

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2020



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President's Overview

"Covid-19 significantly disrupted the way that we learned, studied, worked and lived. Yet, with the challenges that Covid-19 presented also came opportunities, learnings and memories that we will always have."

Kia ora koutou,

It is our very great pleasure to present AUSA's Annual Report for 2020, covering AUSA's key accomplishments for students in the areas of Student Voice, Student Experience and Student Support. Traditionally, this section of our Annual Report is written individually. However, we're saying "we" in this section not only because everything everyone does at AUSA is a collective effort, but because we both shared the role of President for different parts of the year. While that role is an individual one, we thought it was only right that you heard from both of us!

While 2020 was a difficult year that many of us will not miss, it was a year of hard work, difficult changes and strong service delivery for AUSA. Covid-19 significantly disrupted the way that we learned, studied, worked and lived. Yet, with the challenges that Covid-19 presented also came opportunities, learnings and memories that we will always have.

A Strong Student Voice

One of the biggest achievements of AUSA in the Student Voice area was the hard fought for "Grade Bump" for Semester One 2020: a one-grade automatic adjustment in recognition of the hardship on all students due to Covid-19. The "Grade Bump" was the result of strong and tenacious advocacy from the AUSA Student Council and AUSA Executive and good faith negotiations with the University. The "Bump", which then triggered similar initiatives across other Universities, demonstrates the potential that a strong and truly representative student voice, and good faith collaboration with the University can achieve.

2020 also saw the introduction of a new Vice-Chancellor and the preparation and adoption of a new Strategic Plan. AUSA worked with the University to collate the feedback of students from across the University on the Strategic Plan, ensuring that all Faculty, School and Representative Associations and students had their say on this important plan. Our collective submission to the University for their Strategic Plan was clear: we need a University that honours Te Tiriti, that is environmentally sustainable, that is respectful and supportive of a strong student voice, that is properly equitable and that is capable of delivering high quality teaching, learning and research.

Meaningful Student Support

2020 saw a dramatic increase in the number of students applying for AUSA's Hardship Grants and seeking our Advocacy Services due to the impacts of Covid-19. Thanks to the leadership of our Welfare Vice-President, Anamika Harirajh and the capable administration of our Accountant, Sharon Zhang, AUSA was able to support 300 students in 2020, with over \$96,719 in total funding

that year. More than it has ever supported before. While our Advocacy Service is always busy, Covid-19 added another layer of complexity which only our Advocacy Manager, the wonderful Careen Jack, and her fantastic team, could have gotten us through. Advocacy serviced 875 cases, addressed significant issues of non-academic and academic misconduct and provided invaluable advice and support to the AUSA Executive and Student Council to inform their representations to the University. Advocacy also managed the transition from its offices across the road into AUSA House, and the creation of the Student Support Hub. While still new, this transformed service puts Advocacy in a more visible and accessible position for students and enables AUSA to serve students more holistically and centrally. Again, massive thanks must go to Careen and her team for facilitating that transition.

In addition to this, 2020 also saw the creation of the Queer Student Council, thanks to the hard mahi of our Queer Rights Officer, Victoria Hawthorne. This new forum brings representatives of LGBTQITakatapui+ students from across the University together, and furthers AUSA's mission of being truly representative. Finally, 2020 also saw AUSA able to secure funding for the provision of free sanitary products for students out of the Student Support Hub and in University Halls of Residence, thanks to the leadership of our Welfare Vice-President, Anamika Harirajh.

Amazing Student Experiences

Despite Covid-19, AUSA was still able to deliver all three of its major events and a successful O-Week, the first in years to be based back on campus. Thanks to the visionary and innovative work of our Events and Marketing Manager, Aaron Haugh, Party in the Park transformed into Party in the Spark, AUSA's biggest orientation concert yet, featuring Drax Project and Peking Duk. Similarly, AUSA was able to deliver Re O Week prior to the Second Level 3 Lockdown, and Class of 2020, both in Level 1 conditions. We would like to acknowledge Aaron, Nick Withers (our fantastic Design Manager), Amy Laing (our Events Co-ordinator) and of course our Engagement Vice-President, Emily McDonald, for the fantastic work they all did in delivering these events.

The AUSA Buddies Programme continued to support our International Student community, many of whom were significantly affected due to the border closure caused by Covid-19. We would like to acknowledge Temitope Adelekan and his team for the work they did in supporting our Buddies Programme, and the international student community at large. Finally, despite Covid-19, AUSA was still able to deliver a suite of events aimed at engaging students to vote and participate in the General Elections - hosting events with NTM, the Public Policy Club and the University to make students informed of the elections in Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland Central and broadly across the country. Emily McDonald, our Engagement VP, was instrumental to co-ordinating all of this, and we would like to thank her and the wider team for this hard mahi.

General Manager's Overview

It was my pleasure and privilege to join AUSA as it's new General Manager in July 2020. Upon joining the organisation I quickly realised that the Staff and Exec had worked together to overcome numerous challenges in the prior six months and built an organisation that was stronger and more effective than ever.

Despite its many challenges, 2020 turned out to be a huge year for AUSA in terms of its achievements. We had record engagement with our Elections, huge wins for students (including the Grade Bump during the first lockdown) and a higher level of student voice, engagement and support than ever before.

As we head into 2021 we feel AUSA is in the strongest position it has been in years to achieve its mission; namely, to serve you, the students, and improve life at the University of Auckland for you. Our staff are talented, driven professionals who work hard every day to deliver fantastic events and experiences, and strong support for when life gets tough. At the same time, our Exec work tirelessly to make sure your voice is heard at every level of decision-making at the University.

This new forum brings representatives of LGBTQITakatapui+ students from across the University together, and furthers AUSA's mission of being truly representative.

Strong Operations, Democracy and Finances

2020 was a very difficult year for AUSA operationally and difficult decisions had to be made, even prior to Covid-19 and despite the small improvements on AUSA's financial situation since 2018.

The difficult decision was taken to restructure a number of AUSA's personnel in Semester One of 2020, following consultation with staff. This was done to address the lack of overarching general management of the organisation (unlike other organisations, AUSA has not had a general manager or similar type role in a number of years) and to address significant forecast decreases in funding from Shadows and UBIQ in 2020, and beyond, while maintaining capacity in the areas of Student Voice, Student Support and Student Experience. Sadly, this resulted in the disestablishment of administrative and custodial positions which saw AUSA farewell a number of long-serving staff. We thank them for their service and wish them all the best.

Positively, however, the change process established a new role of General Manager and the creation of the Student Support Hub. This new role of General Manager has been filled by Will Watterson, who joined us in July, and who previously led the AUT Students' Association, and who has already helped to deliver massive results for our organisation. In addition to these changes, AUSA was able to see through Shadows' relocation, now sitting proudly beside AUSA House. Perhaps most positively of all though, AUSA was able to secure the largest contested election in recent memory, with over 70 candidates contesting all roles but one, and 12.8% of the student body voting. This is a sign that the long-term changes that AUSA has made to Student Voice and Student Governance are paying off.

Conclusion

While 2020 will not be a year that any of us will necessarily miss, it will be a year looked back upon for the way in which we grew, changed, learned and persevered. Covid demonstrated the importance of a representative AUSA, which the Student Council and our elections turnout gives us. It also demonstrated the importance of a supportive and engaging AUSA, which our welfare, advocacy, events and buddies services all work to deliver. We hope that as the University works on its new Strategic Plan, and sees the great mahi which next year's team is sure to deliver, that the University properly realises this.

We both would like to thank our incredible Officers, Executive, Staff and Advisory Board, those within the University that we had the pleasure of working with closely and our partners and family who supported us. It has been a privilege - thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve. To our wonderful staff and to the Executive for 2021: best wishes for another great year ahead.

Nga mihi nui,

Emma Rogers and George Barton

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THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

1080

CLASS REPS IN SEMESTER TWO



20380

MEMBERS

1215

CLASS REPS IN SEMESTER ONE

2560 PIZZA SLICES
GIVEN OUT AT CLASS REP
TRAINING SESSIONS



2355

CLASS REPS FOR 2020

TWELVE QUIZZES



4435

TICKETS SOLD FOR
PARTY IN THE SPARK

637

BUDDIES
SUPPORTING

4230

STUDENTS GIVING E-VOICE DIARY FEEDBACK

1338

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

875

ADVOCACY
CASES & ENQUIRIES

FIVE
BINGOS

AVERAGE OF
1.5 EVENTS
PER WEEK ACROSS
SEMESTERS ONE AND TWO



7000

0 WEEK BAGS
GIVEN OUT

\$96000+

IN HARDSHIP GRANTS
DISTRIBUTED

Student Voice.

In 2020, AUSA's focus on Student Voice centred on accommodations for students in light of Covid-19, serious and meaningful student consultation on the University's Strategic Plan, Advocacy for International Students and getting students engaged and participating in the General Election and AUSA Elections for 2021.

A strong Student Voice is core to what we do at AUSA. Covid-19 and the serious disruptions and impacts to studying, researching, working and living as a student demonstrated the importance of a united, cohesive student voice to advocate for students.

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Action for Students

GRADE BUMP FOR SEMESTER ONE

For the majority of Semester One of 2020, the country was placed into Level 4 and Level 3 Lockdowns. As a result, the campus closed and classes, tutorials and assessments were shifted online. Many students struggled with this, and Covid-19 exacerbated the social inequities and mental health struggles that many students face while studying.

Recognising this and seeing the need for bold action to help students, we went out with a bold gesture - a call to the University to temporarily change its GPA system, so that any grades scored lower than a student's current GPA would not be negatively included in their overall GPA scheme. The proposal was endorsed unanimously by the AUSA Student Council and put to social media in the form of an open letter. The response was one of the best AUSA has ever seen - within hours, the call to action was shared by hundreds and had reached well over 20,000 students.

Building on this momentum, AUSA was able to go into the first Student Consultative Group meeting with our new Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and other senior University officials with a bold policy proposal. The result was a series of good faith meetings and discussions, led by AUSA President George Barton and Education Vice-President, Emma Rogers, with the University which culminated in the final solution - a universal one-step grade bump for all students at the University, in recognition of the hardship of the semester.

This fantastic result for students demonstrates the power that an organised, cohesive and united student voice can have, and the results that can be achieved with good faith negotiations with the University. All thanks has to go to the Student Council leaders, AUSA Executive and all students who shared, liked and helped generate momentum for us for this collective win.

CALL FOR ONLINE EXAMS IN SEMESTER TWO

Seeing the importance of certainty in study and preparations for exams, AUSA, through its Student Council, led the call for the University to put the majority of exams (with the exception of those exams that would not have suited that format, such as for students in the Faculty of

Creative Arts and Industries) online for Semester Two. This call was made in recognition of the uncertainty of Covid Alert Levels and the need for students to have confidence and certainty as to how they would be examined.

Utilising the power of the collective student voice that was harnessed in Semester One, we launched an open letter and email campaign for students to vocalise their support for online examinations and the need for the University to put certainty at the heart of its decision-making. Regrettably, while this generated considerable momentum, it didn't result in the needed change. This meant that students were put in the acceptable position of having to transition to online exams in timeframes as short as 24 hours.

Despite numerous attempted requests, the University declined AUSA's offer to sit on its Covid-19 Strategic Response Team, the decision-making body responsible for calls on issues such as exams. However, with the continuation of the Student Council which is growing from strength to strength, and continued strong election turnout, it will become harder for the University to resist AUSA involvement in such important decision-making bodies in the future.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STRATEGIC PLAN

2020 not only introduced a new Vice-Chancellor to the University of Auckland, but a new Strategic Plan as well. The Strategic Plan sets out the strategy and aims of the University for the next 10 years and is the overarching plan to which all University actions and initiatives are connected. AUSA was involved in every stage of the Strategic Plan that we possibly could be, from participation in the initial discussion papers to final comment on the draft plan. Our priority was to ensure maximum student participation in consultation, and to ensure the University heard our clean, unequivocal message for what the University's future strategies should be.

AUSA was part of two Strategic Plan Working Groups - one on Education and Student Experience, another on University Operations and Environmental and Finance Sustainability. George Barton sat on both Working Groups, with Emma Rogers sitting on the Education and Student Experience Working Group. In total, the University put together five dense, and rather complicated discussion papers for students to engage with, making for some heavy reading. Our priority was to contextualise this, and make engagement with the process more accessible and equitable. This resulted in the creation of our comprehensive "[Strat Plan 101](#)" page being created to explain each of these discussion papers and the importance and function of the Strategic Plan in a student friendly way. We also offered the opportunity to submit their ideas and opinions. We created an [online survey](#) asking the grand question of "What should the University's top priorities be over the next five years?" and more informal streams of student feedback, which were collated on the Padlet Wall "[Stick it to the University](#)" which

functioned as an online post-it note wall.

The result of this feedback was a strong and coherent message from students to the University: we need a University that honours Te Tiriti, that is environmentally sustainable, that is respectful and supportive of a strong student voice, that is properly equitable and that is capable of delivering high quality teaching, learning and research.

STRENGTHENING THE STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is AUSA's primary representative body, consisting of all members of the Executive and the Presidents or designated Nominees of the University's Faculty, School and Representative Associations. Created in 2019 through the Constitutional Reforms enacted early that year, the focus for the Student Council in 2020 was to expand its membership, to formalise Memoranda of Understanding with all Association Members and to situate the Student Council as the peak student representative body of the University.

... we need a University that honours Te Tiriti, that is environmentally sustainable, that is respectful and supportive of a strong student voice, that is properly equitable and that is capable of delivering high quality teaching, learning and research.

Thanks to the hard work of Education Vice-President, Emma Rogers, AUSA hosted its first Student Council Training Weekend. This saw AUSA provide training to AUSA's Student Council members, ranging from inspirational leadership talks to the nuts and bolts of University administration and Committee management. The training was integral to the strength and cooperation of the Student Council this year, which met regularly to discuss Covid-19, the University Strategic Plan and much more. 2020 was also able to see through the execution of all Memoranda of Understanding with current Student Council members, formalising that relationship between our members and AUSA in writing.

The impact of the Student Council was seen in AUSA's Executive Election turnout, the comprehensive student engagement with the University's Strategic Plan and the Grade Bump in Semester One. In 2020, the University started to realise that the Student Council was the peak student representative body. It is our hope that as the Student Council grows and strengthens, that the University continues to realise this.

CREATING A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT OFFICER

2020 saw the creation of the Postgraduate Student Officer role on the AUSA Executive, which the membership adopted in the Special General Meeting in August 2020. The creation of this role furthers AUSA's mission of being truly representative, providing the Executive with an increased and enhanced capacity to focus on the wellbeing and academic concerns of postgraduate students. This role will also help strengthen the relationship between AUSA and the PGSA, and ensure continuous student representation on postgraduate decision-making bodies in the University.

ENGAGEMENT IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR 2020

A major priority for AUSA in 2020 was ensuring that students were as engaged as possible in the General Elections and aware of the choices that they had before them in their electorate and party vote elections. Thanks to the leadership of our Engagement Vice-President, Emily McDonald, AUSA delivered a series of events and initiatives aimed at engaging students to vote in the General Elections and on the Referenda in 2020.

The events included a Tamaki Makaurau Electorate Debate in collaboration with Nga Tauira Maori, an Auckland Central Debate, in collaboration with the Public Policy Club, a Cannabis Legalisation Debate, several enrolment drive initiatives and collaborating with the University of Auckland and TVNZ to deliver the TVNZ Youth Compass Debate, hosted by Jack Tame.

ENGAGEMENT IN THE AUSA ELECTIONS FOR 2021

AUSA Elections Turnout since 2012 has typically averaged between 1-2% of the total student body, which involved minimally contested elections. However, thanks to serious

AUSA was able to quickly form an International Students Community of Interest, and advocate for changes to the timing of International Fees Payments, to alleviate the cash flow issues affecting students.

efforts to advertise the elections and building off the momentum of the Student Council and AUSA's wins with the Grade Bump, AUSA secured the most contested and most participated election in decades with over 70 students contesting roles and more than 4800 students voting in total.

Thanks to the leadership of our new General Manager, Will Watterson, AUSA put a key focus on election engagement and turnout and the results were incredible. In contrast to AUSA's election turnout, the Student Representative on the University Council's elections (which were run in a similar timeframe) secured only 25% of the total number of students voting in the AUSA elections. This fantastic result demonstrates the position that AUSA occupies for students, and puts serious doubt on why our University, in contrast to Canterbury, Otago, Lincoln and AUT, has a separate Student Representative on the University Council, and not the AUSA President.

ADVOCACY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Thanks to the hard work of International Students' Officer, Afiqah Ramizi, AUSA was able to advocate for international students, to share the unique hardships that they have faced due to Covid-19. While Afiqah was only in the position of ISO for brief period, under her leadership AUSA was able to quickly form an International Students Community of Interest, and advocate for changes to the timing of International Fees Payments, to alleviate the cash flow issues affecting students.

CREATION OF THE QUEER STUDENT COUNCIL

Furthering AUSA's mission of being truly representative, and thanks to the hard mahi and leadership of Queer Rights Officer Victoria Hawthorne, the Queer Student Council was also created, bringing together the voices of LGBTQITakatapui+ student groups from across the University to advocate for rainbow issues and building and facilitate the queer student community. This important group will be particularly impactful as the University progresses changes to the Equity Office, which currently holds the portfolio for LGBTQITakatapui+ Student Care and Wellbeing.

Class Representative Services

We administer the University Class Representative System, providing training, support and advice to over roughly 3200 students across the University. Class Representatives are a critical connection between students and the University and the voice of students in a course or cohort. They are expected to communicate with the lecturer/course coordinator to inform them how students are finding the course and express the views of their students at Staff Student Consultative Committee Meetings, either at a School, Departmental or Faculty level.

In the second semester of 2019, AUSA conceived the e-Voice Diary project to better improve the class representative system. The project was launched officially in 2020 first semester. The diary is an online survey registered Class Representatives fill out three times in a semester (week four, eight, and twelve) to share feedback as their course progresses. That way, AUSA could directly pinpoint issues across programmes and Faculties and support reps during a particular time of the semester. In 2020, this became even more important with the challenges faced by COVID-19 with on-campus learning. Through the e-Voice diaries, we received 4230 feedback in 2020 from class reps, including comments on the online learning environment and general feedback on how their academic lives are progressing during the pandemic.

This has helped inform our executive in understanding what issues students are facing on a granular level. Through these comments and feedback, our Student Voice Interns

are able to pull out themes or issues that affect a wide range of students. This year we wanted to publish these reports, based on this data, for sharing. We now host these reports on our [website](#) and share these important data sets to the Student Executive and the broader report to key stakeholders within the University. Also, this meant that valuable data, feedback, and comments from class reps are being directly actioned, used to influence the work of the executive, particularly the Education Vice President (EVP), while also supporting policy positions and proposals that AUSA puts forward to the University. In addition, this has also developed into a vital route for students to feedback to AUSA, and AUSA is able to respond with support or further help if required.

Towards the end of semester one, 2020, the need to develop interactive digital training for class reps was evident due to the difficulties experienced when the country went into lockdown. Though, we pivoted successfully using Zoom to deliver the compulsory training. While that is an option we can always resort to, we thought it would be more beneficial to have a module on canvas - the university learning management system. With the help of the University, we commenced work, and the first-time class rep module was launched and trialled during summer school, 2021.

As a form of thank you to our amazing reps for contributing tirelessly to student voice in their respective Faculties, all eligible class reps are rewarded with a certificate of achievement (hardcopy) at the end of the semester. However, in alignment with the broader University of Auckland sustainability goal, all AUSA class reps certificates are now digital, and in semester one, no paper certificates were issued to reps.

Rounding off this section, as our Class Representatives know only too well, all thanks has to go to our charismatic and hardworking Class Representatives Manager, Temitope Adelekan and our new and hardworking Student Voice interns (Hao Chen Li (returning), Maryam Madawi, Zane Chaudhry, Hannah Dale Alatan, and Callum Sao). In addition, a big thank you to Heather and Nissa (Academic Quality Office), academics and professional staff across the University for their commitment and continued support.

Class Reps by Department	Semester Two 2020	Semester One 2020	Summer School 2020
Business School	259	237	23
Faculty of Arts	304	341	19
Faculty of Creative Arts & Industries	50	110	5
Faculty of Education	57	49	0
Faculty of Engineering	2	16	1
Faculty of Law	41	53	3
Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences	64	95	1
Faculty of Science	305	314	8
Total	1082	1215	60

Committee and Working Group Representation

In 2020 AUSA represented students on the following University Committees and Working Groups.

COMMITTEE/ WORKING GROUP // DESCRIPTION	REPRESENTATIVE(S)
Senate // The principal body that considers all academic decision-making at the University	George Barton Emma Rogers Emily McDonald Anamika Harirajh Victoria Hawthorne Afiqah Ramizi (from September 2020)
Discipline Committee // The decision-making body for all student discipline decisions (such as suspension, expulsion, course failure and fining)	George Barton Emma Rogers Emily McDonald Anamika Harirajh Victoria Hawthorne
Education Committee // The Committee that reviews Department and School performance and new University policies	Emma Rogers
Teaching and Learning Quality Committee // The Committee that oversees teaching and learning quality at the University and policies aimed at supporting and improving teaching and learning quality (lecture-recordings came out of this committee, for example)	Emma Rogers
Library and Learning Services Committee // The Committee that oversees the University's Libraries	Emma Rogers
Academic Programmes Committee // The Committee that oversees the creation, deletion and amendment of academic programmes (ie, degrees and other qualifications).	Emma Rogers
Equity Leadership Committee // The Committee that oversees the implementation of equity strategy, plans and projects within the University	Anamika Harirajh George Barton
Equity Community of Interest Committee // The Committee that responds to the Equity Leadership Committee outcomes with an equity perspective. This committee ensures progress in opportunities and collaboration across the university on related projects.	George Barton Anamika Harirajh
Rūnanga // The Committee that advising Council on Māori partnership opportunities and academic matters from a Māori perspective.	Kerira Tapene Whiti Harris
Student Consultative Group // The student advisory group to the Vice-Chancellor, recommending student views on things such as the Compulsory Student Services Fee	George Barton Emily McDonald Emma Rogers Anamika Harirajh Kerira Tapene Whiti Harris Afiqah Ramizi (from September 2020)
Business Recovery Group // Streams of teams working to address the universities recovery from Covid.	Emma Rogers (Engaging Students Working group)
Strategic Plan Position Paper Working Groups // The working groups that authored the initial discussion papers to develop the draft Strategic Plan	George Barton (Sustainable University and Education) Emma Rogers (Education)
Clubs Support Committee // Committee that oversees Club Grants and Club Awards	Emily McDonald George Barton
Academic Audit Steering Group	George Barton

Unfortunately, due to a change in the Education Act 1989, the University removed the President of AUSA as the de-facto Student Representative on Council (and therefore, Finance Committee) with a directly elected student representative. Notably, the Universities of Otago and Canterbury decided not to make this change following the amendment to the legislation and have kept their Student Association Presidents on as representatives.

In 2020, we have ensured that the Student Representative on Council sits on the AUSA Student Council, so that they can be informed of student views and connected to student representatives.

Craccum Magazine

Craccum is a 40-page weekly publication funded by the Auckland University Students' Association. Founded in 1927 by the Auckland University College Men's Common Room Committee, the magazine voices the thoughts and opinions of students, and reports on events and news on campus, covering all manners of topics and issues, including news, politics, and arts and culture.

Craccum is distributed weekly on the University of Auckland City campus, including Grafton and Epsom campus. You can pick up a copy for free at any of the distribution boxes dotted around campus, retailers and Halls of Residence. *Craccum* is also available online via www.craccum.co.nz.

As a student-run magazine, *Craccum* welcomes the written and visual works of any student at the University of Auckland and acts as a training ground for aspiring student journalists. In 2020, *Craccum* predominantly shifted to a solely online format in light of campus closures due to COVID-19. *Craccum* is able to operate remotely and provides a connection to campus where students are disrupted by COVID-10 Alert Level measures. *Craccum* broke many COVID-10 related stories, including one on the University secretly tracking students on social media.

Due to the lockdowns, ten issues of *Craccum* were printed as physical editions, and 15 were delivered as online PDFs. One of the physical editions, "Best of 2020", was printed at the end of the year as a celebration of the articles and artwork that did not make the print issues.

At the 2020 Aotearoa Student Press Awards, *Craccum* was awarded Best Reviewer, Best Photographer, Best Headline, Best Sports Reporter, Best Student Politics Coverage and came third in Best Student Publication.

Craccum is always welcoming new writers and artists and their level of commitment can be as often as suits the contributor. Students interested in having their work published in Craccum should get in touch with the editors at editor@craccum.co.nz.



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Student Support.

In 2020, AUSA Student Support was just as busy as ever and we added a new offering to our mission to provide meaningful student support to students.

We pride ourselves on the support that we're able to give students, whether that's in the form of advice and support given through our Advocacy Service, or through material support through our Welfare Grants and Foodbank. In 2020, AUSA Student Support was just as busy as ever and we added a new offering to our mission to provide meaningful student support to students.

Period Poverty Project

In early 2020, AUSA received an email from University of Auckland students requesting AUSA to address the Period Poverty crisis that University students are facing. We decided to look into the issue of period poverty and discovered some disturbing statistics:

- 1 in 5 women prioritise buying groceries over pads for the month
- 1 in 2 women have had to miss work because they were not able to access sanitary products
- Pads cost between \$4 - \$9 for a pack of 10 - 15 (depending on the brands and how many are in a pack) and a box of tampons range from between \$4 - \$6 (also depending on the brand) both of which are taxed GST despite being an essential good.

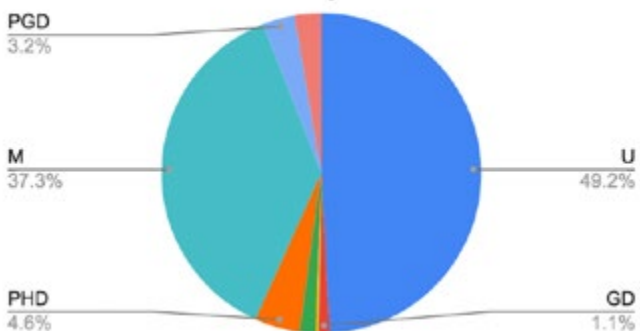
We believe that having sanitary products to use every month should be a necessity, not a luxury. Therefore AUSA worked hard to secure \$25,000.00 in funding to provide sanitary products to students in need living in University Accommodation and our Student Support Hub, utilising funds from an alumni grants trust. We had a phenomenal response, with students gratefully making use of the products every day, especially in the accommodation halls. One of our accommodation managers mentioned "The products worked really well and needed to be restocked often, we would appreciate having them again next year!". As a result of this huge win for students, a Period Poverty working group has been set up. The working group consists of members of the AUSA Executive, AUSA Advocacy, Campus Life's Wellbeing team, as well as the leaders of various clubs on campus who are focused on addressing Period Poverty.

Hardship Grants

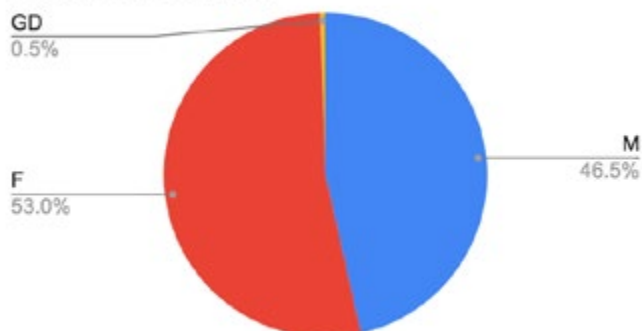
2020 saw a dramatic increase in the number of students applying for AUSA's Hardship Grants and seeking our Advocacy Services due to the impacts of Covid-19. Thanks to the leadership of our Welfare Vice-President, Anamika Harirajh and the capable administration of our Accountant, Sharon Zhang, AUSA was able to support 300 students in 2020, with over \$96,719 in total funding that year. More than it has ever supported before.

COVID-19 had an immense impact on the number of students who had applied for Hardship grants in 2020.

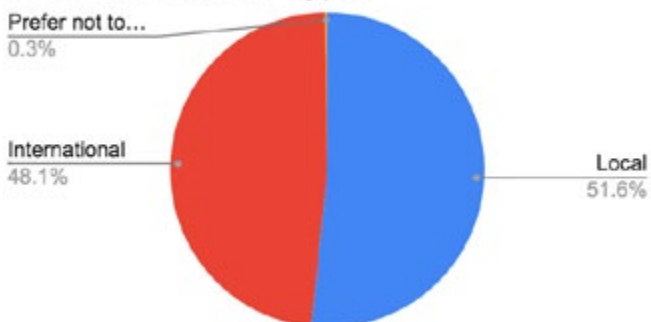
Count of Level of Study



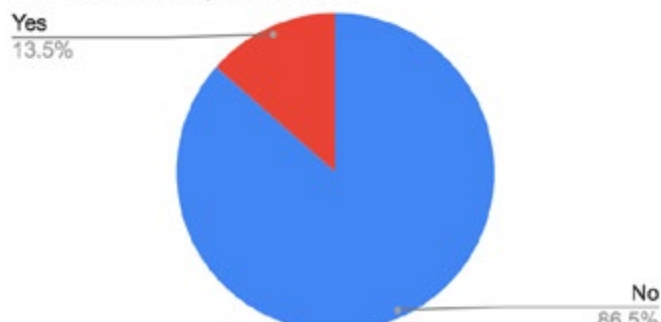
Count of Gender



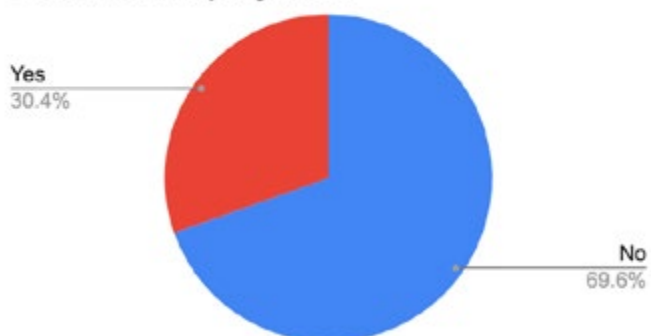
Count of Student Type



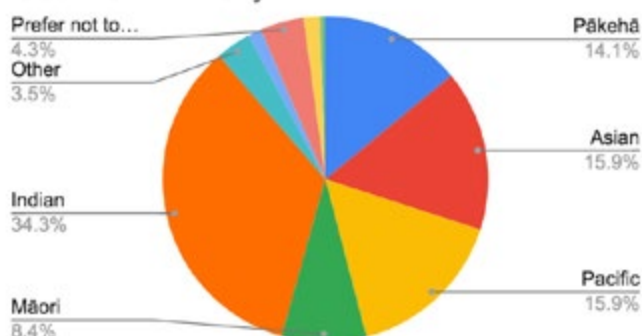
Count of Dependents



Count of Employment



Count of Ethnicity



Due to the decrease in employment opportunities and a number of students losing their part-time and casual jobs, AUSA received 370 hardship applications in total. As per the pie charts above; we received a large number of applications from students who identified as being Asian, Pacifica and Pakeha. Almost half of the applicants were undergraduates, and there were just over half who identified as female. Almost half of the applicants were International students, which was a significant increase in comparison to previous years. This was due to the fact that many International Students were not able to return to their home countries over the summer and during holiday breaks. As we know, unemployment rates and a significant rise in Covid cases has had an immense impact on those living overseas; numerous International Students noted how the situation in their home countries were directly impacting their financial positions as many of them relied on their parents and caregivers to support them while they are studying.

AUSA Advocacy

Our Advocacy team dealt with 536 cases and 339 enquiries in 2020, for a total caseload of 875 students.

2020 started with great promise with 50% of students who used Advocacy coming from a referral, showing the service was known to students and staff alike. The split of students using the service was fairly equal regarding student type (local: 57.1%, international 42.9%).

Three Senior Advocates were appointed and the Advocacy Volunteer programme started with 16 students signing up. Training for all staff happened in February and Old Choral Hall was the base for the Service.

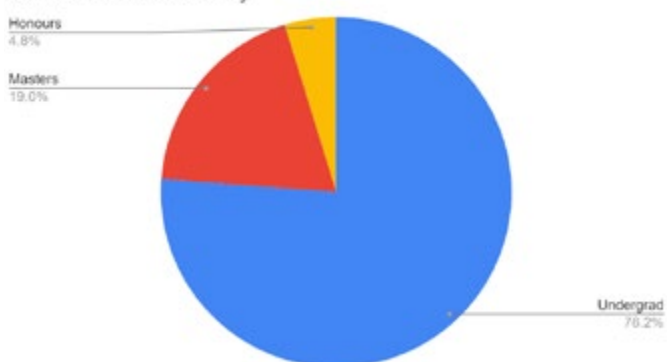
Covid 19 saw the closure of the University in March and due to all work being done from home during lockdown, the volunteer programme was suspended due to the nature of our service. The remaining team continued to

provide a service using emails and zoom meetings to help provide the students with support when needed.

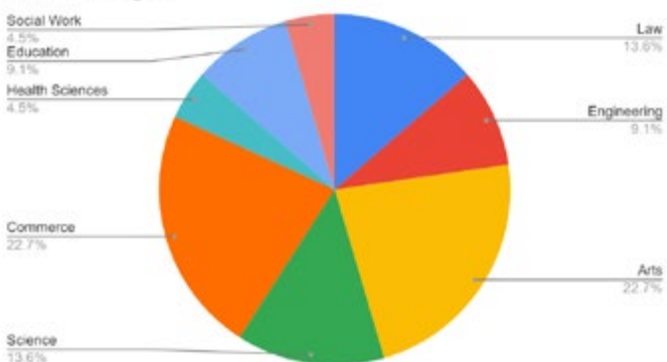
During the lockdown many students, mainly undergraduates, contacted us concerned about the changes being made to their coursework and barriers surrounding their ability to effectively study at home. A main barrier that we saw constantly during lockdown was the lack of access to necessary resources needed to study at home. Financial questions in relation to the wage subsidy and assistance in general for students who do not have access to student allowance were also heavily featured in our cases.

Under level 3 and the subsequent restructure of AUSA Staff the Advocacy Service moved over to AUSA House and was instrumental in developing the Student Support Hub. The reception now operating as a one stop shop for all student enquires and a triage service for Advocacy cases.

Count of Level of Study



Count of Degree



CASES IN SEMESTER 1

Misconduct during Semester 1 on-line exams was at an all-time high, seeing students taking risks not normally seen, this could be attributed to the on-line environment.

In Semester 2 a move back to the office happened gradually through lockdown levels. The volunteer programme was changed to casual part time paid positions. The team adjusted well to operating under an environment that needed to provide social distancing to keep both staff and student safe.

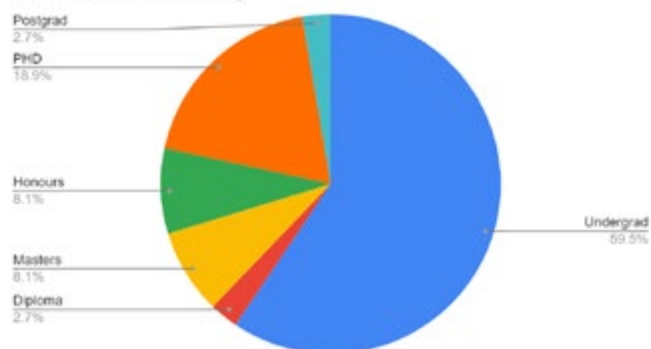
Although the casual advocates struggled at times to provide actual advocacy, feedback suggested that the experience showed them that the service provided much

more than just advocacy, rather a holistic wrap around support that always put the students' needs first.

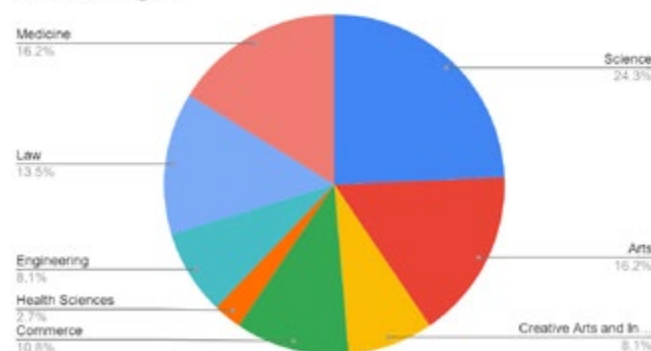
During further lockdown periods Advocacy has continued to support students through the University's confusing announcements and the ongoing barriers and inequities occurring, specifically relating to the online delivery of lectures, assignments and examinations. Noted in monthly reports was an increase in students who were seeking support due to their learning experience offshore.

Advocacy continued to see mainly undergraduate students in Semester 2. However, the split between undergraduate students and postgraduate students has closed to an even 1:4 split. Advocacy continued to see a large number of international postgraduate students, whose barriers are more complex than that of local students.

Count of Level of Study



Count of Degree



CASES IN SEMESTER 2

Advocacy worked closely with Campus Care, ELS, Proctors Office and DC Committee, Community of Practice (COP), Student Advocate Network (SAN) during 2020, predominately through supporting students in meetings and through working groups that Advocacy was asked to join. This included supporting the Period Poverty Campaign which distributed sanitary products to all Halls of Residence. Supplies were also sent to FMHS and Epsom Campus.

The food parcel pantry was stoked with supplies and a process for recording the data was established. The need for these parcels increased as the year progressed, students lost their casual jobs and during lockdown faced many barriers to being able to support themselves. Information regarding extra support available to them was made available over all of our social channels.

The Advocacy Service was fortunate enough to have Chris Mc Cormick a Master Social Work Student on placement with us for 50 days and he was able to share his knowledge and provide some great feedback about the service in such a way that we were able to implement some of his suggestions, including letters for the foodbank and providing an awareness about our recycling processes. Chris is a bright, engaging and charismatic young man who, given all the barriers he faces to his health, can still spin a positive outcome to life everyday.

Buddies Programme

The AUSA Buddies Programme is a peer-to-peer mentoring programme for International Students. Buddies go to events with their International Student peers, and support them throughout the year to get to know the University and Auckland. AUSA's International Buddies Co-ordinator runs this programme, training Buddies to be good mentors and pastoral support people for the international students that they will guide and represent and putting on events and activities to bring Buddies and International Students together. This programme was started in 2017 by then International Student Officer Yi Xin Heng, and has continued ever since!

AUSA welcomed 205 new international students from 28 countries to our buddy programme in semester one with 70 dedicated volunteers. Here's some key facts about the program:

- We kick-started the semester one University of Auckland international students orientation at OGGB with over 1000 attendees
- We helped 177 students transition into their new environment with our celebrated events such as amazing race, city walks, weekend tramping trip, movie night, quiz night, fast food networking, capture the flag etc.
- In collaboration with Uniguides we delivered eight joint weekly events from week one to week four.
- We provided 115 examination goodies bags to international students in the year 2020 to reduce any form of examination-related stress or hardship.
- We provided an all-expense paid Rangitoto tramping opportunity to 90 international students in semester one and two.
- Thirty AUSA buddies were able to take part in Virtual Internships organised by CDES and Talent solutions in semester one.

Year	Buddy Volunteers	International Students
2018	265	585
2019	445	1224
2020	637	1338

Student Experience.

Events, Events, Events

PARTY IN THE SPARK

When you outgrow Albert Park, there really is only one place you can go and for 2020 we did just that. We uplifted the concert and took it down the hill to Spark Arena and created "PARTY IN THE SPARK".

By doing this it allowed us to increase the capacity of the event by inviting other tertiary students to attend as well as the public, ensuring the event was safer but also delivering a first class experience that our ticket holders deserved.

They experienced a full scale production and perhaps one of our most diverse line ups yet. Australian heavy hitters Peking Duk closed the show but not before New Zealand's own Drax Project got the crowd singing in unison. We were lucky enough to have our Mix Off winner and UOA student Kirsty Sunderland open the show before the Katayanagi Twins and Mako Road took to the stage.

100 lucky ticket holders were also treated to a private pre party in the "S" lounge thanks to JBL and Jupiter Project.

While this was a bold and tenacious move, it was one that paid off, with AUSA selling 4435 tickets, and providing a great welcome to Semester One of 2020. Of course, this could not have been done without the vision and leadership of Aaron Haugh, our Events and Marketing Manager.

ORIENTATION

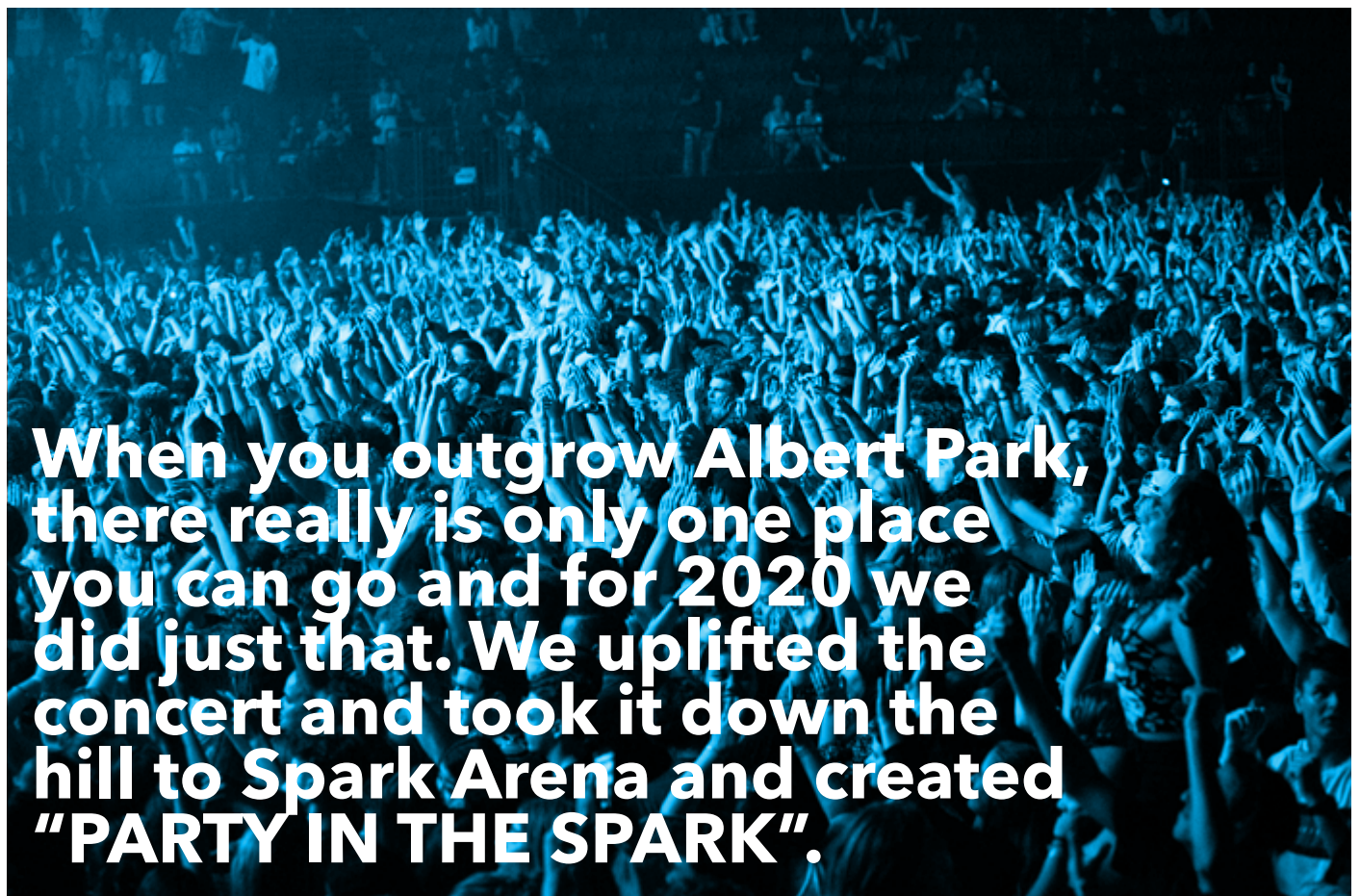
Orientation 2020 saw us return the festival back to campus for the first time in over 5 years.

First year students were greeted to a Faculty Welcome during their Orientation featuring a free arcade, live music and giveaways to finish their Faculty sessions.

The first week of lectures saw the Quad transformed into a mini amphitheatre to host a series of events from the Talent Show, the Mix Off and also live Comedy. Students were also welcomed by partners such as JBL and Flex IT and showered in freebies and special opportunities.

In the evenings we took the party into the newly relocated Shadows Bar and showcased the new venue. From Jäger Bingo to a special Pub Quiz we had a little something for everyone and no Orientation would be the same without a Friday night party. Hamish and Rangī, Sammie and Blanc literally blew the speakers to close out the week in the bar.

While the majority of O Week was based on the City Campus, we also took a slice of O Week to Grafton and Epsom, putting on a BBQ, giving out free Tote Bags, having our partners and providing an all round great buzz thanks



When you outgrow Albert Park, there really is only one place you can go and for 2020 we did just that. We uplifted the concert and took it down the hill to Spark Arena and created "PARTY IN THE SPARK".

to the DJ mastery of Aaron Haugh.

Orientation 2020 engaged with over 10,000 students who passed through to watch, participate or enjoying one of the 7000 free AUSA Orientation Tote Bags. It was simply, Fantastic!

SEMESTER ONE EVENTS

Due to Covid-19, a majority of the first semester events were taken online but AUSA did manage to hold Sex Week, which included AUSA's first Speed Dating Event at Shadows.

Once we were in Level 4 and 3, we introduced a series of 6 Isolation Pub Quizzes and daily Trivia challenges via social media. Hosts Emily MacDonald and Aaron Haugh had great fun dressing up depending on the theme of the week.

RE O WEEK

Thanks to the team of 5 million we were able to bring Re//Orientation 2020 to life.

To ensure the faculties felt the love we installed mini pop arcades in the Science, Engineering, Arts and Grafton foyers much to the delight of both students and staff.

Re//Orientation also gave us the opportunity to reintroduce patrons to the relocated Shadows Bar. We opened the week with a Toga 2.0 party for Hall students with Toga clad attendees receiving a little gift from Shadows upon arrival. The week continued with the Red Bull Mix Off, Pub Quiz, Live Comedy and also The Blowout featuring Trei and Otôsan to close out the week. It was brilliant to see so many students enjoying the bar and having fun on campus once again.

SEMESTER TWO EVENTS

Unfortunately due to multiple lockdowns in Semester Two (one even happening during an event) we were forced to take a different approach to our in person events.

Under Level 2.5 and Level 2 restrictions we held 5 Dirty Bingo events and 4 Quizzes with limited interaction.

CLASS OF 2020

After a difficult year, it was only right to send it off the right way - BIG!. With the success of last year's "Class Of" model, "Class Of 2020" was born.

The AUSA courtyard was transformed into a garden party with AUSA DJ Aaron Haugh providing the music and the RVLTN Crew helping to give over \$3000 away in prizes including passes to RnV.

We had the free Arcade back and pumping as always and free ice cream thanks to Lulu's before UOA's Honeybee took to the garden stage for a 2 hour performance.

The night saw us move inside Shadows and party with Syrup, TwentyTwo and Sly Chaos to name a few.



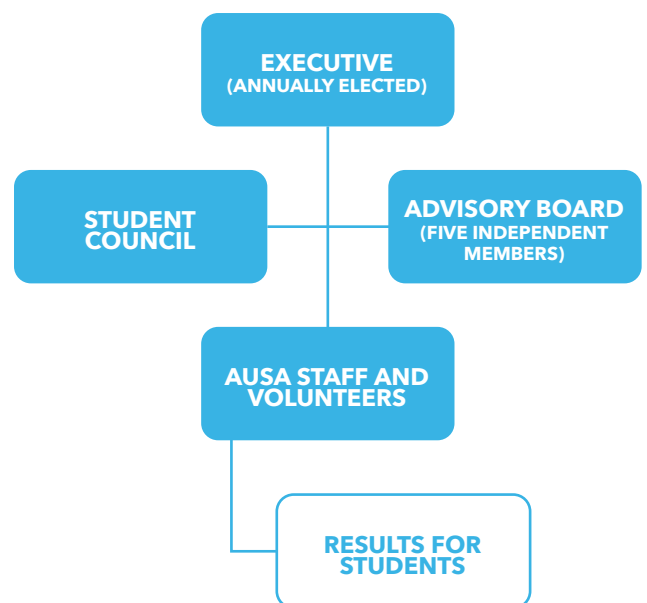
Governance.

It is critical that AUSA is properly governed and financially managed. This ensures that AUSA delivers the best services and support to students, properly represents them and makes good decisions to ensure the long-term viability and success of the organisation.

Governance Structure

AUSA is governed by an annually Elected Student Executive. In 2019 major changes were made to the AUSA Constitution to create a more robust governance structure to support the AUSA Executive in its roles to represent and advocate the views of the student body, serve the student body (through events and other services) and to ensure that AUSA was being properly governed.

The Governance Structure of AUSA as below demonstrates how your Students' Association is governed. The AUSA Executive, elected annually, are the ultimate governing body of AUSA. They do this by approving an Annual Budget and overseeing the strategic direction of AUSA. The Student Council, made up of Faculty, School and Representative Association Presidents meets monthly to advise AUSA and to hold the AUSA Executive accountable.



There are obligations in AUSA's Memorandums of Understanding with Student Council members that AUSA consult with them, particularly on issues of exclusive concern to their students. The Advisory Board is made up of five independent members with governance, financial, legal and strategic expertise.

The Advisory Board advises the Executive on governance decisions (things like AUSA's Finances and Investments). The Executive is constitutionally required to consult with the Advisory Board on certain decisions before it can exercise certain powers (things like entering into contracts

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with the University, etc). The new Structure helps to ensure that the AUSA Executive is representing students authentically, delivering great services and being good kaitiaki of AUSA for future generations of students.

AUSA Executive for 2020

President	George Barton (til August 2020) Emma Rogers (from August 2020)
Treasurer-Secretary	George Barton (from August 2020)
Engagement VP	Emily McDonald
Welfare VP	Anamika Harirajh
Education VP	Emma Rogers (til August 2020)
Women's Rights Officer	Vacant
Queer Rights Officer	Victoria Hawthorne
Campaigns Officer	Vacant
Design Officer	Vacant (role disestablished at SGM)
Satellites Officer	Vacant (role disestablished at SGM)
International Students Officer	Maria Khaydar (til March 2020) Afiqah Ramizi (from September 2020)
Māori Students Officers	Kerira Tapene Whitinga Harris
Pacific Island Students' Officers	Seini Pua

AUSA Advisory Board

We said goodbye to some of our founding AUSA Advisory Board members who resigned for personal reasons.

Chair	Carol Scholes
Advisory Board Member	Rob Milne
Advisory Board Member	Craig McColl (til September 2020)
Advisory Board Member	Helen White (til June 2020)
Advisory Board Member	Alex Rogers (til June 2020)

Governance of AUSA Entities

AUSA owns a number of investments, some of which provide yearly income to AUSA. These investments are owned by Trusts to which AUSA is the beneficiary. These Trusts ensure that Shadows, UBIQ, AUSA's Commercial Property Portfolio and 95bFM are protected for the long term and serving AUSA. AUSA has independent Trustees for each Trust, and appointed Student Trustees, from the elected AUSA Executive.

Audited Accounts.

Due to COVID lockdowns in early 2021, our auditors (William Buck) experienced an unprecedented backlog of work. As of 31/5/2021 our audited accounts are still being finalised, and will be presented at an SGM in Semester 2 2021.