



## NZUSA National Executive

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020  
10.00am – 4.00pm  
Level 8, Education House,  
178 Willis Street, Wellington

### Agenda

#### Part A (for discussion)

Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga  
Kia mākinakina ki uta  
Kia mātaratara ki tai  
E hī ake ana te atakura  
He tio, he huka, he hau hū  
Tihei mauri ora!

#### Procedural

1. Karakia and Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Disclosures of Interest
4. Matters Arising

#### Strategic Items & Decision-Making

5. Policy Changes\*
  - THAT the changes to the National Welfare Committee Terms of Reference be accepted.
  - THAT the changes to the National Education Committee Terms of Reference be accepted.
6. NZUSA Committee Appointments\*
  - THAT the National Executive appoint the recommended chairs to the committees.
7. IPT Spokespeople Roles

- THAT the National Executive appoint Andrew Lessels and Perina Mucalo to the positions as ITP spokespeople.

**8. NZUSA Policy Manifesto**

- THAT the National Executive agree to NZUSA 2020 Policy Manifesto.

**9. Kiwibank Signatory\***

- THAT Matthew Schep is added as a signatory to all NZUSA Kiwibank accounts
- THAT Andrew Lessels is added as a signatory to all NZUSA Kiwibank accounts

**10. Meeting Dates and Locations for 2020\***

- THAT the National Executive agree to the dates and locations of NZUSA National Executive meetings for 2020

**11. Annual Plan**

**12. Workshop: Non-member Strategy**

**13. Workshop: Debt Free Futures Campaign**

**Part B (for noting)**

- 1. Finance, Risk and Audit Committee Terms of Reference\***
- 2. National Education Committee Terms of Reference\***
- 3. National Welfare Committee Terms of Reference\***
- 4. National Policy Committee Terms of Reference\***
- 5. NZUSA Strategic Plan 2018-2022\***
- 6. NZUSA Policy Manifesto 2020\***

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Matthew Schep
Date	22 January 2020
Subject	Amendments to NWC and NEC Terms of Reference

**Purpose**

To tidy up drafting errors, clear up ambiguous language, and secure a degree of formalised rainbow and disability representation.

**National Welfare Committee Terms of Reference**

Add Clause 3.4: Rainbow and Disability Representation

- 3.4.1 The President and Vice-President shall appoint at least one rainbow representative on the committee from members of the rainbow community that are already a part of the committee, and if no such members exist or are willing to fulfil this role, then the President and Vice-President may appoint someone from outside the committee to join as the rainbow representative.
- 3.4.2 The President and Vice-President shall appoint at least one disability representative on the committee from members of the disability community that are already a part of the committee, and if no such members exist or are willing to fulfil this role, then the President and Vice-President may appoint someone from outside the committee to join as the disability representative.

Amend Clause 4.1 to read:

NWC may choose to meet as frequently as it determines, however it must meet at least twice a year.

**National Education Committee Terms of Reference**

Amend Clause 4.1 to read:

NEC may choose to meet as frequently as it determines, however it must meet at least twice a year.

Amend Clause 3.3.1.1 and 3.3.1.2 to read:

3.3.1. Members of NEC shall be members of NEC from the date they are appointed until:

3.3.1.1. in the case of membership under 3.1.1.1 and 3.1.1.2 they finish their term of office on their Executive;

3.3.1.2. in the case of membership under 3.1.1.3, they finish their term as a representative on the CUAP or AQA Board;

Amend 3.1.1.1 to read:

One person from each Member and Associate-Member Association appointed to serve as their Association's representative. Representatives will typically be those persons who hold the student education portfolio on their respective Executives.

**Recommendation**

THAT the changes to the National Welfare Committee Terms of Reference be accepted

THAT the changes to the National Welfare Committee Terms of Reference be accepted

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Isabella Lenihan-Ikin
Date	23 January 2020
Subject	Committee Chair Appointments

## **Purpose**

To appoint chairs of the following committees:

- Andrew Lessels - Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC)
- TBC – National Welfare Committee
- TBC – National Education Committee
- TBC – National Policy Committee

## **Recommendation**

THAT the National Executive appoint the recommended chairs to the committees

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Isabella Lenihan-Ikin
Date	23 January 2020
Subject	ITP Spokespeople

## **Purpose**

To appoint the following National Executive members to the position as ITP Spokesperson. As National Office (and given our personal expertise and background in the university sector), we believe that it is important for the voices of both the university and ITP sectors to be heard at the national level. The appointment of these two ITP Spokespeople gives NZUSA the ability to provide the public with stronger comment from the ITP sector, especially considering RoVE.

- Andrew Lessels and Perina Mucalo

## **Recommendation**

THAT the National Executive appoint Andrew Lessels and Perina Mucalo to the positions of ITP spokespersons for NZUSA

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Matthew Schep
Date	26 January 2020
Subject	NZUSA Policy Manifesto

## **Purpose**

To set NZUSA's policy for 2020, subject to any minor amendments approved.

## **Recommendation**

THAT the National Executive agree to the NZUSA Policy Manifesto 2020.

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Sam Smith
Date	23 January 2020
Subject	Kiwibank Signatories

## Purpose

To appoint Matthew Schep and Andrew Lessels as signatories to NZUSA's Kiwibank accounts. Isabella Lenihan-Ikin and Sam Smith are currently signatories on the account, having handed over from Caitlin Barlow-Groome (2019 National Vice-President) and Kristy Havill (2019 FRAC Chair). The FRAC Chair is appointed on the occasion where only one member of National Office is available to authorise payments.

## Recommendation

THAT Matthew Schep is added as a signatory to all NZUSA Kiwibank accounts

THAT Andrew Lessels is added as a signatory to all NZUSA Kiwibank accounts



# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Isabella Lenihan-Ikin
Date	22 January 2020
Subject	National Executive Meetings Dates and Locations

## Purpose

To confirm the following dates and locations for NZUSA National Executive meeting in 2020:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Host Organisation</i>
• 31 January 2020	Wellington	NZUSA
• 13 March 2020	Auckland	AUSA
• 24 April 2020	Napier	Younited
• 5 June 2020	Christchurch	LUSA
• 17 July 2020	Palmerston North	MUSA
• 28 August 2020	Dunedin	OUSA
• 9 October 2020	Hamilton	SAWIT
• 20 November 2020	Wellington	VUWSA

As discussed, most meetings will feature a workshop where local executive members can also participate. Workshops may include te Tiriti, Finance and Budgeting, ROVE, Student Employment, Election Campaigning. These will be finalised nearer the time, and in consultation with the host association. The workshops are open to all members of the students' association executives and endeavor to enhance the professional development offered to these representatives.

## Recommendation

THAT the National Executive agree to the dates and locations of NZUSA National Executive meetings for 2020

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Isabella Lenihan-Ikin
Date	26 January 2020
Subject	Annual Plan

## **Purpose**

To begin the planning of the 2020 Annual Plan, which National Office will then draft and present back at the next National Executive meeting.

The function of the Annual Plan is to guide the operations of NZUSA, within the perimeters of the long-term strategic plan.

## **Recommendation**

THAT the National Executive agree to National Office developing a draft Annual Plan for 2020, from the ideas and suggestions produced during this workshop.

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Matthew Schep
Date	26 January 2020
Subject	Non-member strategy

## **Purpose**

To discuss and develop a non-member strategy for 2020, that will guide how NZUSA interacts with, supports, and engages in membership opportunities with non-member student associations and councils.

## **Recommendation**

THAT the National Executive agree to National Office developing a draft non-member strategy guide for 2020, from the ideas and suggestions produced during this workshop.

# Memorandum

To	National Executive
From	Isabella Lenihan-Ikin
Date	26 January 2020
Subject	Debt Free Futures Campaign

## Purpose

The #debtfreefutures campaign will be central to NZUSA's election campaign. It is important that we determine the structure and strategy of the campaign early, so that we can hit the ground running when the election date is announced and so that we can secure external funding.

Below is a draft structure of the campaign, including the substantive vision for the campaign. A draft structure of the campaign committee, and campus organizers is included too.

## Recommendation

THAT the National Executive agree to the draft structure of the #debtfreefutures campaign, to be presented at National Conference.

<b>Vision</b> <i>How will the world be better?</i>	<b>Goal</b> <i>The specific aim of the campaign</i>	<b>Objective</b> <i>What needs to happen for the campaign to win?</i>	<b>Tactics</b> <i>What actions will be used to achieve your objective?</i>
<p>Everyone in Aotearoa will have access to a <b>barrier free and debt free tertiary education</b>, across university, polytechnic and trades training.</p>	<p><u>Voter turnout</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every eligible student in Aotearoa <b>enrols and votes</b> in the 2020 General Election</li> </ul> <p><u>#debtfreefutures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal student allowance</li> <li>• Restoration of the post-graduate allowance*</li> <li>• Existing student debt wiped*</li> <li>• Free tertiary education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work alongside and in partnership with Tauria Pasifika and Te Mana Akonga.</li> <li>• Establish a #debtfreefutures campaign committee, comprised of representatives of our member organisations.</li> <li>• Work alongside other Unions (i.e. Etu, PSA, TEU) to secure wider reach and finance.</li> <li>• Establish a campaign hub (based at National Office) which is strongly connected with the organising teams at each campus.</li> <li>• Work alongside the Electoral Commission to ensure that every eligible student <b>enrols</b> before the election, and is equipped to vote in the election.</li> </ul>	<p>Tactics to secure our goal of every eligible student voting in the 2020 election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture walkouts (to vote)</li> <li>• Enrolment drives in classes (lectures and tutorials) and halls of residence.</li> </ul> <p>Tactics to ensure our goals within #debt free futures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storytelling: social media and general media</li> <li>• Stunts on campus</li> <li>• Election debates on campus</li> </ul>

<b>Values / tikanga that underpin the campaign</b>	<b>Target</b> <i>Who has the power to make your goal happen?</i>	<b>Objective</b> <i>What needs to happen for the campaign to win?</i>	<b>Tactics</b> <i>What actions will be used to achieve your objective?</i>
<p>As students we do not have the ability to compete with the budgets of other campaigns that organisations will be running. However, we have the ability to utilise the power of the 400,000 students in Aotearoa. To realise this power, we must be guided by the values of:</p> <p><b>Whanaungatanga</b> – build connection and association among our members and student community.</p> <p><b>Creativity</b> – use our creativity and expertise with social media to tell stories and enhance student engagement.</p> <p><b>Manaakitanga</b> – practice manaakitanga, both in the way that we work as a national team, but also in terms of our engagement with students, especially when encouraging them to share their story.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Office + National Executive + Campaign Committee</li> <li>• Union engagement and support (i.e Etu, PSA, TEU).</li> </ul>		

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Version Two

Approved date: April 2019 Review date: January 2021

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (**FRAC**) is to advise and assist the NZUSA National Executive (**National Executive**) to meet their governance responsibilities relating to finance, risk, safety and quality management, audit and compliance.

## 2. Functions

### 2.1. Finance

- 2.1.1. To monitor the overall financial performance of NZUSA by evaluating NZUSA's performance against:
  - 2.1.1.1. the NZUSA Budget for the current financial year;
  - 2.1.1.2. NZUSA's financial policies and legal obligations; and
  - 2.1.1.3. financial best practice.
- 2.1.2. To advise the National Executive in relation to:
  - 2.1.2.1. the recommendation of a Draft Annual Budget to the membership at a General Meeting for the following financial year;
  - 2.1.2.2. the recommendation of membership levies to the membership at a General Meeting;
  - 2.1.2.3. the development and performance of a financial stability plan;
  - 2.1.2.4. the honoraria of Elected Representatives under the Elected Representatives Policy.

### 2.2. Risk, Health and Safety and Quality Management

- 2.2.1. To monitor and review the adequacy and performance of NZUSA's risk and health and safety management framework, strategies, processes and reporting

### 2.3. Audit

- 2.3.1. To provide assurances to the National Executive that all audit processes required under law and by NZUSA's own policy instruments are completed.
- 2.3.2. To assist the National Executive in ensuring that all issues identified by audits are appropriated addressed.

### 2.4. Compliance

- 2.4.1. To assist the National Executive in ensuring that NZUSA is complying with all relevant statutory, regulatory and policy instrument obligations and requirements.

## 3. Composition

### 3.1. Membership of FRAC:

- 3.1.1. One National Executive member, who shall be Chair
- 3.1.2. The NZUSA President
- 3.1.3. The NZUSA Vice President

- 3.1.4. The Tumuaki of Te Mana Akonga or, where there are two Tumuaki of Te Mana Akonga, one co-Tumuaki of Te Mana Akonga
- 3.1.5. No more than three nominated NZUSA Member Executive Officers, one of which must serve as the Treasurer or other such position responsible for the financial governance of their Association.

### **3.2. Appointment of FRAC Members**

- 3.2.1. The NZUSA President or their delegate shall seek nominations for FRAC Members under 3.1.1 and 3.1.5
- 3.2.2. The National Executive will then appoint one of their Members by way of vote in accordance with the Standing Orders of the National Executive or by a process determined by the NZUSA President
- 3.2.3. The National Executive will appoint those persons interested, and who qualify, under 3.1.5 by way of vote in accordance with the Standing Orders of the National Executive or by a process determined by the NZUSA President

### **3.3. Term of FRAC Members**

- 3.3.1. Members of FRAC under 3.1 shall be members of FRAC from the date they are appointed until:
  - 3.3.1.1. they finish their term of office on their own Member Executive;
  - 3.3.1.2. they die;
  - 3.3.1.3. they resign
  - 3.3.1.4. the National Executive, consistent with natural justice, determines to remove that member

## **4. Meetings**

- 4.1. FRAC must meet at least four times throughout NZUSA's financial year, ideally after each financial quarter.
- 4.2. Quorum shall be half the number of persons who are members plus one.
- 4.3. The FRAC Chair is responsible for setting meeting times, preparing the agenda (in conjunction with the NZUSA President and Vice President), and generally chairing the meeting.
- 4.4. The NZUSA Vice President is responsible for providing the FRAC with all relevant materials and information, for taking Minutes and ensuring that such Minutes are submitted to the National Executive for their next relevant National Executive meeting.

## **5. Authority**

- 5.1. FRAC has no delegated authority except to advise the National Executive and the NZUSA President and Vice-President to the best of their abilities and in the best interests of NZUSA.





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Version Two

Approved date: April 2019

Review Date: January 2020

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the NZUSA National Education Committee (NEC) is to be a community of practice for all Member Association's Education-related roles, and to advise and recommend the National Executive and the NZUSA President in relation to issues and common challenges faced by Member Associations in relation to tertiary education.
- 1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, issues and common challenges related to tertiary education are to be construed as widely and liberally as the NEC or National Executive decides.

## 2. Functions

- 2.1. The NEC's main roles are to:
  - 2.1.1. discuss key tertiary education issues and make recommendations to the National Executive and NZUSA President;
  - 2.1.2. hold the Chairs or Project Leads of NZUSA's education related Working Groups to account for their progress; and;
  - 2.1.3. to be a community of practice for its members to learn, share and draw inspiration.

## 3. Composition

### 3.1. Membership:

- 3.1.1. The NEC shall be comprised of:
  - 3.1.1.1. One person from each Member and Associate-Member Association appointed to serve as their Association's representative. Representatives will typically be those persons who hold the student welfare portfolio on their respective Executives.
  - 3.1.1.2. The NZUSA President and Vice-President, from the date they officially commence office.
  - 3.1.1.3. NZUSA's representatives on the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) and the Academic Quality Agency (AQA) Board.

### 3.2. Co-Chairs of the NEC

- 3.2.1. The National Executive shall appoint two Members of the NEC to be Co-Chairs by way of vote in accordance with the Standing Orders of the National Executive. All eligible candidates shall be informed in advance of this vote and given the opportunity to present their case, by a process determined by the NZUSA President.

### 3.3. Term of NEC Members

- 3.3.1. Members of NEC shall be members of NEC from the date they are appointed until:
  - 3.3.1.1. in the case of membership under 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 they finish their term of office on their Executive;
  - 3.3.1.2. in the case of membership under 2.1.2, they finish their term as a representative on the CUAP or AQA Board;
  - 3.3.1.3. they die;
  - 3.3.1.4. they resign their NEC Membership in writing to the National Executive; or

3.3.1.5. the National Executive, consistent with natural justice, determines to remove that member.

**4. Meetings**

- 4.1. NEC may choose to meet as frequently as it determines provided that it must meet at least twice a year.
- 4.2. The NEC Co-Chairs are responsible for setting meeting times, preparing the agenda (in conjunction with National Office), chairing and administering meetings, and reporting on the business of the NEC back to the National Executive.
- 4.3. Any decision-making by the NEC should be aimed to be made by consensus.  
Quorum shall be half the number of persons who are members plus one.



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Version Two

Approved date: January 2019    Review Date: January 2020

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the NZUSA National Welfare Committee (NWC) is to be a community of practice for all Member Association's Welfare-related roles, and to advise and recommend the National Executive and the NZUSA President in relation to any issues and common challenges faced by Member Associations in relation to welfare of students.
- 1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, issues and common challenges related to tertiary education are to be construed as widely and liberally as the NWC or National Executive decides.

## 2. Functions

- 2.1. The NWC's main roles are to:
  - 2.1.1. discuss key tertiary welfare-related issues and make recommendations to the National Executive and NZUSA President;
  - 2.1.2. hold the Chairs or Project Leads of NZUSA's student welfare related Working Group's to account for their progress; and;
  - 2.1.3. to be a community of practice for its members to learn, share and draw inspiration.

## 3. Composition

### 3.1. Membership:

- 3.1.1. The NWC shall be comprised of:
  - 3.1.1.1. One person from each Member and Associate-Member Association appointed by their association to serve as their Association's representative. Representatives will typically be those persons who hold the student welfare portfolio on their respective Executives.
  - 3.1.1.2. The NZUSA President and Vice-President, from the date they officially commence office.

### 3.2. Co-Chairs of the NWC

- 3.2.1. The National Executive shall appoint two Members of the NWC to be Co-Chairs by way of vote in accordance with the Standing Orders of the National Executive. All eligible candidates shall be informed in advance of this vote and given the opportunity to present their case, by a process determined by the NZUSA President.

### 3.3. Term of NWC Members

- 3.3.1. Members of NWC shall be members from the date they are appointed until:
  - 3.3.1.1. in the case of 3.1.1.1 and 3.1.1.2 they finish their term of office on their Executive;
  - 3.3.1.2. they die;
  - 3.3.1.3. they resign their NWC Membership in writing to the National Executive; or
  - 3.3.1.4. the National Executive, consistent with natural justice, determines to remove that member

#### **4. Meetings**

- 4.1. NWC may choose to meet as frequently as it determines provided that it must meet at least twice a year.
- 4.2. The NWC Co-Chairs are responsible for setting meeting times, preparing the agenda (in conjunction with National Office), chairing and administering meetings, and reporting on the business of the NWC back to the National Executive.
- 4.3. Any decision-making by the NWC should be aimed to be made by consensus.
- 4.4. Quorum shall be half the number of persons who are members plus one.



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Version One

Approved date: April 2019

Review Date: January 2020

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document outlines the purpose, roles and responsibilities, membership and policy instrument development process for the NZUSA Policy Committee (the Committee).

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1. The document outlines the purpose, roles and responsibilities, membership and policy instrument development process for the NZUSA Policy Committee (the Committee).
- 2.2. The Committee is responsible for:
  - 2.2.1. ensuring that all current NZUSA policy instruments are in line with NZUSA's legal obligations and operational best practice, including by recommending the amendment or repeal of existing policy instruments to the National Executive; and
  - 2.2.2. providing advice in the form of recommendations and amendments to any new policy instruments, to be implemented by the National Executive, provided by either the President, Vice-President, the National Executive itself, or by any full or associate member of NZUSA.
- 2.3. All changes and amendments to any policy instruments must be presented and accepted by the National Executive, after having first received and seriously considered the advice of the Committee.
- 2.4. For the avoidance of doubt, this Committee shall not deal with any external NZUSA policy related to, but not limited to, NZUSA's position on New Zealand Government and Political Party Policies.

## 3. Composition, Quorum, and Meetings

- 3.1. The Chair and Committee shall be appointed by the National Executive following consultation with NZUSA's Full and Associate Members.
- 3.2. The Committee will comprise of a minimum of four and maximum of ten members, including the Chair.
- 3.3. The Committee must be comprised of:
  - 3.3.1. at least one member who is actively enrolled, or has graduated with, a Bachelor of Laws (LLB);
  - 3.3.2. at least one member who serves on the Executive of a University Students' Association; and
  - 3.3.3. at least one member who serves on the Executive or Students' Council of an Institute of Technology or Polytechnic Students' Association or Student Council.
- 3.4. For the avoidance of doubt, a member of the Committee may satisfy more than one of the membership requirements in 3.3.
- 3.5. Quorum of the Committee shall be four members.
- 3.6. Meetings will be held at the discretion of the Chair in a manner agreeable by all members.
- 3.7. In the event that the National Executive needs to urgently receive the advice and recommendations of the Committee and the Chair of the Committee is unavailable, the available members shall nominate a Chair among themselves.

#### **4. Policy Instrument Development Procedure**

- 4.1. The creation of any new policy instruments or the review and revision of any current policy instruments shall be as follows:
  - 4.1.1. The President, Vice President, the National Executive itself, or any Full or Associate Member of NZUSA shall, in the case of new policy instruments, produce a draft policy instrument for consideration and review to the Committee. In the case of current policy instruments, the President, Vice-President, the National Executive itself, or any Full or Association Member of NZUSA may request a review and revision of current policy to the Committee.
  - 4.1.2. The Committee shall then have 15 working days to consider the new or current policy with the power to make any changes or revisions to ensure that:
    - 4.1.2.1. the policy instrument is compliant with NZUSA's legal obligations and in line with operational best practice;
    - 4.1.2.2. the policy instrument is fit for purpose and in line with NZUSA's administrative organisation and values; and
    - 4.1.2.3. the policy instrument is written in such a way that it is easy to understand and follow.
  - 4.1.3. Once the Committee has completed its review, the Committee will then recommend its revised policy instrument to the National Executive for implementation.
  - 4.1.4. Where a new policy instrument received by the Committee cannot be revised to ensure it is compliant with the requirements under 4.1(b), the Committee shall be empowered to decline the new policy instrument provided that it produces a report to the National Executive detailing why it chose to do so.

#### **5. Relevant Documents**

- 5.1. NZUSA Constitution
- 5.2. NZUSA Strategic Plan

# Strategic Plan 2018-2022

## **Foundations** These are the things that ground us

Mission: why do we exist?

**NZUSA exists to fight for a barrier-free education for all**

Values: what drives us?

### **Rangatiratanga**

We take our place as leaders of the student movement, and strive to be representative, democratic and to speak authoritatively when we are mandated to do so

### **Kotahitanga**

We are a collective voice based on collaboration and partnership, while recognising that students are experts of their own lived experiences, we act in solidarity with them

### **Whanaungatanga**

We behave as family and acknowledge that we are all connected by our whakapapa of student representation

### **Manaakitanga**

We are supportive, take an intersectional approach, and seek to make visible and address the various privileges and oppressions, to build a movement that is more just, inclusive and coherent

## **Aspirations** This is what success looks like

Vision: where do we want to be?

**To be an influential and inclusive national voice for students**

Goals: what does it look like?

- ✓ **Trusted partner with a radical edge**
- ✓ **A hub for supporting student representatives and their organisations**
- ✓ **A representative voice that is rich in diversity**
- ✓ **Delivering tangible improvements to students' lives**
- ✓ **An authority on students in the eyes of society and students themselves**

Objectives: how do we get there?

- **Engagement** Build systems & capability to engage directly with students from all walks of life
- **Democracy** Have democratic systems that allow for students of all demographics to participate
- **Campaigns** Develop locally-driven, evidence-based campaigns that make a difference
- **Student Voice** Build a National Centre for Student Voice
- **Communication** Measure & report internally & publicly on what we do

The **New Zealand Union of Students' Associations** presents their...

## **2020 Policy Manifesto**

NZUSA exists to fight for a barrier free education for all. As treaty partners, our work is guided by the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We are an influential and inclusive national voice for students that has the following values at our core.

- Kotahitanga: We are stronger together. We are a collective voice based on collaborations and partnership, while recognising that students are experts of their own lived experience, we act in solidarity with them.
- Whanaungatanga: We are family. We behave as a family and acknowledge that we are all connected by our whakapapa of student representation.
- Manaakitanga: We care for others. We are supportive, take an intersectional approach, and seek to make visible and address the various privileges and oppressions, to build a movement that is more just, inclusive and coherent.
- Rangatiratanga: We are leaders. We take our place as leaders of the student movement, and strive to be representative, democratic and to speak authoritatively when we are mandated to do so.

### **Our landscape**

The tertiary environment continues to change rapidly. New Zealand has seen a significant increase in the number of domestic and international tertiary students over the past few decades. There is no such thing as the 'average student' – students are diverse in ethnicity, age, socioeconomic background, and hopes and aspirations, and are learning in different spaces and timeframes across the country.

The Reform of Vocational Education is transforming the vocational learner experience, with the full effects of this transformational shift in the tertiary landscape not to be felt for a few years. Meanwhile, students nationally are increasingly being treated as a number and not a name through the steady 'privatisation' of tertiary institutions, who are prioritising budgets and profits over educational aspirations and student needs.

Over the past decade there has been a reduction in student voice nationwide as a result of Voluntary Student Membership, alongside a recalibration of association priorities, focusing more heavily on service provision. The cost of living as a student continues to climb, and discussion around the Governments' fees free policy intensifies.

Student experiences with mental health are worsening and becoming more apparent, the national discussion on sexual violence prevention on our campuses continues, and young people are beginning to stand up and demand climate action from their institutions and the government.

This Policy Manifesto seeks to funnel our strategic direction and members' views into a clear and cohesive document that states our position on key policy arguments. Each policy has been scrutinized by all member associations.

This Policy Manifesto is intentionally not all encompassing.



NZUSA recognises Te Mana Ākonga, Taura Pasifika, and the New Zealand International Students' Association as the respective groups responsible for representing and being experts of Māori, Pasifika, and International students.

As the views of NZUSA generally align with those of Te Mana Ākonga, Taura Pasifika, and the New Zealand International Students' Association, we recommend further discussion with them on topics beyond the scope of this manifesto. NZUSA also recommends further consultation with other on campus groups, such as those representing women, the rainbow community, and disabled students.

### **Role of Tertiary Education**

We support a barrier free education for all. Education should be considered a right, not a privilege, for members of society. Financial barriers, in particular, should not be a deterrent to studying. We recognize that tertiary education plays a major role as a critic and conscience of society through cultivating critical thinking, collaboration and communication. We also acknowledge the vital role that vocational education and training plays in benefiting society.

### **Cost of Living**

We acknowledge that the student experience, as it stands, is extremely costly. Staggering average rent prices, cost of transport, exploitation by employers, and having to prioritise low-paying jobs over study have all become a part of the 'student norm'. We believe that education should be accessible and equitable for all students, to recognise the realities of student living and learning.

We also acknowledge the effects that accumulating student debt has on students in the long-term. This constrains decisions around working or living overseas or not, whether to have families or not, and whether to take out a mortgage on a house or invest in a business opportunity.

When pursuing employment, internship, and volunteer opportunities, we believe all students should work within environments that are safe, where they are valued, and where they are free from exploitation and discrimination.

### **Student Accommodation**

We support students living in halls of residence and colleges being covered under the same protections given to tenants under the Residential Tenancies Act. We also support robust resourcing of all hall and college staff in the form of fair pay, safe working conditions, and comprehensive training to deal with the challenges of being caregivers for students of all ages, levels of study, and backgrounds.

We believe that students in halls of residence or colleges should be eligible for the student accommodation benefit, given the high cost of accommodation for these students.

### **Student Voice**

We believe that students' wellbeing, success, and holistic student experience should be at the heart of tertiary institutions' decision-making. To achieve this, students need to be partners in all decision-making processes relating to their experiences, and Māori student voice in particular should be amplified in these discussions.

Student organisations play a crucial role in holding tertiary institutes to account and in empowering students. We believe that institutions and the Government should play a lead role in enabling and supporting student organisations to be independent and effective, including independent Māori student organisations.

We recognise and acknowledge that the working conditions of staff at tertiary institutions directly impact the success and wellbeing of students, and we support the aims of the Tertiary Education Union in developing a tertiary workplace culture that supports and benefits staff.

### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

We believe that student consultation should be practised as an equitable engagement of opportunity. We believe that tertiary institutions should engage in intentional, meaningful, extensive consultation with students and student groups who are a part of or represent a marginalised community, including (but not limited to) Māori, Pasifika, rainbow, disability, low socioeconomic, and international student communities.

NZUSA has several relationships with independent representative bodies who represent some of these tertiary communities. We respect and support their autonomy and self-determination, and believe that it is in our best interests to allow them to define their goals in achieving equity for those they represent.

**Māori Students:** We acknowledge Te Mana Ākonga as our Treaty partners, who are the representative voice for all tertiary students in New Zealand of Māori descent.

**International Students:** We acknowledge the New Zealand International Student Association (NZISA) as the representative voice for all international tertiary students in New Zealand.

**Pasifika Students:** We acknowledge Tauria Pasifika as the representative voice for all tertiary students in New Zealand who descend from Polynesia, Melanesia and/or Micronesia.

**Rainbow Students:** There is no independent national voice for rainbow students in New Zealand, and so NZUSA strives to listen to and represent their needs. We believe that all rainbow students have the right to study free from discrimination and violence. We support tertiary institutes using students' preferred pronouns and an increase in the availability of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.

**Students with Disabilities:** There is no independent national voice for disabled students in New Zealand, and so NZUSA strives to listen to and represent their needs. We follow the social model of disability in thinking about and responding to disability, and urge government to do the same. We believe that all tertiary institutions must be accessible for those with physical and mental disabilities, both visible and invisible. We believe that tertiary campuses should proactively accommodate the physical and technical requirements of students living with disabilities in the physical environment and in their pedagogy.

## **Mental Health**

We acknowledge that mental health is one of New Zealand's biggest challenges and opportunities. For students, there are a range of factors that affect students' mental wellbeing, including but not limited to financial stress, academic pressure, discrimination, and distress around employment prospects.

We support and acknowledge all types of mental health distress, both short-term and long-term, and believe that accessible and appropriate professional support should be available to all who need it, at an affordable cost.

## **Menstruation**

We acknowledge that the high cost of menstrual products creates an unfair financial barrier to many students for whom they are a necessity, and support measures to reduce this financial burden, such as the provision of free or cost-reduced menstrual products by tertiary institutions.

## **Sexual Misconduct**

We strongly believe that sexual misconduct, sexual violence, and any sexually harmful behaviour have no place in New Zealand. We stand in solidarity with survivors and hold an expectation that tertiary institutions should share our stance and pursue meaningful action towards eliminating these practices. All sexual violence prevention, support and advocacy initiatives need to be culturally appropriate and in line with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

All tertiary institutions should be held accountable by an external independent body overseeing the reporting and disclosure process of sexually harmful behaviours. All tertiary institutions should have a standardised, standalone policy addressing the reporting, response and prevention of sexually harmful behaviours.

We believe that:

- All tertiary institutions should have a centre for sexual violence support and prevention.
- All tertiary staff should undergo mandatory training on how to deal with disclosures of sexual harm.
- All first-year tertiary students should undergo mandatory consent education.
- All secondary schools should have robust and consistent gender, sexuality, sex, and consent education.

## **Environment and Climate Change**

Tertiary institutions should be at the forefront of progressive environmental change, reflective of their role of educating the next generation. NZUSA supports strong political and social action from government and all areas of society to respond to the current climate crisis, in both curbing rising temperatures and building resilience against the consequences that are unavoidable.

## **Secondary School Leavers**

NZUSA believes that secondary school leavers should be supported with the tools and career advice to transition into the next stage of their lives, whether it is further study, employment, or another path. This is important for helping them fulfil their goals and sense of purpose in life, and should centre the learner, not the desires of adults in their lives.