

Federation Office Staff

Charlie Chambers and Andrew Campbell
Co-Presidents

Anna McMartin (January - April) and Roshni Sami (June – December)
National Women's Rights Officers

Rebecca Matthews
Research Officer

Anna Sutherland
Administration and Campaigns Officer

2002 Constituent Members

Albany Students' Association
Waikato Student Union
Student Association of the Waikato Institute of Technology
Massey University Students' Association
Victoria University Wellington Students' Association
Lincoln University Students' Association
Otago Polytechnic Students' Association
Otago University Students' Association

2002 Associate Members

Auckland University Students' Association
Auckland College of Education Students' Association
Massey Extramural Students' Society
Christchurch College of Education Students' Association

Accountants

Curtis McLean

Lawyers

Russell McVeigh

Auditors

Horwarth Wellington

Bank

Bank of New Zealand

New Zealand University Students' Association
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Introduction

2002 was a year of expansion for NZUSA. After a year of rebuilding in 2001, 2002 saw a growth in membership and resources for the organisation. 2002 was the first year in NZUSA's history that it represented students at not only Universities, but also Colleges of Education and Polytechnics. This report covers the work of NZUSA in 2002 as it relates to activities and relationships, government liaison and tertiary sector activity.

NZUSA Activity

Federation Office

NZUSA continued to work out of its offices on Lambton Quay. Some work was undertaken to find tenants for the unused office space made available since the departure of the Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association at the end of 2000. By the end of the year an agreement in principle had been reached with University Sport New Zealand (USNZ) for them to move into the vacant space at the rear of the office. It was also agreed that further renovation to the toilet and kitchen area would need to be undertaken before USNZ moved in. This decision will ensure better utilisation of the Lambton Quay space, while also providing efficiencies for both organisations that have a cross over in membership.

Anna Sutherland began work as the Administration and Campaign Coordinator in June. Anna had previously been involved in student associations' and worked in Parliament before coming to NZUSA. This was the first time since the end of 2000 that NZUSA had employed someone to undertake administrative duties and freed up a lot of work from the other members of staff. Anna also brought a wealth of campaign experience that was invaluable during the election campaign.

Membership

The membership of the organisation grew considerably in 2002. The student associations at Waikato and Otago Polytechnics came on board from the beginning of the year as full members. In addition the Auckland University Students' Association rejoined as an associate member from the beginning of the year and the Auckland College of Education Students' Association joined as an associate member in September. This brought the total membership of NZUSA to twelve associations. By the end of 2002 an agreement had been reached with the Auckland University Student Movement at AUT to become a full member in 2003 and the University of Canterbury Students' Association and the Wellington Teacher Trainees' Association to join as associate members in 2003.

The rapid growth of the association over the past two years has been a challenge for all involved but has resulted in a stronger mandate for NZUSA and a strengthened national student movement.

Te Mana Akonga

Te Mana Akonga is the National Maori University Students' Association. 2002 was not a high point for the relationship between NZUSA and TMA. For the second consecutive year a three plus three hui between TMA and NZUSA was not held as required in the memorandum of understanding and no joint activities were undertaken. Improving this relationship and undertaking joint activities with TMA where appropriate will be a priority for NZUSA in the future.

Research

Rebecca Matthews continued as Research Officer in 2002.

Major research projects released in 2002 included the NFO *Income and Expenditure Survey* (conducted in late 2001), updated student loan repayment times for bachelors graduates by ethnicity and for graduates with diplomas and certificates, *Priorities for Tertiary Education 2002: NZUSA's Vision* and *Student Loans Effect on Graduates' Borrowing: A Survey of Bank Managers and Loan Officers*.

Briefing papers completed in 2002 covered comparisons with HECS, ten years of the loan scheme, the fee freeze, election policy comparisons, parental income thresholds for student allowances, and the effect of student loans on families.

NZUSA also completed submissions on Pay Equity, the Performance Based Research Fund, the Export Education Levy, the Tertiary Education Reform Bill, the Tertiary Strategy, Qualifications Working Party and a Briefing to the Incoming Minister in 2002.

Student Debt Summit and Conferences

The third annual debt summit was held the week prior to the general election at AUT in Auckland. The focus of the debt summit was the implications of student debt on New Zealand society. Speakers at the Summit included Council of Trade Unions President Ross Wilson, Waikato University demographer Professor Ian Poole and Chief Human Rights Commissioner Roslyn Noonan. Minister of Youth Affairs, Laila Harre, hosted the summit for the third year running. The summit concluded with a political panel chaired by Chris Trotter that debated student debt in the context of the upcoming election.

NZUSA also held its three annual conferences. As usual the first conference of the year was hosted by VUWSA and focused on training and networking for new executive members. The previously mentioned *Income and Expenditure Survey* was released at the conference and generated a good degree of media attention. The second conference of the year was co-hosted by OUSA

and OPSA. The conference was held four weeks before the general election and focused on campaign skills and developing strategies for the election. Conference attendees participated in a protest along Dunedin's main street. In addition a women's political forum was held with women candidates from all the main political parties participating. The Tertiary Education Minister, Steve Maharey, also spoke to the conference. The final conference of the year was co-hosted by SAWIT and WSU in Hamilton. The main focus of the conference was to elect the federation officers for the following year and approve a budget and levy.

In addition to the main NZUSA conferences, Federation Office assisted in the organisation and resourcing of a Uni-Q conference and Pacific Island Fono. Both the Fono (held in Hamilton) and the Uni-Q conference (held in Duendin) looked at how NZUSA can better support these groups of students and where they fit within the NZUSA structure. No clear decisions on these questions were reached in 2002.

As a member of the Asian Students' Association, NZUSA was invited to send a delegate to attend the three yearly general conference. This was an extremely interesting and beneficial experience with many international contacts forged. Charlie returned with plans and ideas as to how NZUSA can better work with both other international youth organisations and those working currently within New Zealand. Discussions were held at September conference as to whether or not NZUSA should broaden its campaigns focus to issues of wider political concern.

NZUSA was also invited to attend conferences of other groups including the Association of Staff in Tertiary Education and the New Zealand Education Institute Te Riu Roa.

External

Student Debt Birthday

February marked the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the student loan scheme, and total student debt also reached the \$5 billion mark in the same month. NZUSA organised a 10th birthday campaign to run on campuses during orientation. Due to the protracted nature of campus tour the Co-Presidents were highly involved in organisation and implementation of this campaign, which included nationally produced flyers and posters. Birthday cakes were presented to all the Ministers of Education since 1992 which generated good media coverage. A national petition was launched calling for the parental income thresholds on student allowances to be adjusted for inflation. The petition was later presented to the Social Services Select Committee and NZUSA spoke to the Committee. The Income and Expenditure survey results were incorporated into the campaign to good effect, with the Minister of Tertiary Education announcing a review of student support the day the results were released.

The Election

An early general election was called for July 27th. Though an early election was widely anticipated it meant that planning for the campaign had to be truncated. NZUSA developed an election strategy that included a major release or event in each of the 6 weeks leading up to polling day. The debt monster, used successfully during the 1999 election campaign, was resurrected to great effect. A total of 5 debt monster costumes were produced and shipped around the country to follow key government Ministers in different centres. On the day before the election the debt monster following Helen Clark through St Lukes Mall in Auckland was the lead story on the television news. Other events included the Student Debt Summit, the NZUSA July Conference, a big banner day, PTEC events and the release of a Colmar Brunton survey on student allowances. The Co-Presidents spent much of the election period on the road campaigning including the entire last week in Auckland. The election occurred while students were on campus so a lot of campaigning took place at this level. NZUSA produced a pamphlet on allowances that was distributed to students and the public nationally. In the end traditional issues such as health and education did not feature as prominently as election issues as they previously had, which made the campaign a difficult one.

PTEC

The Public Tertiary Education Coalition (PTEC) was reformed in 2002. The group, which had previously convened for the 1996 election, was made up of the Association of University Staff, Association of Staff in Tertiary Education, Public Service Association, Te Mana Akonga, Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association and NZUSA. Attempts were made to also include the Vice Chancellors Committee, the Association of Polytechnics and the Association of Colleges of Education but all declined to be involved. NZUSA was the driving force behind reconvening the group and most of the meetings were held at NZUSA. PTEC had a limited role to play in the election, though some regional groupings held successful forums and a pamphlet was produced for distribution nationally. After the election NZUSA urged the other PTEC members to keep the group together to work together on issues that affected all groups. Some initial work was put into a research project on Private Training Establishments (PTE's).

Fee Freeze

The government proposed another fee freeze for the 2003 academic year in its June budget. The issue didn't generate as much heat as the previous year, due in part to the election diverting attention from the issue. NZUSA took a more moderate stance on the fee freeze in 2002 and campuses coordinated more of their own activities around it.

Tertiary Education Policy

The key piece of legislation in 2002 was the Tertiary Education Reform Bill that formed the Tertiary Education Commission and enshrined in legislation the Tertiary Education Strategy. As with the TEAC process the year before, NZUSA submitted on all tertiary reform documents and was involved in the consultation process for the Tertiary Strategy. The key lobbying point around the bill was the inclusion of a student representative on the TEC board. The National Party moved an amendment to the bill to this effect and we got the support of most other parties in Parliament. After lobbying from the Greens in particular, the Minister announced during the second reading of the bill that a position would be created for a non-voting student representative to be included on the TEC board.

Other tertiary education policy issues that NZUSA was involved with in 2002 include:

- The development of the Performance Based Research Fund, including a sector consultation day
- Representation on the Tertiary Teaching Awards Committee
- Representation on the Tertiary Education Consultative Group
- Representation on the TEC staffing efficiencies work party.

Tertiary Women's Focus Group

Anna McMartin was National Women's Rights Officer until April, and Roshni Sami was elected to the role in June after Anna's resignation. Both women did an excellent job, despite the difficulties being associated with living away from Federation Office, in Dunedin and Auckland respectively.

TWFG held three successful conferences alongside the NZUSA conferences, and had a strong campaigns focus in 2002. Key campaigns included Thursdays in Black, the production and distribution of a Girls Guide to Voting before the election, and a poster campaign for Women's Suffrage Day with a pay equity theme.

Quality

NZUSA continued to represent university students on the two key quality bodies; the NZVCC's Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) and the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (AAU). During the year, CUAP continued reviewing its internal procedures and initiated re-consideration of definitions of diplomas and master's degrees. Work was also done to extend the time allowed for graduating year review reports and requirements for university entrance while Charlie also contributed to an NZQA working party on credit recognition. At the AAU work was done to strengthen the voice of Maori students with a resolution passed to include a representative from Te Mana Akonga.

Student Job Search


Andrew Campbell was the deputy chairperson of Student Job Search (SJS) in 2002. The year began with a review of the SNAP project that had been run over summer to increase the number of skilled work placements. The trial was a qualified success. SJS also worked to implement the first year objectives in its strategic plan. SJS received a \$450,000 increase in funding mid year to assist in the implementation of the strategic plan, with most of the money going towards the establishment of business development managers and client liaison officers in each of the offices to increase the number of skilled placements. The focus on creating more jobs for students over summer plus more skilled jobs was an exciting development for SJS.

USNZ

Andrew Campbell sat on the USNZ executive in 2002 as the representative of students' associations. USNZ had a good year financially, returning a healthy surplus in line with its policy of building up its reserves. Moves were made to streamline NZUSA and USNZ events, including the holding of Fedex meetings around the University Games and the Blues. As previously mentioned an agreement in principle was made for USNZ to move into the NZUSA office.

Thanks

NZUSA would like to thank Lindsay Wright from SJS, Darel Hall from USNZ, Stephen Brokenshire, Lesley Boardman and Anna McKay from Curtis McLean and Hayden Wilson from KPMG Legal for all their help and support in 2002. Thanks also to the NZUSA alumni, friends, public servants and even politicians who provided advice and help when asked. Most importantly thanks to Fedex and the constituent members for your support personally, your support of NZUSA and your commitment to the student movement.



Charlie Chambers
NZUSA Co-Presidents 2002



Andrew Campbell