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President 2025

February Report



TO: AUSA

FROM: Gabriel Boyd

DATE: March 10, 2025

CONTACT: president@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Meetings

Chaired

Executive meetings – Biweekly executive meetings involve coming together as an entire team to talk about business and vote on major decisions. We release the minutes under ‘official documents’ on our website.

SLT meetings – The senior leadership team consists of all the vice president roles, and we meet on the off weeks of the executive meeting calendar (also biweekly).

Student Council – I chaired our first student council meeting of the year, with all the academic club presidents in attendance. You can see the minutes on our website.

Attended

Eden Park

Continued working with stakeholders in the [UoA - Eden Park Strategic Partnership](#). This included sitting on the EPUTA (Eden Park Trust University of Auckland) committee, as well as meeting with individual partners one on one to relay the student perspective and make sure our voice is heard in the deal.

Law Proposal Review Committee

Read through and discussed hundreds of pieces of feedback on the law combinational proposal alongside Matthew Lee (AUSA UGEVP), Apurva Anand (law student president), and Aurora Chen (commerce student president) as well as top university staff including deans, professors and some of the governance team here at UoA.

Academic Quality Office

Discussed AQO's role and how it directly impacts students with academic policy, student voice initiatives and academic integrity courses.

95BFM

Met with the campus radio station, which is one of our entities (and got to tour the station!) We talked about the future of BFM and the operational side of things.

National Disabled Students' Association

Worked with NDSA and our DRO (Disability Rights Officer) to discuss the DRO role. I talked about the role and how to balance awareness of disability with advocacy for disabled students. We also discussed the Disability Action Plan here at UoA.

CFT Committees

Alongside our UG EVP Matthew Lee, I sat on multiple committees centered around [Curriculum Framework Transformation](#) which has now become Business as Usual (BAU). CFT encompasses transdisciplinary courses, Waipapa Tauamata Rau courses, signature pedagogical practices, and cross faculty experiences: all which have their own committees, most of which I sit on and attend.

The Kennedy's Limited Trust

Met with fellow directors to discuss the direction of Shadows Bar

One on ones

Simon Holdaway

Met and chatted with Simon Holdaway, the interim DVC Education about AI and how to reengage students in lectures and tutorials. I have formed a working group of deans across faculties to work on the latter and will update as things progress.

Brendan Mosely

Talked with the director of campus life about how our visions align, what we want to see from them, and what they want to see from us.

Harry Sutton

Met with the new Craccum editor in chief Harry to hear about his vision for 2025.

Progress on Ops Plan

Ran UoA 101 sessions for all incoming students

I wrote a [powerpoint](#) to introduce first year (and new postgraduate) students to the University of Auckland. **It focused on our three main pillars**, as well as included a basketball minigame I came up with (which the students loved). I also wrote a section about my time in university and why our experience here is so invaluable in the hopes that students will involve themselves heavily in campus.



Delivered Mihi Whakatau to incoming students

I also had the privilege of delivering a welcome address to our incoming student in each faculty. These were done alongside the deans of the faculty and Ngā Taurira Māori.



National Disabled Students Awards

I had the privilege of accepting the “Student Association in Motion” award on behalf of AUSA. We were the only student association in the country who were recognized for our work in creating and implementing the Disability Rights Officer position.



Interns

I started and now supervise a communications internship program here at AUSA. We interviewed and hired two new interns to help draft, direct, film and edit our social media content. This covers the student voice transparency plan, as they help work on President's Corner with me, as well as our visibility and social media projects under the experience pillar.

Other work and events

Interviews

Lots of interviews this month were around the opening of the Hiwa Recreation Centre, through [Seven Sharp](#), the NZ Herald, and UniNews. I continued to advocate for the student voice, highlighting that most of the \$320 million budget came from student fees. It's my belief that if students are funding Hiwa we need a say in how it operates. I'm very impressed by the facility and I think it will be monumental in bringing students back to campus, but we need to be partners in the governance of the centre.

ADVERTISEMENT

HIWA RECREATION CENTRE:
Transforming student life at New Zealand's top university

Students starting the 2025 academic year at the University of Auckland, including Te mana Rau, are looking to the new state-of-the-art Hiwa Recreation Centre with one of the most extensive gym facilities in the southern hemisphere.

For them, attending the country's highest-ranked global-top-100 university now means they can enjoy world-class recreation facilities that leading institutions typically offer. The University is ranked 69th in the influential QS World University Rankings.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater says the investment in Hiwa further enhances the University of Auckland's position as New Zealand's pre-eminent international, research-led higher education institution.

"Hiwa demonstrates our commitment to excellence in everything we do, ensuring the country maintains a globally recognised university that is easily accessible to domestic students, researchers, and staff as well as international students and academics," she says.

Auckland Business Chamber Chief Executive Simon Bridger is thrilled to see Hiwa open.

"It lifts the university's infrastructure to the level required as New Zealand's top-ranking tertiary centre and one of our best highly ranked global assets. More than that, though, it will be something from which students, staff, and the wider community benefit to rightly and that brings greater life and growth into the heart of New Zealand's biggest city."

Aucklanders can expect opportunities to watch regional, national, and even international teams using the facilities, particularly during non-semester periods at the University.

Described as a significant addition to Auckland's urban landscape, Hiwa is also expected to enhance the city's appeal as an education destination.

Commenting for Auckland Director Mark Thomas says the new recreation centre will add to Auckland's experience by providing an inclusive, vibrant campus that enriches city life. "Such investments in high-quality, accessible facilities are essential as Auckland builds a dynamic, globally competitive urban environment that aligns Auckland with the standards of its international peer cities."

Professor Freshwater observes that students and staff also consider factors beyond academic rankings when selecting where to study or work. "We understand that our global and sustainability impact rankings significantly influence the choice of institution. Hiwa is another appealing factor for discerning and talented students and academics."

The facility reflects the long-term ambition of the university community. Students advocated for it, partly funded it, and it is the result of decades of planning.

Health and well-being are essential for the success of students. For Auckland University Student Association President Gabriel Boyd, Hiwa symbolises campus revitalisation.

"Hiwa is attracting students to campus and offering the spaces we need to gather, work out, and be together. Students are coming back on-campus, and the rebirth of Auckland's campus culture post-lockdown, embodied by the opening of the rec centre, is felt all over the city."

Hiwa's sheer scale on an inner-city site, with its multiplicity of high-quality facilities, is generating global attention and attracting significant interest from a range of sporting codes. This recreational centre is a university and community facility that ranks alongside the best in the world.

HIWA - THE NAME ngāhi whāia Oriāra gifted the University this name, which has multiple synergies with the facility and the university community: it means vigorous (of growth), active, robust and sound.

INSIDE HIWA

- Fully loaded gyms and weight zones plus functional fitness training area
- Six fitness and well-being studios for group exercise, spin, boxing and combat sports, dance and more
- Aquatics hall with 8-lane swimming pool, dry well, hot pool and sauna
- Two sports halls with member drop-in hours available for basketball, badminton, futsal, netball and more
- Capacity for 1,500 spectators
- Bookable net with member drop-in hours available for football, tennis and more
- Squash courts
- Indoor running track
- Outdoor running track on the rooftop
- Bouldering wall
- Café, plus a new University store with merch – and other gym and aquatic essentials.

HIWA KEY FACTS

- Eight-story, 28,000 square metre operations centre located at 77 Remuera Street
- Innovative vertically stacked design consolidating the University's sport and recreation services into a single building
- Park and people-friendly spaces that more than half the estimated 2,200 million construction cost
- Annual student membership is 8000
- For students living in University Halls, it is essential to their accommodation, has capacity for 20,000 members

To find out more visit auckland.ac.nz/hiwa-rec-centre

Craccum

I was asked by our student magazine Craccum to write an article welcoming everybody back to campus. I plan to write editorials throughout the year.

Hiwa opening event

I represented the student team at the staff vs students' game during the Hiwa opening ceremony. I also talked to the press and chatted with various university staff who I don't get to see on regular basis.



Prepping for O-week

The executive and I worked hard to pack thousands of bags to give away at our stall during O-week. Stay tuned for next month's report to hear about O-week and how well that went!

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

O-week

Help the team execute O week (different from orientation week. O-week is when everyone is on campus)

Finalize committee with Deans

Discussed earlier

Continue work on funding agreement

Ideally to be signed before semester 2 starts

Continue everything in this report which is ongoing

Self-explanatory

Help direct sports week

The themed week is during the last week of March. The Eng VP, FoVP and I are spearheading the club collaborations and operations of different events.

Assist my portfolios and SLT

On anything they need help with

OTHER COMMENTS

Auckland FC beat Wellington 6-1 and is still the top of the table haha

Sincerely,

Gabriel Boyd

President, 2025

FINANCE AND OPERATION VP2025

February Report



TO: TRK AUSA

FROM: Praneel Gupta

DATE: March 7, 2025

CONTACT: fovp@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

What a month! Undoubtedly the busiest and most varied month this has been so far, but overall, very successful in many areas, particularly for student engagement now that the semester has officially begun.

Meetings organised and attended-

- **Executive meetings**

This month, we've had two executive meetings during the chaos of Orientation. These meetings were mainly focused on the orientation week and the O-week. I prepared agendas and took minutes for these meetings.

- **SLT meetings**

This month we had one SLT meeting and one emergency SLT meeting. The first SLT meeting was focused on O-week and the second one was called for publishing a statement. I prepared agendas and took minutes for these meetings.

- **Catch – ups**

Every week I have at-least had two catchups. My role being quite internal these catchups were mainly with the TRK AUSA Accountant and the President. In my catchups with our Accountant, I received updates of the spendings, approved spendings and learned more about our finances. In my catchups

with the President, we discussed our tasks for the week and set up agenda items for meetings and discussions

How this work contributes to the Operations Plan: These meetings primarily meet the day-to-day importance of my role and the overall operations of TRK AUSA

- **Sports week Meeting**

With our engagement VP and other clubs, we discussed plans for the Themed weeks - sports week.

How this work contributes to the Operations Plan: Themed Weeks Model: Create the themed weeks model that reflects the interests of the student body/communities and extend an open invitation to faculty associations and student clubs, encouraging them to host events during one of the TRK AUSA weeks.

Budgeting Presentation-

I had the opportunity to deliver a budgeting presentation alongside the president and our independent student advisory team to students.

Orientation and O-week roster planning-

Planned the roster for the orientation week and the O-week .

Executive Retreat-

Planned the Executive retreat to the hot water beach.

HIWA opening ceremony-

Attended the HIWA opening ceremony.

Uniguides Campus Tours and Orientation-

Helped with the AUSA stall at the orientation and preached about AUSA during the campus tours and created the best vibes.

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

- O-week

OTHER COMMENTS

Life is fun.

Sincerely,

Praneel Gupta

Finance and Operations VP, 2025

UGEVP 2025

February Report



TO: TRK AUSA

FROM: Matthew Lee

DATE: 14th March, 2025

CONTACT: ugevp@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Much of the month was spent in preparation for the start of the Semester. The first couple of weeks was aptly named the calm before the storm.

The biggest committee meeting I had was the Review Committee for the Proposed Faculty Arrangements for the Faculties of Law and Business and Economics Faculty. I attended this with Gabriel, Apurva, the President of the Auckland University Law Students' Society, and Aurora, the co-President of the Auckland University Commerce Students' Association. To prepare for this meeting, we had to read through all 800 submissions from students, academics, and interested individuals. The submissions were largely negative towards the proposal and the student representatives did what we could to represent that sense of frustration in the review committee. Ultimately, the review committee was not there to make recommendations based on our thoughts, but to distil the submissions into recommendations on how to improve the proposal itself.

The review committee report was made publicly available, as per our request, and the Vice-Chancellor has largely accepted all the recommendations. Two key highlights from that report were the recommendations **not** to split the Law School into Public and Private Law departments, and to extend the timeframe from Q3 2025 to Q1 2026. The next steps for the proposal are to go through Senate, an academic board which advises Council, and Council which convenes in March. I sit on Senate, but TRK AUSA does not have representation on Council. This severely limits the ability for us to represent the students at the highest level, but more on this later.

We also had our very first Student Council meeting this year. Student Council is an advisory and consultative group within TRK AUSA which comprises of all the Presidents of the various Faculty and

School Students' Associations at the University. As one of the EVPs, I am in charge of creating the agenda and ensuring that every aspect of Student Council runs smoothly. The first Student Council meeting went incredibly well. Everyone was very engaged and asked very insightful questions. We definitely have a lot to work

The rest of the month was filled with preparation for the Orientation Week (Week 0) and O Week (Week 1). This was an incredible time for us to increase our visibility and raise our membership numbers. Week 0 went incredibly. All first years had their Faculty Orientations that week and we had the incredible opportunity to host the Orientation Socials, and we had a stop at the UniGuides tour.

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

Semester is starting, which is super exciting! Lots of awesome things coming. We're creating a proposal for some of our new initiatives and campaigns.

OTHER COMMENTS

The executive went on retreat to the Coromandel. It was so beautiful and it was a really good bonding opportunity for the

Sincerely,

Matthew Lee

UGEVP, 2025

Postgraduate Education Vice President 2025

February Report



**Te Rōpū Kahikatea -
auckland university
students' association**

TO: AUSA

FROM: Fania Kapao

DATE: 14/03/2025

CONTACT: pgevp@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Meetings attended:

- **SLT**
- **Exec meetings**

- **Board of Graduate Studies committee**

I was fortunate enough to get to meet Louis Sartain, my student rep counterpart on BoGS. I received an induction from Vivien Kirk as well as Simon Martin, members of BoGS and awesome mentors to both Louis and I. Simon talked me through the experience side of SGS and what supports are there to make sure that academic life for PhD candidates are as straight forward as possible. Vivien explained key concepts to me so that I was able to understand the jargon thrown around as I am a Masters Student and am not a PhD candidate or Doctor (YET!!!). I was unable to attend the whole meeting as I was unwell.

- **Library and Learning Services committee**

During this meeting, we discussed a system called “Rapido” and the processes of resource sharing. A key point that stood out to me is that there is a lack of education surrounding how students navigate the library catalogue. Education around this could greatly impact students learning as well as allowing them to quickly move through material if they understand how the

system works. Another key point that was discussed was Archives and Collections. It was advised that faculty deans liaise with heads of departments to canvas ideas from students around how archives/collections materials can be more accessible.

My task in all of this is to gather information from PG students around their experience in regard to accessing material at the library electronically. Overall the meeting was extremely productive and I hope to present my data at the next one.

- **Individual meetings with Student Council members**

Alongside my UGEVP Matthew Lee, we met individually with a few Student Association Presidents from AESA, SAMS, and AUPSHA. I thoroughly enjoyed these meetings, but a common message across the board was “How do we engage postgrad students enough that they want to show up to events and be part of our executives?” Unfortunately, I am still trying to figure that out. The conclusion that we came to was that these associations (with the help of AUSA) could host mixers or sessions that are focused on networking and growing ones skillset. AESA suggested a social event where students could meet with their peers AND their lecturers/supervisors in a way that allows them the benefits of networking while also exploring professional development. Study groups were also suggested. I am excited to develop these ideas.

- **Student Council**

We had our first student council meeting! It was amazing to chat with the Student Presidents and to show them what we’ve done so far. There isn’t much to say on my part on this as I was mostly observing, but it was lovely to get to listen to the presentations and to hear the array of questions asked. It made me realise how there is much more that needs to be done to address postgraduate needs for each faculty as I am quickly learning that they differ across the board. Some lack engagement on campus while others are oversaturated and don’t know how to help them. Some faculties are in touch with their PG students while others don’t hear a peep from anyone besides their supervisors fortnightly. It will be a challenge to figure out how to solve as many of these issues as possible efficiently, but I am sure that Mick (PGO) and I will be able to draft up umbrella systems for the issues that have features in common.

- **UHPEC meeting**

This was the first UHPEC meeting I had attended. I was grateful to be amongst many of the lecturers who have taught me over the years. Many different applications and reviews were tabled, and they were phenomenal. We had applicants from the Pacific islands, from different fields and of course, with different topics of choice and motivations. What I noticed, was that over half of them were from teachers or people who had also studied teaching at a PG level.

For example, one application looked at the barriers in terms of attendance for neurodiverse youth in Aotearoa. Another looked at the learning ecologies of Pasifika secondary science teachers.

This caught me off guard as they were deeply personal but also very telling of how we MUST put more effort into supporting our students in teaching, especially if they are taking online versions. Over the past month I had received numerous distressed emails from students in this degree citing a lack of structure and a general feeling of disconnect and feeling lost. I know that this committee is for going over the ethics of research and such, but my experiences from the committee that day and the theme of the correspondence I had received makes me inclined to state here that we are not serving our PG education students as well as we could. Teachers are invaluable and have the potential to change the course of a child's life for the better. We are in dire need of good teachers. If we can resource and support them well during their time with us at UoA, then we can do our bit to ensure that we are supplying schools with good educators, increasing our strong profile but also increasing the standards of learning for rangatahi.

- **Home Visits to students**

I made a few house drop ins to students who made appointments to see me but were unable to come into uni. Mick and I do this in order to maximise our effectiveness and reaching the people who may not be able to see us in office for whatever reason. I believe this is part of our own open door policy, where we do outreach with our community to ensure that all their needs are met as much as we can help that.

I have found these to be quite popular as well as establishing office hours. The students I met with felt much safer to open up to me about their situations regarding their degrees. For the sake of their privacy, I will not detail here what their enquires were, but I will say that a resulting thought on my end is that our faculties must do better at responding to student enquires made online.

Other work and events

- **O-week**

Oweek was incredibly successful! We had an overwhelming amount of sign-ups, and although we packed 3000+ goodie bags, they still were not enough!!! During the times I manned the O-week stall, I really enjoyed hearing each student's reason for wanting to sign up. As a result, I'd like to think our exec has gotten the "why you should join AUSA" speech sussed down to 1 minute.

It was great fun to be working with my team to pull off that week. Some of us cried, some of us fell asleep at our desks afterwards and some of us did more than our fair share. But in saying that, I believe that was a great learning experience and taught us to work together and to hold each other to account. To step up when needed and to also reflect on our ways of being.

The Alfred's street party sold out completely (twice I think) thanks to the phenomenal work of Ben and Esther. They put together an amazing event and really, the executive were just there to see their vision through. They will never say this about themselves, but I think that Ben and Esther deserve so much praise and gratitude for all the work they do. They really show up for us and I hope that over the year, we can do the same for them. I want to give them credit here because everyone deserves to know how amazing they are and that without the entirety of our AUSA staff, our executive wouldn't be able to do what we do. Thank you so much!!!

SGS induction

- Mick and I have made it a conscious effort to go to every PhD induction training. It is monthly, and we love being amongst it.

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

- Exec meetings
- SLT meetings
- UPEC Meeting, training and review
- Coffee catch ups with student council members and PG faculty heads
- AQO meeting
- Student Consultative Group Meeting
- BoGS committee
- Education Committee
- Student Council Meeting
- PG lunch and study session

OTHER COMMENTS

Looking forward to this month, woohoo!

Sincerely,

Fania Kapao

Postgraduate Education Vice President 2025

Engagement Vice President 2025

February Report



**Te Rōpū Kahikatea -
auckland university
students' association**

TO: AUSA

FROM: Kalana Piramanage

DATE: 14 March 2025

CONTACT: envp@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Meetings attended

- **Multiple Meetings with UoA Recreation Centre (Aquatics)**

To discuss the first ever biggest pool event at the university as part of Sports Week

- **Meeting with Emma (Campus Life Student Voice Team Leader)**

To discuss clubs drop-in sessions that will be happening from Week 2

- **Executive Meetings**

To discuss Orientation Week and O week

- **SLT Meeting**

Discuss O week and Orientation

- **Meeting with Benji and Esther**

Discuss O week

- **Meeting with SASS**

To discuss Sports Day Event at Domain (Name TBD and location may be changed)

- **Meeting with student associations participating in the Dodgeball Tournament**

Discussed the time and date of the event + how it will run

- **Meeting with Swimming Club, Waterpolo Club, Photography Society, Surfing Society**

Discussed logistics and run sheet of Swimming event

Progress on Ops Plan

- Completed 12K goal for Instagram followers. We had 10.4K when we started at AUSA and now we have 13K+ followers at the end of Feb.
- Increased clubs communication with Broadcast channel and drop-in sessions (by student groups) happening when University starts.
- Confirmed collaboration of UNYouth AMUN next month
- Sold out Alfred Street Party and Shadows Bar is doing very well compared to previous years!
- Made reels with executives to increase engagement in events etc and gained minimum 30K in both reels
- Packed bags and getting prepared for O week and Oreintation
- Good progress on Themed Weeks to make events that are big and for all university students

Other work and events

- **Lead “Halls Day Out” Event (In terms of AUSA)**

This was very successful. We hired an inflatable basketball hoop and balls for halls students. The students enjoyed the event, and we gave away all our goodies.

- **Lead Grafton Campus Services Expo (In terms of AUSA) with Lola and Emelia**

This was a very successful event too and it was great going to the Grafton Campus!

AUSA Executive Retreat

- Executive retreat was fun and had a great time with everyone in the executive who came. The beaches were amazing, and the cathedral cove was so beautiful. The hot water beach was so cool (although it took us a while to find the perfect temperature as the water was either boiling hot and the waves were so good). Heard a lot of stories from Paul who we met at the hot water beach. Had alot of scrumptious real fruit ice creams which were perfect in the hot weather and Praneel cooked his 10/10 chickpea curry and paneer dish for dinner which was yummy. Overall, it was a really good time bonding with the executive as we are all going to be closely working together this year.



PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

- Sports Week Social Media Series
- Finalising run sheet of AUSA Sports Week of All Events
- Send out Engagement Committee Applications
- Advertising proposals for Arts Week
- Planning events for Arts Week
- Discuss study sessions with EVPs
- Discussing AUSA's campaign efforts with the executive
- Proposing AUSA Campaigning to lower transport fees for students
- Collaborating with UNYouth AMUN to increase visibility of AUSA to high school students/future UoA students.
- Continuing to update clubs on broadcast channel to make sure it's a reliable source
- Advertising proposals for Pride Week
- Plan "How to Clubs" Videos / Update documents in student groups (Talk to Emma)
- Propose to get more sponsors to sponsor AUSA and to increase benefits of joining AUSA for

students. (for example, cheaper food on campus for students?)

OTHER COMMENTS

Engagement is looking good!

Sincerely,

Kalana Piramanage

Engagement Vice President, 2025

Wellbeing & Equity Vice President 2025

February Report



**Te Rōpū Kahikatea -
auckland university
students' association**

TO: TRK AUSA

FROM: Lola Afeaki

DATE: 13/04/25

CONTACT: wevp@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Have to give thanks to God for February cos without Him, February wouldn't have given me the lessons it did.

In the month of February, my role involved active participation in numerous committee meetings, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) meetings, and executive meetings, all of which primarily focused on planning for Week 0 Orientation. This period served as a crucial test of patience and teamwork for our executive team, as it was our first time collaborating on an event that served over a hundred of students daily. Week 0 provided valuable insight into areas where our team could improve, especially in time management and organisational skills. The event proved to be an important precursor to the upcoming official Orientation Week in March.

I thoroughly enjoyed the collaborative atmosphere and had the opportunity to get to know my executive colleagues better while interacting with many students. The Uniguides volunteers played a vital role in ensuring the smooth management of students, and their support was crucial in providing first-year and postgraduate students with an introduction to the services AUSA offers. It was rewarding to see the positive and efficient way in which we were able to communicate AUSA's role and what we can offer our students.

In the latter half of February, I focused on getting my Operations Plan ON WAYS. The mental health portal with WDCC is progressing and going seki. Additionally, I began meeting with students seeking support through AUSA in my capacity as the Vice President of Wellbeing and Equity. These interactions have been insightful and have further highlighted the importance of AUSA's role in

providing support to the student community.

All in all, MALO KUO LAVA A FEPUELI. Honestly, so tough but ALL Glory and Praise to God for his never-ending love and guidance through this beautiful journey that is.... AUSA. CHEEHOO!

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

- Continue supporting our students who come to the house for support
- Confirm wellbeing events for semester 1
- Work with wellbeing club on collaborations
- Committee meetings, Executive meetings and SLT meetings
- Possible collaborations on policy changes with Wellbeing Team and UOA

OTHER COMMENTS

Sincerely,

Lola Afeaki

Wellbeing & Equity Vice President 2025

Queer Rights Officer 2025

February Report



**Te Rōpū Kahikatea -
auckland university
students' association**

TO: Te Rōpū Kahikatea Auckland University Students Association (TRK AUSA)

FROM: Artie Ho

DATE: 16/03/2025

CONTACT: gro@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Big Gay Out

- Big Gay Out was a great success! For those who do not know, it is an annual family-friendly queer festival where many community groups have stalls, there are activities and live music.
- Overall, it was a huge success with many people coming up to talk to us about what we do and who we are. It was also a great opportunity for us to be visible in our community and help members of our community feel less alone especially in these difficult times.
- It was an operation with many moving parts. In the lead-up, I met with Shivani from the UoA Be Well team, who had coordinated the uni BGO stall for the last 3 years.
- I coordinated with UoA events services and the BGO organisers to ensure that our stall was set up correctly and that everyone involved had the relevant information needed for the day to go smoothly.
- With the help of volunteers, I put together a handbook with information about the Rainbow Clubs and other information relevant to queer students
- At the stall, we had free pride-themed items to give away with a spinning wheel loaned from the Arts & Education Students Association, information and sign-ups for the Rainbow Clubs and TRK AUSA, and the volunteers did a great job of talking to the visitors and answering their questions about the queer community at UoA.
- The stall was run primarily by volunteers from the Rainbow Clubs execs and TRK AUSA execs.
- Several TRK AUSA staff members generously volunteered their time in the lead-up and on the day: Mauricio handled catering, Zoë and Ben B both brought things in their cars and volunteered at the stall, Esther helped sort out TRK AUSA equipment and David helped to coordinate with the uni. Thank you!

- On the day, I met and got in touch with Connor McLeod, who mentioned that they facilitate a network of staff who work in explicitly rainbow positions. I hope to participate in this throughout the year.
- I also met Dan from Rainbow Auckland and plan to meet with them soon to discuss collaboration.
- I strongly believe TRK AUSA should be present in future BGOs, alongside the university. This year's BGO happened under exceptional circumstances with the university being unable to organise and staff their stall, and it was a great demonstration of our ability to get the job done. I've mentioned this to Shivani, and plan to raise this with the next Rainbow Support Adviser, whenever a new one is hired.

Print Your Own T Shirt – Auckland Pride event

- Organised and ran this event with the QSA exec! Good turnout with 30 attendees, event was well received.
- Involved coordinating with Auckland Pride for promotion
- A protest against Destiny Church was held on the original planned date, and I coordinated with Auckland Pride, Student Groups and Campus Security to determine the risk of going ahead (due to possible counterprotest) and to organise rescheduling the event to a week later.

Sign Painting & Auckland Pride March

- With the QSA exec, I organised and held a sign painting event in Queerspace for students wanting to go to the Auckland Pride Waimahara Closing Event (Pride March). Students made cardboard signs and painted a TRK AUSA & QSA Pride banner to bring to the event.
- Although the event was envisioned as a TRK AUSA and QSA event, I was the only TRK AUSA exec to attend either event

Speaking at International Orientation

- I was invited to host the Rainbow session at International Orientation. I gave a 30 minute presentation to new international students about queer life on campus and support available to students.

O-Week

- O-Week and O-Week fest in Week 1 were both very busy periods. I helped with the socials, the TRK AUSA stall on Alfred St during O-Week fest, and was a Run Club marshal.

TRK AUSA Pride Week

- I received feedback from some clubs execs that it wasn't very clear what needed to be done to participate in the Carnival Days. I have started writing guidelines for clubs which want to hold stalls and a better explanation of participating in a standalone event vs having a stall on Carnival Day.

Queer Student Council

- We had our first meeting! The primary focus was discussing our vision as Rainbow Clubs for the year, including what events we hoped to work together on. It was good to have everyone on the same page.

- One major thing that needs to be done is sorting out the transition fund. Other clubs are keen to be involved as well. We all agreed that long-term it should be run by a committee of trans people (where possible), and we should set it up that way.

Top surgery OIA

- As noted in my previous monthly report, the gender-affirming mastectomy/chest reconstruction (also 'top surgery') waitlist has closed in Auckland and elsewhere.
- I have written an OIA to Health NZ Te Whatu Ora and await their response <https://fyi.org.nz/request/30288-information-on-gender-affirming-chest-reconstruction-in-auckland/new>
 - Thank you to Avery for drafting Section 2, Nora for substantial advice, and Ted for writing advice
- The results from this OIA will be used to inform activism and advocacy for those affected. I intend to contact community organisations to see what they are doing to advocate for increased top surgery capacity.
- I intend to send another OIA about the rest of the country when this one comes back – Auckland has been prioritised for the sake of time.

Queerspace signage/uni safety plan

- Currently, Queerspace is hard to find and many students don't know about it due to lack of signage. As mentioned in my previous monthly report, I have materials to make signs. I have contacted the officers responsible for the other 3 spaces in the quad, and we have agreed that it's a good idea to do them all at once. Emelia the Women's Rights Officer has generously volunteered to take charge of this, as I'm away for most of March on medical leave.
- I forgot to mention this in my previous monthly report, but I had previously reached out to Guillermo Merelo, the associate director of staff DEI, about how the uni might respond to safety concerns or backlash regarding new signage for Queerspace. Previously, a sign indicating a space for Māori and Pasifika students at the uni was met with widespread media attention and scrutiny. As the signs are for spaces dedicated to students from minority groups, I wanted to know what the uni's plan is to protect our communities if something like that happens again.
- I also met with Sarah Kreig who is a staff DEI communications adviser. We talked a lot about how things are going for queer students and staff, and she gave me a lot of helpful advice.
- Guillermo and Sarah got me in touch with Campus Life, who said that Central Communications should handle it and that they should have a robust plan in place. I am awaiting their reply.

Other meetings attended

- All regular TRK AUSA exec meetings
- UoA Equity Practitioners meeting
- Waitemata Youth Wellbeing Action Network hui

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

Queerspace

- Hold a mural competition for the back wall of Queerspace
- As noted in the previous monthly report, I still need to finish setting up the kitchenette – unfortunately have not had time to do so
- Continue to make repairs and minor improvements where needed

Queer Students Association

- Run the events we've planned
- Continue to hold regular meetings with the exec

Rainbow Clubs

- Continue to work alongside Rainbow Clubs to deliver events and initiatives

Queer Student Council

- Hold another monthly meeting
- Hire general members

Transition fund

- Form a working group to set out the policies and guidelines used to govern the transition fund
- Form a subcommittee to manage the transition fund
- Once this is done, start fundraising for it.

Other work**OTHER COMMENTS**

You can contact me via email, and I will hold in-person office hours during semester times.

Sincerely,

Artie Ho

Queer Rights Officer, 2025

Women's Rights Officer 2025

February Report



**Te Rōpū Kahikatea -
auckland university
students' association**

TO: AUSA

FROM: Emelia Martin Moses

DATE: 13/03/2025

CONTACT: wro@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Meetings attended

- Exec meeting
- Discipline Committee
- Student Council
- Catch up with Women in Law
- Monthly Catch with Karyn and Shivani
- Meeting with Arya on Sexual Harm Survey
- Meeting with Equity Practitioner

Progress on Ops Plan

Student Support:

Sex & Violence Campaign

- A very successful presentation on consent and sexual harm to all first-year uni hall student at Aoteo Centre
- Distribution of resources to first year uni hall students
- Update Sexual Assault Handbook

Other work and events

Orientation Week

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

- Revamp Women's Space
- First meeting for Mana Wahine Sub-Committee
- WHiN Wanaaga
- Sem 2 Running Event Planning
- Promotion of Social Media of Women's Space
- Increase Awareness of External Support
- Ensure Sexual Assault Handbook is distributed in Halls
- "Confidence to Say No" workshop planning
- Rape Awareness Planning
- Engagement with Arya & TiB

OTHER COMMENTS

Being completely honest, Orientation week, especially towards the end of February took up a lot of my time hence the lack of progress in the Operations Plan and in role as WRO. However, we did see an outcome in the relationships being built between AUSA and UOA such Accommodation & the Be Well Team., with AUSA's first ever presentation to UniSmart

I do also want to make a note in relation to the culture in UOA and sexual violence prevention. The issue within our campus is that we have no culture of consent whatsoever, and the notion of asking for consent is not normalized. While there is so much, we can say "no", but the 'no' is not respected by the perpetrator. Our campus is also perpetuated by misogynistic attitudes & behaviour which creates this lack of consent culture. It does not help with the recent relationship and sex education curriculum being withdrawn from schools. After reviewing the 101 policies the university has, UoA has a broken system that does not protect and support survivors, and it lacks a survivor led approach. One of my priorities is not only to advocate for a change in our system but to also start building the block for a culture of consent.

Sincerely,

Emelia Martin Moses

Women's Rights Officer, 2025

DISABILITY RIGHTS OFFICER 2025

February Report



TO: AUSA

FROM: Ayolabi Martins

DATE: 15/03/25

CONTACT: dro@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Meetings attended

1. AUSA Executive Meeting
 - a. Plans for O-Week stall management
 - b. Plans for O-Week street party, health and safety procedure
2. February student council meeting
3. Meeting with AUDHSA president regarding potential partnership and shared vision for 2025 calendar year
 - a. Shared vision for 2025
 - b. MOU developed to collaborate with AUDSA peradventure the opportunity arises
 - c. Discussed potential events that may build the disabled community at the University of Auckland
4. Meeting with AUDSA to finalise plans for O-Week expo stall
5. Meeting with AUDSA to finalise semester event plans

Other work and events

1. Attended the monthly NDSA meeting for February

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

1. Liase with VC Equity to discuss different committees where the DRO perspective would be valued
2. Conduct inaugural disability sub-committee meeting
3. Orchestrate pop-up/chat sessions to engage more intimately with disabled students on campus
4. DAPRG inaugural meeting for 2025
5. Students' Consultative Group inaugural meeting for 2025

OTHER COMMENTS

Sincerely,

Ayolabi Martins

Disabled Rights Officer, 2025

MSO 2025

February Report



TO: TRK AUSA

FROM: Hiwa Majurey & Matiu Rei

CONTACT: mso@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

“Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōna te ngāhere. Ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga, nōna te ao”

In the month of February, the whakatauki that resonated the most with our Mahi was the one above, which was also a key saying voiced at all the Whakatau we facilitated in the month of February. In which the above translates to “the forest belongs to the bird who feasts on the miro berry, the world belongs to the bird who feasts on education” where we encourage all students to grab onto the opportunities and learnings that University will provide for them and hope it sets the tone for the rest of the academic year.

Meetings attended:

In the month of February, we attended AUSA Meetings, NTM Executive Meetings, and the establishment of the new sub-committee that we will work with to ensure that Tauria Māori are at the forefront of what we do within our respected associations. These discussions focused on strengthening our operations, supporting tauria, and collaborating with other groups to enhance opportunities for our Māori community. Furthermore, we attended the first Rūnanga meeting of this year alongside the Kaimahi Māori here at Waipapa Taumata Rau where we discussed, namely, the structural organisation of the Rūnanga and its membership.

Progress on Ops Plan

As part of our operational efforts, we contributed to Week 0 by facilitating Whakatau at every faculty Orientation which was a key part in ensuring a formal Whakatau was properly enacted. Throughout the week 0, we also found opportunities to engage with tauria, and facilitating the promotion of TRK AUSA during Uniguide tours and faculty socials. Additionally, we worked alongside TRK AUSA to support these activities and ensure their smooth execution.

Other work and events:

Beyond the Operations Plan, we supported the Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga event, where we had several current and past students' campaign,

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

As the month of March commences, signifying the beginning of the academic year, we anticipate majority of our time to be focused on welcoming our new Taura and ensuring their transition into university to be the smoothest that it can be. With the beginning of the semester coming up, we anticipate a lot of events for Ngā Taura Māori to perform at, therefore there will be strong focus on facilitating Kapa Haka practices. In the early weeks of month, we have the events such as club expo, kaitahi and BNZ which we hope will serve to all of our Taura hou.

OTHER COMMENTS

No other comments.

Sincerely,

Hiwa Majurey & Matiu Rei

Māori Students' Officer 2025

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER 2025

February Report



TO: AUSA

FROM: Hisham Haq

DATE: 14th March 2025

CONTACT: iso@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

February activities focused on establishing key relationships and strategic collaborations across campus. **The International Subcommittee** was convened to align goals and priorities for the year. Participation in the **International Governance Group** meeting with the International Office facilitated discussions on strategic approaches to international student support. Ongoing coordination with MSA leadership regarding Ramadan support initiatives ensured appropriate accommodations for international Muslim students during this important period. Passive engagement with various international ethnic clubs strengthened relationships and provided deeper insights into the specific needs of the diverse international community. A significant achievement was the successful negotiation of NZISA membership fees, reducing costs from **\$0.80 to \$0.45** per international student— **43.75%** reduction while maintaining all benefits following which NZISA membership arrangements were finalised for the academic year. Initial progress was made on the **part-time employment project** for international students - addressing a pressing concern within the international student community. Operational activities included active preparation for and participation in Orientation and O-Week events with particular focus on international student integration and creating welcoming spaces for new arrivals. Ongoing assistance was provided to international students regarding academic matters, visa issues, and campus resources. Collaboration with the AUIS resulted in the development of a networking event featuring the Consul General of India designed to provide professional connections and cultural exchange opportunities. Planning was initiated for the university's first-ever Eid celebrations, representing an important milestone for cultural inclusivity on campus.

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

In the coming months, I will focus on several key initiatives to further enhance support for our international student community. I plan to continue developing the part-time employment project for international students, working toward establishing sustainable pathways that address their unique employment challenges and financial needs. A major priority will be finalising and executing the Eid celebration plans, ensuring this first-ever university-wide celebration creates a meaningful and inclusive experience for Muslim students and the broader campus community. I intend to strengthen engagement with international ethnic clubs by establishing regular communication channels and collaborative programming opportunities. The Indian Consul General networking event preparations will be closely monitored to ensure its success as both a cultural and professional development opportunity for students. As Ramadan continues, I will enhance international student support mechanisms during this period, working closely with MSA and other stakeholders to provide appropriate accommodations and resources. Additionally, I plan to expand our collaboration with NZISA, particularly focusing on immigration advocacy initiatives that address pressing concerns for international students in New Zealand. Finally, I will develop a comprehensive data collection framework for international student needs assessment, allowing us to better understand and respond to the evolving challenges faced by our diverse international community. Through these initiatives, I aim to further strengthen AUSA's position as an effective advocate and support system for international students at the UoA.

OTHER COMMENTS

All initiatives are progressing as scheduled, with positive engagement from stakeholders and strong support from the AUSA team.

Sincerely,

Hisham Haq

International Officer 2025

PISO 2025

February Report



TO: AUSA

FROM: Ronette Va'ai

DATE: 14/03/25

CONTACT: piso@ausa.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Meetings attended:

- Exec meetings
- AUPISA Executive Meetings
- PVCP Meeting
- Pacific Island Student Leader's Meeting
- Library and learning Services + Leadership through learning meeting.

Progress on Ops Plan:

- Organised and executed a successful Pacific Association Leaders meeting where all executives of UoA's Pacific associations came together to network, gain insights and discuss the needs of our Pacific community. Also included TRK AUSA in presentations which allowed our leaders to familiarise themselves with the President, PGSO and what AUSA offers our students.
- Met with two campaigns (Mapu Maia and Village Collective) that are willing to collaborate with AUPISA to provide quality events, resources and support to help our Pacific students with their wellbeing, cultural expectations, health needs, etc
- Met with representatives from PVCP to voice student concerns and needs from PVCP to better support our community throughout their university journey. Also set monthly meetings with their office to continue engagement/communication with them throughout the year.
- Included TRK AUSA in DUAVATA (Pacific Island Meet and Greet/Clubs Expo held in the quad) to increase engagement with our Pacific leaders and students.
- Met with Fay from Library and Learning Services, Ronnie and Darlene from Leadership through Learning to discuss plans for AUPISA this year, potential collaborations and proposal for

creating a pacific association's leader's programme.

Other work and events

- Helped TRK AUSA team during orientation week and O-Week with bag packing, working at the stalls, Uniguide tours and set up for Alfred Street party.
- Bought new couches for Cultural Space and implemented silent hours in C-Space throughout the week.

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

- Hold language week panels in week 4 and 5 for Rotuman Language Week and Samoan Language Week. This is to increase collaborations and set plans for RLW and SLW.
- Send proposal to LTL and Library services for the pacific leaders programme.
- Continue to voice TRK AUSA matters and any PISO related matters at AUPISA meetings and with pacific associations.

OTHER COMMENTS

Sincerely,

Ronette Va'ai

PISO 2025

Postgraduate Student Officer 2025

February Report



TO: TRK - AUSA

FROM: Alexa "Mick" McDonough

DATE: 16/03/2025

CONTACT: pgso@auas.org.nz

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Meetings attended:

- Exec meetings
- Ethics Committee
- Student Council
- Discipline Committee Meeting
- Pacific Association Leaders Meeting
- Met with AESA President
- Ad hoc student meetings

Progress on Ops Plan

- Strengthening bridges between SGS and AUSA to ensure proper connection with PhD students
- Established presence at monthly PhD inductions
- Began connecting with Te Fale Pouāwhina to find avenues to amplify and recognise Māori and Pasifika PG students

Other work and events

- Attended/helped staff the PG Orientation, incl. Mihi, PG Social, and UOA 101 presentations
- Attended/helped staff the Undergrad Orientation, incl. staffing stalls for the socials and speaking during the Uni Guide tour at the stop outside the TRK – AUSA House
- Attended February PhD induction

- Packed a lot of bags

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH(S)

- Connect with both SGS and TFP for future PhD events for Māori and Pasifika students
- Coordinate wellness events for PhD students with SGS during their May Wellness week with WEVP and the Wellness Club
- UAHPEC Ethics Meeting Monthly
- PhD Induction Monthly
- Will be attending faculty orientation for PhD students

OTHER COMMENTS

- N/A

Kindly,

Alexa "Mick" McDonough

PGSO 2025