



**2008**  
**Annual Report**

New Zealand Union of Students' Association  
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## **Federation Officers**

Paul Falloon and Liz Hawes  
Co-Presidents

Analiene Jackson  
National Women's Rights Officer

## **NZUSA Federation Office Staff**

Karen Price  
Research and Policy Analyst

Trisha Hehir and Jennifer Young  
Office Administrators

Jordan King  
Rep Groups and Logistics Co-ordinator

Matt Russell  
Campaigns and Communications Co-ordinator

## **2008 Constituent Members**

Albany Students Association  
Students' Association at the Waikato Institute of Technology  
Waikato Student Union  
Waiariki Institute of Technology Students' Association  
Massey University Students' Association  
Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association  
Whitireia Independent Students' Association  
University of Canterbury Students' Association  
Lincoln University Students' Association  
Otago Polytechnic Students' Association  
Otago University Students' Association

## **2008 Associate Members**

Auckland University Students' Association  
Massey Extramural Students Society  
Association of students @ Universal College of Learning  
Weltec Students' Association  
Massey at Wellington Students' Association  
Students' Association of the Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology Inc

## **Accountants**

Curtis Mclean

## **Lawyers**

Kensington Swan

## **Auditors**

BDO Spicers, Wellington

## **Bank**

Bank of New Zealand

## **Introduction**

2008 was a very exciting year for NZUSA. The main focus was on campaigning for student-friendly policies in the build-up to the general election. In particular, we campaigned for a Universal Student Allowance, which turned out to be highly effective as, in the final few weeks before the election, Labour pledged to deliver a package which included a Universal Student Allowance that would be implemented over a three year timeframe. Unfortunately, National, the political party who won the election, did not make any commitment to any facet of Tertiary Education and were rather silent on the specifics of their supposed student support policy. The year was full of highs and lows but, all up, 2008 was a successful year for NZUSA in terms of increasing our public profile and lobbying a major political party successfully to change their tertiary education policy.

## **NZUSA Activity Federation Office**

NZUSA continued working from its office in Lambton Quay. Three computers were replaced and a new photocopier lease was entered into. A new office chair was also purchased.

It was a good year for Massey University with the three Federation Officers hailing from the institution. Paul Falloon was elected Co-President at the August conference in 2008 and had been President of MUSA for two years. Liz Hawes was elected Co-President at a special election plenary in November 2008 after several years as President of EXMSS. Analiese Jackson was elected National Women's Rights Officer at a special election plenary in October 2008 and hailed from ASA.

The office was held together by fantastic staff. Trisha Heir and Jennifer Young shared the Administration position for most of 2008; Karen Price started full-time as the Research and Policy Analyst, which NZUSA benefited greatly from, and Jordan King supported our representative groups and assisted with conference logistics, which alleviated much stress from the Co-Presidents. The membership at August 2008 conference approved a trial for a part-time position of Campaigns and Communications Co-ordinator, which was held by Matt Russell for the majority of 2009. This role helped drive and shape our campaigns for the year and was especially helpful during election year.

## **Membership**

The membership of NZUSA grew early in 2008. We welcomed AS@U as associate members and UCSA as full members.

Sadly, late in the year we were given notice of UCSA and SANITI's intentions to withdraw from the federation.

## **Te Mana Akonga**

The relationship between Te Mana Akonga and NZUSA was very good throughout the year. We worked closely with Victor Manawatu who was Kaituhono for TMA.



## **Research**

We released the 2007 Student Income and Expenditure survey at our January conference. This was a very revealing piece of research about students' financial situations and level of support. There was a lot of media about it and interest from other sector groups. The findings of the survey proved extremely important to our campaign and lobbying efforts. Thanks must go to Karen Price and Joey Randall for their additional hard work with this project.

We carried out a number of other smaller research projects to support our campaign efforts. For instance we commissioned a public opinion poll on support for a Universal Student Allowance and attitudes towards student support.

Additionally discussions and meetings were held to put together National Learner Research Framework. NZUSA is best positioned to lead this project and greater progress could and should be made in a non-election year.

## **Conferences**

Throughout the year, NZUSA held its three main conferences as well as a stand alone conference for our ITP members.

The January conference was hosted by our Wellington based members at venues around the region and was a hugely successful start to the year. This conference focussed on training and networking for new executive members and campaign planning for the year ahead. As well as releasing the 2007 Student Income and Expenditure survey, we held a protest down Lambton Quay and a rally at parliament where we were met by representatives from the Green Party, United Future, Labour, and National. This attracted a lot of media attention and our goal of a Universal Student Allowance was well on the political agenda in time for election year.

The standalone ITP conference was held in May and hosted by SANITI in Nelson. It was a very constructive two days of training and planning.

The second NZUSA main conference was by ASA and AUSA in Auckland. The highlight from this conference was a protest and rally up Queen Street in Auckland. Frustratingly, media headlines were taken up by a protest from truckers held earlier the same day. However, we are of the firm opinion that our message did get out there. We also held a political panel, with representatives from most of the eight major parties in attendance.

The third conference was hosted by OPSA in Otago. NZUSA hosted a public debate on tertiary education policy with invited speakers from political parties. This was a huge event and a large number of students and public came along.

In addition to the main NZUSA Conferences, Federation Office assisted in the organisations of an NZUSA resourced Pasifika Students Fono and UniQ Conference. The success and enthusiasm of members of these two groups is very encouraging.

NZUSA was invited to send a delegate to the Asia-Pacific Student and Youth Association in late October. Paul Falloon attended on behalf of NZUSA and made some useful contacts in the regional student/progressive movement.



NZUSA was also invited to attend conferences and events of other groups including ACHIEVE, Quality Public Education Coalition, Drinking Liberally (Palmerston North), Tertiary Education Commission CEO farewell, Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics New Zealand, and the inaugural conference of the Tertiary Education Union (formally AUS and ASTE).

### **Campaigns**

NZUSA in 2008 was full of energy to campaign for student-friendly policy in the general election. Planning had begun in 2007 and our priority was identified as presenting a clear, key message of advocating for a Universal Student Allowance. We started with a protest and rally at January conference highlighting the enormous amount of debt (both public and private) students had to saddle for their education and the fact that a Universal Student Allowance being the best solution to begin to tackle the problem. The I&E release supported our statements and slogans, and this was the research which we distributed to all political parties in order to show them the basis for our campaigning.

We created resources and supported member-driven events to highlight '\$10Billion Debt Day' in April, as the collective student loan scheme debt ticked over to this astronomical figure. Our posters and flyers were a popular resource and media coverage of these events was very high.

Our major campaign activity for the year was sending out individualised \$10Billion "debt cards" to MPs; tertiary sector leaders; Mayors of cities with our members' TELs and various other people of influence. The highly professional looking pack was designed to look like a bank statement and included a mock credit card with the persons name on it and a brief message about who we were and what we wanted. Along with this card, we supplied a flyer which advertised the concept of a Universal Student Allowance policy and why New Zealand needs one. Attached was a 'statement' of the \$10Billion debt broken down into fees and living costs. This was a very effective campaign and responses were great from many different camps. It was full of research and carefully written arguments for our goal. We "launched" the campaign at our July conference with a march down Queen Street in Auckland, which was even attended by MPs. The 10 Billion dollar Debt Day campaign attracted a lot of on-going media interest.

NZUSA compiled the Thinking Person's Guide to Voting with tertiary education policy comparisons from the eight major political parties. This was distributed to members and several related groups such as AUS and ASTE. In the days before the election Federation Officers and Staff took to the streets of Wellington to hand out guides to the public. The guide was a very clear and helpful resource and we received much positive feedback.

Sadly, the 2008 general election was dominated by a number of issues and it was sometimes very hard to get student support on the agenda. We started strong and kept our key messages consistent, which meant that we had an ongoing presence throughout the election campaign. Our energy was given a boost with Labour announcing for the first time to commit to a Universal Student Allowance. Although we criticised the roll out time line, at least it was a long-overdue commitment that we could point to. This was a hugely positive step and helped attract even more attention for the importance of this issue.



As the election drew closer we focussed on creating resources for our members with ideas and material for actions they could take, such as organising public events, dropping flyers and voting guides into letterboxes, communicating to students and local media, and so on.

We also commissioned a pair of short videos to put on the website and 'youtube'. These proved popular and an exciting way to get our message out there and viral.

## **External**

### **Lobbying**

Early in the year we sent a letter to every MP asking for an opportunity to meet with them. This was a great experience. We meet with around 35-40 MPs from across the political spectrum, some individually and others in small groups. We articulated our goals clearly and often found common ground between their views and ours. Broadly though it was clear that whatever the level of support or otherwise for our policy interests, it was a matter of priorities and student support was generally down the list. After these meeting we ensured to follow up with those we met, particularly tertiary education spokespeople.

Additional to the meetings at the beginning of the year, we held meetings with the Tertiary Education Minister a few times throughout the year. Likewise we met often with other parties' tertiary spokespeople, especially National, Greens, and United Future. These were very useful opportunities to learn more about their positions and, more importantly, educate them about ours. These were generally fairly constructive.

While on campus tour we meet with most TEI Chief Executives or Vice Chancellors to inform them of our focus this year and link our goals to theirs. As the year progressed we tried to build and maintain relationships with ITPNZ and NZVCC, seeking mutual support. This had limited success as they, in particular NZVCC, were frequently publicly opposed to us.

### **Tertiary Education Commission**

NZUSA maintained positive and constructive relationships with the commission. Liz Hawes was appointed the non-voting learner participant on the board and kept them informed of and focused on students interests.

### **New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit**

NZUSA was represented on this committee by Liz Hawes in 2008.

### **Committee on University Academic Programmes**

NZUSA was represented on this committee by Liz Hawes in 2008.

### **Institutes of Technologies and Polytechnics Quality**

NZUSA was represented on this committee by Rae Wi in 2008.

### **Student Job Search**

Paul Falloon was Chair of SJS for 2008. It was a year in which significant changes in governance and operations took place for SJS and it is in a strong position for the future.

### **University Sport New Zealand**

Paul Falloon was the Constituent Members Representative on the board of USNZ for 2008.

**Other tertiary education involvement in 2008 include:**

- Quarterly meetings with both the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development
- Liz Hawes participated in the selection for the National Tertiary Teaching Awards
- Various dealings and interactions with Ako Aotearoa

**Lambton House**

Paul Falloon was Chair of the Lambton House Body Corporate. The main issue facing the Body Corporate was the continued maintenance and cleaning the outside of the building. Additionally, the ever problematic lift was a standard feature of emails and meetings.

**Thanks**

2008 was a really busy year. It was tough work but things were made easier by a huge number of people's commitment and dedication and support for the student movement in Aotearoa. First and foremost thank you to the staff of NZUSA who tirelessly went beyond the call of duty time and time again. NZUSA would like to thank all the government officials, alumni, politicians, tertiary sector people and friends of NZUSA for all their advice and assistance throughout the year. Federation Office would also like to thank FedEx and all the NZUSA member associations for their commitment to students and the role they played in promoting positive change for students in 2008.

He aha te mea nui?  
He tangata.  
He tangata.  
He tangata.

*What is the most important thing? It is people, it is people, it is people.*



## **Tertiary Women's Focus Group**

### **Introduction**

2008 was both a year of creating new initiatives for TWFG and reintroducing and updating older TWFG initiatives. With the vast majority of members new to student executives, the years' focus was primarily on creating a cohesive group who were able to both communicate and work together on these initiatives so that future NWRO had a solid foundation from which to start from. There were a number of issues for women in tertiary education raised in 2008; from the threatened cuts to the GWS department at Victoria University to the threat imposed upon women's – only scholarships in general. Nonetheless, the TWFG had a successful, productive year. The following is an outline of some of the major events throughout the year:

### **Thursdays in Black**

Shortly after January Conference, the NWRO created and sent out (as requested in the motion set out by NZUSA) the Thursdays In Black (TiB) Manual 2008. This included a background into the historical background of TiB, how to purchase merchandise and some ideas that could be run on respective campuses.

There was a stock take of the TiB merchandise already sitting in the NZUSA office shortly before January conference, and this was updated every two months for a true and accurate record of stock. Alongside this, the NWRO also created the TiB Distribution guide, which showed how each association can price and sell the items ordered.

The National Day of Action was held in July and was successful to varying degrees around the country. Although the NZ Herald publicised this event (as well as a few other media outlets) this was the first time in a few years that a national day had been coordinated and this taught the TWFG what needs to be improved in order to have a truly successful national launch

During the year, the NWRO also worked in conjunction with Ying-yue Zhao, former President of MUSA in order to create a Tshirt design for 2009.

### **Meetings**

In February, Liz, Jordan Karen and Analiese attended the Labour women's caucus, and discussed a wide array of issues facing women in the tertiary sector. These issues included childcare; the TIA; user pays education and the effects on women having to pay back extensive debts; and women in non-traditional areas of study. This meeting was attended by the MPs Maryan Street; Steve Chadwick; Mark Burton; and Annette King as well as list MPs Sue Maroney; Ashraf Choudhary; Lesley Soper and Moana Mackey

The NWRO also attended a Labour caucus alongside Liz, Paul, Victor Jordan



to discuss tertiary student issues with Pete Hodgson and his associates. At this meeting, the NWRO discussed the problems and limitations of TIA, which was warmly received by the MPs, with Ruth Dyson even promising to look into the TIA in more detail in order to improve access to the allowance. We also met with several other ministers from various political parties throughout the remainder of the year.

## **Conferences 2008**

The NWRO attended the ITP conference in Nelson, as well as all three NZUSA conferences. She also helped to organise President's Training for the incoming presidents in November, and also attended the majority of this week. Although I had no NWRO to train, meeting and liaising with the incoming presidents was invaluable.

## **Resources**

In 2008, a number of resources designed for assisting executives spread the word about issues facing women in tertiary education and beyond were both created and updated

For No Diet Day, meant numerous articles for a number of student magazines and resources, including posters and booklets containing ideas for the campaign, were distributed.

The 1st Point of contact resource draft was a new resource and was completed in March. It contained a guide to being an advocate for women students, and a comprehensive list of contacts within the institution of each respective campus as well as relevant regional and nationally.

Suffrage Day really took off in 2008, with stickers, posters and leaflets all being produced and distributed among campuses nationwide. This campaign was embraced by WROs across the country and can be considered a great success.

The Thinking Girls Guide to Voting was distributed in PDF form, which went out to all the member associations to distribute. Although these were released relatively close to the election date and did not reach as many people as the NWRO would have hoped, they were still useful in highlighting the inequalities that women face in the tertiary sector and beyond.

The TWFG Information Sharing Survey was also completed and the data collated with the intent that this be an annual survey. A Student Parent Survey was also prepared for release in 2009.

## **Media**

The NWRO dealt with a number of media outlets over the year. Although she submitted articles for and contributed to a number of student magazines, of great note was the article that she wrote for the Education Review regarding why it is imperative that women's only scholarships are kept as a means of fighting barrier free education. She also spoke on National Radio about this topic and was interviewed by The Press, who disseminated their news story to many other papers across New Zealand.

### **Strategic Plan**

A two year strategic plan was formulated by the TWFG that outlined the objectives of the TWFG and suggested a proposed plan of action for the next two years. The initial draft of this document was presented at the October 2008 conference, where the TWFG approved the premise of the document with the agreement to formalise the agreement at January 2009 after some amendments had been made to the original document. This plan was presented at January conference 2009.

### **Thanks**

TWFG would like to thank the dedicated women in campuses around New Zealand who remain active and passionate about advancing the goals of feminism and students. The National Women's Rights Officer would like to thank all the Women's Rights Officers and committed feminists and pro-feminists on student executives through out 2008 and the committed Co-Presidents of NZUSA past and present for their support. Also, thanks to the numerous organisations and individuals who supported us in our campaigns some of whom we, like most of the students we fight for, have never met.