should be able to continue. For many, it's an important way to meet new people and facilitates social interactions that would otherwise be difficult. For a group of students that are often quite busy with different commitments, it provides time to relax with those in similar situations, and to check in and support one another through the year.</p> <p>This email is to add to the many requests that this event not be prevented in 2018 and onwards.</p> <p>Thanks for your time</p>	See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.
30	<p>Dear Professor Baker,</p> <p>[...] I am a third-year JD student who has just heard that the ANU is planning on cancelling the bi-monthly PARSA Friday drinks event in 2018. I personally wish to express my disappointment and urge you to reconsider this move as the drinks provide not only an opportunity to unwind from study, but they allow the post-graduate community to mix and broaden their social circles beyond their academic cohort. The ANU has such a rich and diverse post-graduate community and I believe those who choose to engage in the wonderful events PARSA organises only gain from their university experience.</p> <p>The Friday drinks have been part of the PARSA social calendar for years for a reason, and I'd love to see them continue in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>	See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.
31	<p>I am emailing in response to reports that PARSA Unwind will not be running next year.</p> <p>For myself, and many other post-graduate students, many of the larger social events are aimed towards undergraduate students. Fortnightly evening drinks on a Friday is a much better suited social gathering where we have the opportunity to meet and stay and touch with other post-</p>	See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.

	<p>graduate students outside our course. I ask that you please re-evaluate the decision to not subsidise this event.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
32	<p>Dear Richard,</p> <p>It has come to my attention that the ANU is planning to end alcohol subsidies to PARSA - hence ending the fortnightly PARSA Unwind event.</p> <p>[...] In my capacity as a student representative I have met and become friends with a wide range of members of the postgraduate community. Of all those that I have talked to about ANU's proposed action, the response has been overwhelmingly negative. The PARSA Unwind event provides a platform by which PARSA students can come together, end the week on a positive note, and most importantly, meet other members of the postgraduate community.</p> <p>I understand that the ANU does not want to be seen in any way as promoting the misuse or abuse of alcohol. However, in this regard, I would like to make two important points. Firstly, the postgraduate student body is substantially older than the undergraduate cohort, and as such can be expected to use alcohol for more responsibly. And secondly, after work or end of week drinks on a Friday are a commonplace occurrence, especially in the context of the many postgraduates who balance their studies with part time or full time work. Ending the PARSA Unwind drinks event would simply result in most having Friday drinks elsewhere, whilst removing an important opportunity for the PARSA community to come together and talk to one another.</p> <p>I would urge the ANU to reconsider its position on this issue. Postgraduate students pay a lot of money to come to the university; and while this is primarily for its quality of education, it is also for the thriving and engaging community that the university provides. I, along with many of my peers, believe that the decision to end subsidies to PARSA events would undermine this sense of community, and significantly restrict the opportunity to bring students together that it provides.</p>	See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.

	Yours sincerely,	
33	<p>Too whom it may concern,</p> <p>In regards to the below email, I would like to express my concern that too many funds are allocated to supporting the administration of a club whose members are students. This amount of funds is unreasonably disproportionate to the other areas.</p> <p>These funds should be redirected to more important areas, such as promoting the health or welfare of students and providing libraries and reading rooms for students. It is clear that more funds need to be given to the health of students.</p>	<p>From ANU Student Media</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We agree with you whole-heartedly that the University should be doing more to support essential services to support the health and wellbeing for students, as well as library services and so on. However, we believe that SSAF, student fees, should not be used to support these services, and instead, the University should recognise and accept their obligation to provide essential services to their students.</p> <p>We greatly appreciate your thoughts on this matter, and would love to hear from you again as you feel strongly about this issue!</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Jonathan Tjandra, Woroni Managing Editor.</p> <p>From PARSA</p> <p>Thank you for your response. The health and wellbeing of students is of primary importance. Unfortunately SSAF is a small and uncertain funding pool in the ANU, and as such it is PARSA's position that substantial investment to improve these services needs to be made by the ANU, rather than through SSAF.</p> <p>The SSAF funding allocated to administration supports paying for PARSA's staff who are crucial to the work we do in support our advocacy and student representatives, delivering a variety of events and programmes, and delivering front line service support such as free and confidential legal advice and student assistance.</p> <p>From ANUSA</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback. We support SSAF going to clubs whose students are members because we believe they are an enriching aspect of student life, and create valuable communities that become a hub of support for students throughout their degree.</p> <p>A large amount of our SSAF bid does speak to the need for promoting health and welfare of students, as well as ANUSA's student representatives advocating for structural changes within the university that promote these values – rather than</p>

		using student money to put sticky tape over problems that require deeper research and attention, and long-term sustainable solutions.
34	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I was very disappointed to hear that anu will not allow the parsa unwind event to continue. As a new post graduate student at anu these events have been critical to allow me to make new uni friends in a new city where I knew no one. Being a student and not having a job the cheap drinks and food rendered this event one of the few I could afford to attend. There are many like me who would be very upset with discontinuation of this event. I would beg you to reconsider!</p>	See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.
35	<p>Hi Richard,</p> <p>I'm curious about the decision to not allow PARSAs to subsidise alcohol. I really enjoy the PARSAs Unwind events as a valuable opportunity to socialise and connect with other research students and they will be very much missed. Could you explain the reasoning to me?</p>	See comments above (21) concerning the decision not to cross-subsidise alcohol.
36	<p>Dear Pro-Vice Chancellor Richard Baker,</p> <p>[...] I'm writing to you in regards to the SSAF Bid Allocation for 2018. In particular I would like to express how pleased I am that funds have been allocated to Griffin Hall Members Association and the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator.</p> <p>[...] Throughout this year I have received feedback from ANU staff and students and even the wider Canberra community about how well Griffin Hall is increasing student engagement and participation with campus life at the ANU. I believe we cannot continue supporting our members to succeed in these ways without a full-time staff member in the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator position. Griffin Hall has had a hugely successful year in 2017; we won the Interhall Arts Shield, we won Division 1 of Inward Bound, and we have had record membership numbers and engagement levels throughout our community. Griffin Hall wants to continue giving non-residential students the opportunity to be part of campus life, to feel included in the ANU community and feel they belong to something larger than themselves. We can't do this without the support of the university and the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator, so I implore</p>	The support for Griffin Hall has been noted.

	<p>you to continue funding the Non-Residential Hall Coordinator through the SSAF funding allocation.</p>	
37	<p>Dear PVC, The University has asked for comments on the proposed budget for the forthcoming SSAF budget.</p> <p>It seems to me that this change on the part of government, allows for a reintroduction of support for ANUSA and/or PARSA for the important employment, citizenship and futures training provided by political associations (Labor, Liberal, Greens).</p> <p>It is over 20 years since the very national politicians who benefited so much from the existence of political associations where they trained for their future careers. Such associations are also a training ground for developing debating skills, organisational skills, media skills, analytical skills and public/community involvement.</p> <p>Given that as of last week it was estimated that 40% of “young people” did not participate in the marriage equality postal vote, a plan to revive the valuable employment and public training ground posed by political associations can only benefit our student population and Australia more generally.</p> <p>I hope you will consider this comment in future plans for the SSAF.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>