

**NEW ZEALAND
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION (INC.)**

Annual Report
1994





NZUSA 1994 Federation Executive

Standing (left to right)

Steve Macaulay (LUSA), Juliet Gunby (VUWSA), Dave Guerin (Treasurer)
Paul Williams (WSU), Jeremy Baker (President), Steve Collett (MUSA)

Sitting (left to right)

Christina Rizos (UCSA), Alistair Shaw (Vice President), Adrian Reeve (OUSA),
Cyrus Richardson (AUSA)

Accountants: Curtis McLean

Lawyers: Russell McVeagh, McKenzie, Bartleet & Co

Auditors: Spicer Oppenheim

Bank: Bank of New Zealand

New Zealand University Students' Association, 59 Aurora Terrace, Wellington
PO Box 10-191, The Terrace, Wellington; Tel (04) 4712559, Fax (04) 4732391

President's Report



1994 was a watershed year in tertiary education, and for NZUSA.

With the recommendations of the Todd Report the Government finally admitted that it had a deliberate and calculated policy of progressively reducing the level of public funding in tertiary education, and increasing the student debt burden as a consequence.

The Tertiary Lead Group met to consider how the universities might participate in the National Qualifications Framework, and bring the benefits of such a framework to university students, without endangering university education. The implementation of this group's recommendations will have far reaching consequences.

The Tertiary Students' Association Voluntary Membership Bill saw the long-argued issue of student association membership brought to the fore. The extremist nature of the Bill served to highlight the ideological extremism underlying arguments against universal membership of tertiary students' associations.

Within the student movement, there were similarly momentous changes. The co-habitation with the Aotearoa Polytechnics Student Union was put in place in 1994. NZUSA increased broadened the means by which students could participate in its activities, particularly fostering the involvement of women through the University Women's Information Network and the work of the Women's Co-ordinator.

Throughout the year, NZUSA moved to increase its contact and dialogue with Te Mana Akonga, the national Māori students' association. At its August Conference, NZUSA agreed to fund the establishment costs of Te Mana Akonga's national office in 1994.

1994 marked a watershed for me personally as well, bringing to an end seven years of official involvement in the student movement, including four as a federation officer. I would like to thank all those who I have worked with and been assisted by during those seven years, both at VUWSA and nationally. Tertiary education has undergone tremendous change during that period, some good and some very definitely bad. For example I paid \$125 in tuition fees for a full year when I first enrolled. It has however certainly been an exciting and rewarding time to be involved.

I wish all those working for students in 1995 and beyond the best of luck and hope that you will enjoy your time in the student movement. These people include the 1995 federation officers, Paul and Grant; the federation office staff; APSU, Te Kupenga Tauira O Aotearoa, and Te Mana Akonga officers and staff; SJS RMCs and staff; Presidents and executives of students' associations; and most importantly those working at the grass roots level - student delegates, campaign organisers and participants, class representatives and club members. I can assure you all that I continue to believe and work for a quality education system for all.

Vice President's Report



As a political organisation NZUSA so often has its agenda determined by where in the political cycle each year is. 1994 was no exception. Not being an election year we had, and took, the opportunity to examine ourselves, reorganise and look to the future. We also had a newly re-elected National Government wanting, as soon as possible, to finish its all-to-obvious task of destroying access to tertiary education.

In 1994 we faced attacks on funding (the Todd Report), an attempt to destroy the ability of students to organise (Michael Laws' anti-students' association bill), and discussion on the fundamental nature of tertiary education (the Qualifications Framework). At the same time we were looking at how we should be organised, the role of women, of Māori, of students directly, within the Federation. To our credit most of these issues were discussed openly and constructively within our organisation and we are the better for that.

Few of the issues that those involved in NZUSA in 1994 faced are ours alone. They will be faced by students, their representatives and those who work for them in years to come. I trust only that the discussions we had, the decisions we made, and the work that we did will make it easier for those who follow to walk along a path that serves those we represent.

As successes for the year we can point to the Minister of Education's complete failure to close debate on tertiary education - it's not the 'dead issue' he'd like it to be. Thousands of students took part in actions that made sure access was still to be discussed, including (significantly) almost all the attendants of an NZUSA Conference who occupied the Ministry of Education's offices on the release of the Todd Report.

We can point to the tremendous development of the women's network, thanks not just to the wonderful work of NZUSA Women's Co-ordinator Jan Logie, but also to the commitment of women students all around the country, and to the vision of NZUSA as a whole in accepting the need and supporting the resourcing of the network.

After years of avoiding the issue NZUSA finally accepted its commitments and responsibilities to the Treaty of Waitangi in 1994. Incorporating the Treaty into the Constitution, recognising Te Mana Akonga as our parallel organisation representing Māori students, resourcing Te Mana Akonga so that it can provide its members with what they expect from their national body. Far as we have come however, our full obligation is a long way from met. Those involved for the future would do well to remember that, like so many other issues, putting the Treaty into practice starts and ends with our personal commitment.

Another example of the examination of ourselves in 1994 is the Southern African Scholarship Trust Board. Early in the year we saw Nonhlanhla Mtshali, the fifth Southern African Scholar,

off home just in time to vote in the first ever multi-racial elections. We then completed the review we began in 1993 of where we wanted the scholarship to go, taking into account developments in South Africa and in Aotearoa / New Zealand. As the year ends we have convened a meeting of the Trust Board with the recommendation that we wind up work with South Africa and start looking for another place to carry on the wonderful work NZUSA has always been part of in defending students' rights internationally.

There are too many people to thank individually, especially as 1994 represents the second of my two years in the Federation Office. But to all the elected representatives of students who worked for students, who took their responsibilities both seriously and in good heart, it has been a pleasure to be part of what we are together. Thank you to the staff of the NZUSA Federation Office, so much of what we try to do would flop without you. Thank you also to all the members of the community that have worked with students on issues 'yours' or 'ours' where we have a common interest. Our collective interests have been better served for it.

Mission & 1994 Themes

NZUSA's mission is

“To promote, in the interests of current and future students in New Zealand, equity of access to and equity of opportunity within, quality university education; and to promote the welfare of those students; acknowledging the Treaty of Waitangi where appropriate in this work.”

In 1994, NZUSA identified two theme to focus it work towards achieving this mission, developing a vision of and working for:

A Quality Education System for All

and

Building a Better Student Movement.

These themes covered the two types of goals which NZUSA set for itself in 1994 - its primary goals, those directly working towards its mission, and its support goals, those operational activities which support and make achieving its primary goals possible.

An operational plan detailed both these types of goals, and it was on this basis that the federation office worked in 1994 - and it is on this basis that this report is made.

A Quality Education System for All

Education System

An education system conducive to equitable, accessible and quality university education.

At February Workshops, NZUSA launched *Out of the Past*, a review of reform and change in tertiary education. This review, the result of one and a half years of research, consultation and writing, is designed to form the foundation of a clear vision for NZUSA of the kind of education system that it wishes to see.

During 1994, there was ongoing discussion on the basis upon which such a vision should be drawn up.

Funding & Management

Universities are sufficiently well funded, effectively and efficiently managed, and accountably to the public and students for their operations.

Funding

The major funding related issue in 1994 was the Todd Taskforce, or the Ministerial Review on Funding Growth in Post Compulsory Education and Training.

NZUSA's 1993 President, Kirsty Graham, was a member of the Todd Taskforce, and NZUSA made a number of submissions to the Taskforce, both formally and informally.

As it transpired the Taskforce's recommendations reflected the views of a particular interest group, and could not be reconciled with either the submissions presented to it or even the substance of its own report.

NZUSA immediately responded with strong public protest and media criticism, culminating in some of the largest marches in living memory. Considerable pressure was applied politically, including a delegation of all campus presidents and the national officers to the Minister of Education. This resulted in the Minister agreeing to put the resources of the Ministry of Education at NZUSA's disposal so that it might provide him with further submissions.

NZUSA's *Response to the Todd Report* was a comprehensive document, drawing together the work of NZ academics, Ministry of Education statistics and destroying the arguments underlying the Todd recommendations on a systematic basis.

Management & Accountability

Universities use public funds responsibly, effectively and efficiently, and are accountable for their operations.

Throughout the year, the Minister of Education continued to argue, without justification, that the composition of tertiary councils was inadequate. His main argument appeared to be that they were had insufficient 'managerial expertise' - a bizarre accusation considering that Council's role is governance, not management. If the Minister were concerned with ineffective management, then he should have directed his criticism at CEO's.

NZUSA continued to argue that Councils should reflect the diversity of the tertiary community, and particularly that students must be strongly represented on tertiary councils.

Access

There are no financial or other barriers to access to tertiary education for all those citizens who desire it.

Fees

NZUSA continued its basic opposition to tuition fees as a barrier to tertiary education, while assisting its members to minimise the levels of those fees. All across the country numerous protests and marches were held to highlight the detrimental effect of fees on access. The huge marches in Auckland, the Christchurch Ministry of Education occupation and the frequent and often inventive protests in Dunedin were highlights of an eventful and successful campaign year.

The Todd Report itself provided an important international comparison of public tertiary institutional fees. It made it clear that NZ was very near the top in terms of such fees - a marked turn-around since 1988.

Participation

NZUSA continued to monitor levels of participation in tertiary education. Most striking were the alarming trends in first year enrolments, which overall saw a drop. This is a clear indication of the effects of user-pays on participation.

NZUSA also assisted its members, when requested, with arguments against limitations of entry. Due to enrolment difficulties on some campuses, limitations were removed from large numbers of first year courses. It is at first year level that limitations are the most damaging to access.

Admission

NZUSA continued to oppose, despite the elitist comments of the Minister, the change in university entrance criteria from 4 D Bursaries to 3 C Bursaries, on the grounds that Bursary had never traditionally been a requirement for

university entrance and that the 4D's entrance criteria was higher than the old 6th form UE level of entrance. Nevertheless, young people were denied access to university education on this basis in 1994.

Credit Transfer & RPL

Much of NZUSA's work on the Tertiary Lead Group was focused on advancing credit transfer. The potential improvements for access to university education offered by a properly constituted qualifications framework are significant, and this forms an important part of NZUSA's position on the Lead Group.

Through the NZVCC Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP), NZUSA also participated in the development of an NZVCC policy on Recognition of Prior Learning, a major step forward for RPL in the university system.

Quality & Curriculum

Universities provide quality in curriculum, teaching and assessment.

Quality Assurance

NZUSA made important gains in this area in 1994. First it took up membership of the NZ Universities Academic Audit Unit Board (AAU). Second, it obtained membership of the NZVCC Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP), the body responsible for approving all university programmes. And finally, it participated in the Tertiary Lead Group on the National Qualifications Framework.

Academic Audit

The AAU set out a programme of academic audits for the seven universities which will run until early 1997. In 1994, Victoria University underwent a voluntary trial audit, and in 1995 Auckland and Lincoln Universities will undergo AAU pilot audits. These audits will provide students' associations with important opportunities to hold their institutions accountable.

Curriculum & Qualifications

NZUSA's membership of CUAP, a body which apart from approving all qualifications, also discusses important academic policy issues, was an important step forward. The addition of a student representative gave an added sharpness to the scrutiny given to applications for new or amended qualifications. NZUSA also pushed for a steady move to requiring all qualifications to undergo regular review and re-approval by CUAP.

Tertiary Lead Group

The Tertiary Lead Group on the National Qualifications Framework was one of the most significant, and controversial, events of 1994. The task of the Lead group, including four Vice-Chancellors and the NZUSA President, was to make recommendations that would make it possible for degrees (and as a result the universities) to be included in a national qualifications framework.

Considerable debate took place, both within the Group and generally, on issues such as unit standards, standards setting bodies, qualifications approval systems and so forth.

The final recommendations of the Group, endorsed by NZUSA, suggested that both the universities and the NZQA systems needed to be changed in order to achieve a single unified qualifications system. Most importantly, degrees should not have to make use of unit standards, but should have to specify their overall outcomes.

The most important issue left unresolved by the Lead Group was the detail of the body which would be responsible for approving and accrediting institutions to offer degrees. This issue will require careful ongoing work.

Post-graduate Education

In 1994 as part of a general broadening of its focus, NZUSA recognised the particular concerns and needs of post-graduate students. In particular it assisted in the organisation and funding of the first national Post-Graduate Students Conference, held at Victoria University in December 1994. The NZUSA President attended and gave a key-note speech on the quality environment and post-graduate education.

Semesterisation

NZUSA also participated in an NZVCC sponsored discussion on the impact of semesterisation. NZUSA focused on the needs of students for significant breaks for work, the importance of child care during school holidays, and the importance of ensuring that courses were not 'compressed' from one year to a half year.

Equity

Universities and the Government address equity in terms of access, teaching and assessment.

Treaty of Waitangi

In 1994 NZUSA took the important step of incorporating the Treaty of Waitangi into its constitution. This was the culmination of a long process of increased contact and dialogue with Te Mana Akonga, the national Māori university students' association.

In 1994 NZUSA formally and constitutionally recognised Te Mana Akonga as the official representative of Māori university students, and is now constitutionally committed to co-operation and consultation with Te Mana Akonga on matters affecting Māori students.

Gender Equity

In 1994, the University Women's Information Network was considerably strengthened by the work and support of the Women's Co-ordinator, Jan Logie.

Considerable work was undertaken by UWIN and Jan to highlight and address issues of gender inequity within the university system.

Gender inequity was particularly highlighted in respect of the Todd Recommendations. NZUSA's response to the Todd Report clearly demonstrated that women would take far longer to repay debt incurred in order to fund their tertiary education - and that they would consequently pay much more in total than their male counterparts.

Age

NZUSA and other groups continued to push for the abolition of the StudyRight, which discriminates on the basis of age. Even the Todd Report agreed that it was inequitable!

Disability

NZUSA highlighted the appalling lack of support and funding for students with disabilities who wish to undertake tertiary education. Strong submissions were made to the Todd Taskforce, and these recommendations were included in the final report, but have yet to be actioned by Government.

Dependents

Childcare to enable students (mainly women) with dependents to undertake university study was a major focus in 1994. NZUSA lobbied the NZVCC (without success) for a national policy on childcare. It supported campus associations working to improve childcare on campus.

Sexuality

In 1993 NZUSA recognised its responsibility to work for gay, lesbian and bisexual students in universities, and agreed to undertake research on the situation of these students. This research was conducted in 1994, and the results of this research highlighted important issues of discrimination and homophobia within the university community. A programme of action was agreed upon for 1995.

Student Support

Students receive adequate state income, welfare and employment.

Allowances

Throughout 1994 NZUSA made a special effort to highlight the unfairness of the student allowances system, where students are means tested not on their own income but on that of their parents - up the age of 25!

Considerable effort was also expended, however, in fighting to retain what was left of the scheme, as there were many who suggested completely replacing it with the Loans system. In the end, only the most extreme version of the Todd recommendations suggested that allowances were not needed.

Loans

The Student Loans Scheme was another ongoing focus of attention. As the amount borrowed increased, the enormity of this issue increasingly becomes apparent to the media and the public.

As the level of debt approaches \$1 Billion, and as increasing numbers of graduates begin to suffer the inequitable repayment requirements, Loans will become an increasingly important means of graphically demonstrating where the 'savings' in tertiary education are coming from!

Student Employment

NZUSA continued to work through SJS to ensure that as many students, from all backgrounds, could earn as much as possible in order to make up the short fall in their allowances and loans. The importance of in-term work was increasingly recognised - yet the number of hours being worked by students during term was also alarmingly high. At some point, the number of hours required to work in order to study becomes self-defeating, and it seems that point is approaching.

Student Services

To assist and coordinate the provision of quality student services by Constituents.

Student Control

NZUSA and APSU jointly held a Student Services Conference in early 1994 to assist students associations to focus on and develop their student services. A particular focus of this conference was student control, in the light of the possibility of voluntary student membership.

National Services

Throughout the year consideration was given to the establishment of national students services and of a body or bodies to run such services, in conjunction

with APSU. Debate on these issues was inconclusive, as some were concerned with the impact on local services and with past failures of national services, but there was general agreement that such services were a good idea in principle. It was felt that the national student organisations should be involved in national services, either directly or indirectly.

Social Issues

To promote discussion and action as appropriate on social and political issues of concern to students as citizens.

8.1 Youth Wages & Debt

NZUSA was active in promoting significantly increasing the level of the youth minimum wage, preferably to the level of the adult minimum. NZUSA worked to highlight the linkages between youth and student debt levels, and the need to encourage rather than discourage young people into tertiary education.

8.2 Drinking Age

NZUSA undertook some work, at the request of its constituents, on the issue of the legal drinking age. Research from Australia and other countries was collected for these constituents.

Building a Better Student Movement

Student Associations

Membership

Once again in 1994, NZUSA was faced with a motion to withdraw from the federation, this time from Canterbury University Students' Association. The move to withdraw apparently began as a parting 'joke' by the outgoing 1993 UCSA executive, but rapidly developed into a serious attempt to leave.

NZUSA is always in a difficult position when one of its members seeks to withdraw, but this occasion was further complicated by the Voluntary Membership Bill and the fact that those promoting the withdrawal never made clear what their grievances were.

In the end, with the support of Christina Rizos, USCA President, UCSA students voted to remain members by an overwhelming majority.

Voluntary Student Membership Bill

In March the Tertiary Students' Associations Voluntary Membership Bill was suddenly and unexpectedly introduced to Parliament. While VSM had long been a topic of debate, this particular Bill was a surprise. Sponsored by long-time anti-students' association MP Michael Laws (with no mandate from his constituents), it proposed an extremely draconian regime that would not only remove universal membership, but make it illegal to charge students for all kinds of 'non-academic' services, excepting only a short list of services.

This Bill displayed for all to see the extremist and unrealistic ideology that lies behind opposition to universal membership of tertiary students' associations. Since the law already provided for conscientious objection, and for the Councils of tertiary institutions to decide whether or not there should be a students' association for the purposes of collective levies, the Bill was in fact nothing more than an attempt to destroy effective student representation and services.

Support

NZUSA federation office assisted a number of campuses with training, mediation and other forms of support throughout the year.

Student Representation

In 1994, NZUSA co-hosted the Education Co-ordinator's Conference at Victoria University. This recognised the increasing importance of the position of education co-ordinator with students associations.

The federation office also assisted a number of campuses with student representative work throughout the year, including assisting a number of campuses to develop their student representative structures.

Local Cooperation

In some regions local co-operation between tertiary students' associations was excellent, but overall there was considerable room for improvement. Local co-operation is vital if national co-operation between the various parts of the student movement are to be effective.

NZUSA Structure & Practice

Constitution

A number of important changes were made to the NZUSA Constitution in 1994. These were the recognition of the need for NZUSA keeping all women's perspectives in focus at all times, at all levels, on all issues, the recognition of Te Mana Akonga as the national representative body of Māori university students, and the incorporation of the Treaty of Waitangi into the constitution.

Federation Executive

The Federation Executive played an active role in the running of the federation in 1994, with areas of responsibility allocated to its members. Te Mana Akonga representatives were invited to attend Federation Executive meetings in 1994, and NZUSA funded this attendance.

APSU

1994 was the first year of the NZUSA-APSU co-habitation, and like all firsts, it was not without its difficulties. Overall the co-habitation was a success, but there are many areas which could be improved. There is a clear need for more and better communication between Federation Executive and the APSU national management committee. There is also a need to work towards similar issues being considered at NZUSA and APSU conferences, so that dialogue on important issues can take place. The traditional friction between varsity and poly students continued to be a concern. This issue must be addressed if real co-operation is to take place.

APSU's failure to elect a President for 1995 will make the co-habitation difficult, but the wider political benefits of a united tertiary student sector are too important to allow short term difficulties to damage the co-habitation principle.

Employees

In late 1993, three new people were employed to fill the three newly created positions. Jan Logie was appointed as Women's Co-ordinator, Rob Graham as Research Officer and Tumohe Clarke as Campus Liaison Officer. They joined Mandy Johnston, the Office Assistant as the staff of the NZUSA-APSU national office.

In late 1994, a review was carried out of the positions of Women's Co-ordinator and Office Assistant. As a result of this review it became clear that both positions were underpaid, and consequently both positions salary scales were increased. It also became clear that the position of Office Assistant was not sufficient to met the administrative load of the combined federation office, and it was decided to create an Administrative Assistant position, incorporating the financial duties of the Treasurer.

Links & Networks

Issue Networks

A bold attempt to increase the level of student participation in NZUSA by creating 'issue networks' was not nearly as successful as it had been hoped, with the notable exception of UWIN (see below). It is hoped that in the future more groups of students with common concerns and interests will form issue networks to assist their work and to contribute to NZUSA's work.

Te Mana Akonga

Over the year, increasing levels of dialogue and discussion occurred with Te Mana Akonga, principally due to the efforts of Alistair Shaw, NZUSA Vice President. This dialogue culminated in the official recognition of Te Mana Akonga as the representative of Māori university students, and the agreement by NZUSA to contribute towards the establishment costs of Te Mana Akonga's national office, hopefully to be situated at the same location as the NZUSA office.

The establishment of a Te Mana Akonga national office will greatly increase the ability of NZUSA to engage in constructive dialogue with Te Mana Akonga.

UWIN

As was hoped when the Women's Co-ordinator position was established in 1993, the University Women's Information Network (UWIN) went from strength to strength in 1994. This was due in no small measure to the excellent

work undertaken by Jan Logie as the Women's Co-ordinator, supporting and assisting women's participation in NZUSA at all levels.

International Links

NZUSA took steps to increase its level of international links and involvement in 1994. The Vice President attended the Asian-Pacific Students' Association Pacific sub-region conference in Melbourne, and contact was maintained with NUS (Australia). Unfortunately, the NUS President, Penny Sharpe, was unable to attend either of the NZUSA Conferences in 1994.

Workshops & Conferences

February Workshops

NZUSA's 1994 February Workshops were a great success, with a significant focus on developing a clear understanding amongst delegates of the work and processes of NZUSA. The two themes of a Quality Education for All and Building a Better Student Movement were endorsed, and *Out of the Past* was launched.

May Conference

May Conference 1994 was held at Canterbury University, and was marked by the release of the Todd Report the day before the Conference. Not surprisingly this issue, along with the recently announced Voluntary Student Membership Bill dominated the Conference. The impromptu occupation of the Christchurch branch of the Ministry of Education served to unite the delegates in their determination to combat the recommendations of the Todd Report.

August Conference

August Conference, held at Waikato University, saw the election of Paul Williams and Grant Robertson as NZUSA federation officers for 1995. There was also discussion of the relationship between NZUSA and Te Mana Akonga, and between NZUSA and UWIN.

Women's Conference

As well as the usual women's conferences held prior to each NZUSA conference, a special women's hui was held to provide women students with the opportunity to plan and evaluate work on women's issues.

Other Conferences

The other major conference held by NZUSA was the Campaign Organisers Workshop in late April. This brought together a large number of activists and campaign organisers from around the country and significantly strengthened the activist base on campuses.

NZUSA also assisted or organised the Student Services Conference, the Education Co-ordinator's Conference and the Post-Graduate Students Conference.

Research & Information

Primary Research

In 1994 NZUSA carried out one major piece of primary research, the bi-annual Income & Expenditure survey. For the first time, this survey covered both university and polytechnic students, and the results were provided both in a document and computerised form.

Primary research was also carried out on the concerns of gay, lesbian and bisexual students at the universities.

Secondary Research & Analysis

NZUSA's major piece of secondary research in 1994 was the *Response to the Todd Report*, which brought together a wide range of academic and other work to provide a coherent and comprehensive rebuttal of the recommendations of the Todd Report.

Library

Federation Office also continued to develop the Federation Library, and copies of the File Index were supplied to constituent members.

Research & Information Network

The first steps were taken to develop a network of individuals and organisations interested in research and information related to tertiary education. This will steadily grow as time goes on.

Services Management

Student Job Search

In 1994 the SJS Chairpersonship was held by the APSU President, and the NZUSA President acted as Deputy. However, the two National Officers worked closely together on all issues.

During 1994 two reviews were undertaken within SJS covering the governance structure and the adequacy of computing systems. The governance review focused on whether the organisation would best be served by having students associations belong to the national organisation, or continuing with regional membership. It was generally concluded that regional membership should be retained, with some changes to highlight the national nature of the service.

The computer review resulted in a significant upgrade in the quality and consistency of computer equipment and software, which enable SJS to meet the ever increasing demand for its services from students.

Also successful concluded in 1994 were both the Employment Officers' and Managers' collective employment contracts.

SJS Funding

Obtaining and retaining funding for SJS proved to be difficult once again in 1994. Having worked hard in 1993 to put forward a strong case for increased funding, the 1994 Budget night appropriation for SJS was slightly lower than the 1993 level. The SJS national officers and national director made representations to the Minister of Employment and the Prime Minister. These resulted in an increase in funding to slightly more than 1993 levels.

Finance & Resources

Finance

1994 was the first year in which NZUSA and APSU shared a substantial number of administrative and staffing costs through their joint budget. As with other aspects of the co-habitation, this suffered from some teething problems, but overall this enable both organisations to significantly increase the level of service to their members without enormous increases in levies.

After a number of years of significant operating surpluses, NZUSA had an operating loss in 1994. This was due not to cost over-runs but to deliberate decisions of the federation to make additional expenditure. These included inviting Te Mana Akonga representatives to Federation Executive meetings, running an additional Women's Hui, sending the Vice President to the Asia-Pacific Students Association Conference, increasing the salary scale of the Women's Co-ordinator and Office Assistance, and finally taking all staff to all conferences.

In general it became clear that an (extremely) part-time Treasurer was not sufficient to carry out the accounting and financial management required for both NZUSA and APSU, and thus

Facilities

As the year progressed it became clear that the 59 Aurora Terrace premises were no longer adequate for NZUSA's (or APSU's) needs. Not only were they simply too small, but the split-level nature of the building did not encourage teamwork between officers and staff.

Vigorous attempts were made to find new premises and to sell Aurora Terrace, however incorrect initial advice as to the value of the property made it difficult to sell at a price sufficient to purchase and fit-out new premises. Hopefully this difficulty will be rapidly resolved.

Campaigns & Movement Building

A large number of high profile marches and protests were the significant features of the 1994 campaign for accessible and free tertiary education. Record numbers of students participated in a wide range of innovative protest activities, increasing the level of awareness of the issues and helping to build a strong movement.

Next Step

Throughout 1994 NZUSA supported the work of the Next Step Democracy Movement to develop a series of citizen initiated referenda, including one on free and accessible education. NZUSA provided the only cash support for Next Step's work in 1994, and some constituents agreed to continue this funding in 1995.

Overall the 1994 campaign was a considerable success, if not in halting the recommendations of the Todd Report, but in terms of building a strong student movement working for a accessible tertiary education for all.



Use your voice
Have your say
Keep your voice