

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



NZUSA

NEW ZEALAND UNION OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

NZUSA Federation Officers

David Do (Co-President)

Pene Delaney (Co-President)

Caitlin Dunham (National Women's Rights Officer Oct-Dec)

Sophia Blair (National Women's Rights Officer Jan-July)

NZUSA Federation Office Staff

Karen Price (Researcher and Policy Analyst)

Karen Palmigiano (Office Coordinator to November)

Rebecca Matthews (Campaigns Coordinator Feb-Mar)

Tali Williams (Campaigns Coordinator Oct-Dec)

NZUSA Federation Executive member associations

Rawa Karetai (Albany Students' Association)

Jo Hymers (Association of Students at UCOL; ITP Caucus chair)

Elliot Blade (Auckland University Student's Association, associate member)

Ivy Harper (Lincoln University Students' Association)

Ralph Springett (Massey Extramural Students' Society, associate member)

Alex Lloyd (Massey Wellington Students' Association; University Caucus chair)

Karl Pearce (Massey University Students' Association – Jan-April)

Kent Geary (Massey University Students' Association – May-Dec)

Meegan Cloughley (Otago Polytechnic Students' Association)

Harriet Geoghegan (Otago University Students' Association)

Sam MacKenzie (Students' Association at Waikato Institute of Technology)

Max Hardy (Victoria University of Wellington Students Association)

Raymond Howard (Waiariki Institute of Technology Students' Association)

Deni Tokunai (Waikato Students' Union)

Therese Keil (Weltec Students' Association)

Accountants

Curtis Mclean

Auditors

BDO Spicers

Lawyers

Kensington Swan

Bank

Bank of New Zealand

Physical Address

Level 3, 354 Lambton Quay, Post Office Box 10-191

Telephone (04) 498 2500, Fax (04) 473 2391

Website – www.students.org.nz

Introduction

2010 was a tough year for students right across the country. Throughout this, NZUSA continued to be a strong national voice for students. We believe we had a successful year in quite challenging circumstances.

The three main challenges were fighting the Voluntary Student Membership Bill, establishing a working relationship with the new Tertiary Education Minister Steven Joyce, and working in a political and economic environment that was not necessarily as receptive to our policy priorities.

Despite this, by the end of this year we had exceeded our own and others' expectations. We ran a highly successful 'Save Our Services' campaign and managed to push further consideration of the Bill into 2011, and secured greater respect and visibility for NZUSA amongst government, parliament, the tertiary sector, and the wider community.

Throughout all this we have sought to do the best we can for students and have ensured NZUSA continues to punch above its weight in the tertiary sector.

NZUSA has had a proud history of standing up for students - for now and forever we must continue to trust in our value, our name, and our voice.

This Annual Report will look at the key activities which best characterised NZUSA in 2010. It will highlight NZUSA's significant achievements and its continuing work in being a strong national voice, as well as canvass some of the major trends in the tertiary sector affecting students. Our work is broken down into six broad themes:

- Campaigning for Students (p6)
- Advocating for Students (p11)
- Making Connections (p14)
- Representing Students (p17)
- Networking for Students (p19)
- Improving Operations (p22)

We hope you enjoy our report.



David Do and Pene Delaney
NZUSA Co-Presidents



Caitlin Dunham
National Womens Rights' Officers
(Oct-Dec)

Sophia Blair
National Womens Rights' Officers
(Jan-Jul)

Key tertiary issues in 2010

2010 saw a constrained funding environment for tertiary education, as well as negative developments affecting access and the student voice. Here is a summary of the broad trends in key areas of tertiary policy.

Overall funding approach

The 2010 budget encapsulated the government's approach to tertiary education - the government's overriding line was there was "no more money." The government, in choosing to rationalise its spending, chose to target specific sectors including education. It also signalled a move towards future cuts which is likely to impact the quality of education for future students.

NZUSA lobbied to show the impacts these policies would have on the education experienced by students. Issues to arise from underfunding include: increasing debt burdens on students and graduates, limits on how many students who could enter and access tertiary education, and the increasing gap between what New Zealand students received versus their counterparts overseas.

By largely shifting money around the same 'pot' through reprioritisation from capability funding to places, 'simplifying' the funding system, and 'reforming' student support, the government has got away with no overall increase in total tertiary funding. The government failed to show its commitment to properly invest in education, ensure fair access, and tackle student debt. This is out of step with other governments overseas like Australia, who have prioritised education and funded it properly to ensure new opportunities.

Student Loans

The Budget focused on managing the cost of the Student Loan Scheme to government, and starting to constrain access to loans. Major changes included:

- A lifetime limit on learning through a 7 year EFTS limit on loans
- Introducing performance measures to loans, so students must pass at least 50% of their courses to retain eligibility.
- Permanent Residents now have a 2 year stand down period
- The loan administration fee increased to \$60 (students), and a new admin fee \$40 (other borrowers) was introduced

We pointed out that these blanket changes were unfair and unnecessary when most students achieve well and finish on time, and given institutions already manage underperforming students. Permanent Residents and migrants were unfairly/unnecessarily affected, and various implementation issues have arisen with some of the proposals. NZUSA will continue to oppose future changes that further limit access and opportunities.

Later in the year, the Student Loan Bill proposed calculating loan repayments based on pay period rather than annual income. This would unfairly affect students who work during summer and holiday breaks but still have a relatively low annual income. This proposal was initially dropped in 2009 after NZUSA opposition and public consultation, but came back in this Bill with an exemption to be applied to full time students upon application.

Allowances

Eligibility or amounts for student allowances were not increased beyond a one-off GST adjustment. As a result, most students must continue to borrow to live. It was interesting to note that government spending and recipient numbers for student allowances reached a 20 year high, due to the recession affecting parental incomes, and the lowering of the parental means testing age to 24.

Access

In 2010, most universities and polytechnics tightened up entry, limited access to courses and started managing enrolments. This is a worrying trend driven by underfunding colliding with increasing student demand during the recession and broader demographic changes.

As well as the short-term implications of access restrictions, we believe that if such moves are not reversed they will have longer-term implications on societal equity and social mobility.

Review of University Entrance

NZQA conducted a review of University Entrance. NZUSA sat on the Technical Advisory and Steering groups. Some groups claimed a lack of quality of skills in new students, and wanted to tighten and lift entry standards. But the evidence was mixed – high school achievement only has a moderate impact on individual tertiary achievement, and this impact was only significantly measurable in a limited amount of subjects.

The Review proposed lifting UE to effectively NCEA Level 3 after discussions with a number of stakeholders. We pointed out that such a review seemed futile given that institutions may override any such minimum standards by choosing to apply their own more additional criteria.

NZUSA is concerned that wholesale change may disadvantage many, while potentially not resolving any of the current issues. We advocated that students have the right to be informed of any potential changes early in the process, and that there should be careful consideration given to any unintended consequences as a result of any changes. We also submitted on a parallel review of Special Admissions.

Fees

As the government considered new fee regulation, we advocated that fee policy should follow the principles of fairness and transparency, and opposed exemptions to increase fees above the maxima except in exceptional circumstances. In a relative success, the Minister accepts our view that there must always be some form of control over fees. This is in stark contrast to the unregulated fees environment in the 1990s.

The 2010 budget replaced the fee maxima policy replaced with an Annual Maximum Fee Movement (AMFM), set for 4% in 2011. However there are no longer any fee caps, which will allow high cost courses to resume fee rises. Fee exceptions to increase fees by 8% are still possible but are subject to tighter criteria.

Performance-based funding

From 2012, 5% of institutions funding will be tied to educational 'performance'. This performance will be based on 4 measures: course completion, qualification completion, progression, and student retention. NZUSA remain concerned about the risks of perverse behaviour by institutions, and the fact that these measures don't measure the full range of educational quality or 'performance.'

Student Services Levies

The Minister was concerned at high increases to these levies and was interested in regulation. This is an area of commonality with NZUSA, and we have been consulted on the development of proposals. We are hopefully this will result in positive results for students.

NZUSA recommended that levy-setting be guided by the principles of transparency, affordability and collective provision. A centralised reporting system should be introduced, notifying students of levy rates and increases, and justifications being provided for any increases. Student representation is essential in any monitoring of student services and related levies, and the expenditure of such levies.

Campaigning for Students

Fighting against Voluntary Student Membership

NZUSA's work in 2010 was dominated by fighting the ACT Party's Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill (sponsored firstly by Roger Douglas then Heather Roy) which sought to introduce Voluntary Student Membership (VSM). 2010 saw a vigorous and sustained effort to oppose the VSM Bill and show strong student and public opposition to the Bill. While the Select Committee's recommendation that the Bill proceed was a blow to morale, we continue to oppose it and hope for a successful outcome in 2011.

Campaign

NZUSA kicked off a very visual and successful 'Save Our Services' campaign at January conference with a Save Our Services summit. The bright orange logos and shirts were a useful way to draw students to the issue.

We ran and coordinated a disciplined and positive campaign that really showed strong evidence and strong opposition to a bad and unnecessary Bill. We had extensive sector and community support, and most students were clearly on our side.

The Save Our Services campaign in March achieved its goals of:

- Informing students about the VSM Bill
- Mobilising students to campaign and submit against the Bill
- Getting as many submissions in against the Bill as possible

Federation Office created various resources, including leaflets, toolkits, and a 'Save Our Services' website. The website was an excellent tool to provide information and provide a platform for action. It also handled thousands of online submissions that were submitted online.



'Save Our Services' Coalition



NZUSA helped bring together a broad coalition of community groups to complement the existing 'Save Our Services' campaign. NZUSA joined Rural Women New Zealand, the Quality Public Education Coalition, the Tertiary Education Union, UniQ Victoria, the Council of Trade Unions, Te Mana Akonga and University Sport New Zealand, as members.

Lobbying

We continued to meet with MPs from all parties, particular National, to raise awareness about the negative impacts of the Bill and to vote against it. We also engaged the issue with the Minister for Tertiary Education Steven Joyce and the Education and Science Select Committee Chair Allan Peachey extensively throughout the year.

The Select Committee process

The Select Committee and National had stated publicly that they wanted to listen to students and the public on the issue, and that this Select Committee process was important. Therefore the main focus of the campaign was to get students and the public to have their say about this Bill.

It is worth noting that this process took much more time than anyone had expected. After lobbying from associations, the deadline for submissions on the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill was pushed to March 31 to allow students the opportunity to submit during their academic year, rather than in December or November.

In recognition of the large number of submissions received, the Bill's report back date was also extended from May 30 to September 30. This enabled more time to hear everyone who requested to present at the Committee, and for continued lobbying of MPs alongside the Committee process.

As well as hearing numerous submitters in Wellington, the Committee also travelled to Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin to hear submitters. Select Committees do not travel often domestically, so this was noteworthy.

The Select Committee process was very successful in showing public opposition to the Bill, in putting our case clearly and convincingly, and in shifting the National Party members' perceptions of the Bill. Our work in assisting submitters and coordinating submissions resulted in clear positives:

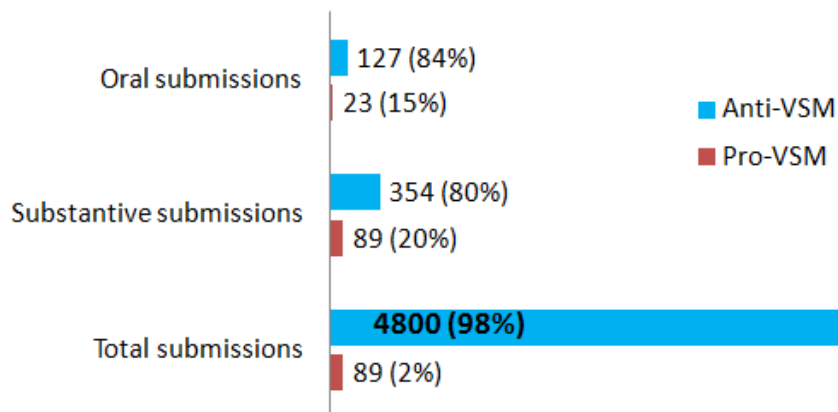
- Strong performance in oral submissions by everyone involved
- Strong evidence presented by NZUSA and associations on the Bill's impacts
- Compelling stories by individual submitters
- Good positioning reaffirmed associations as responsible and mature

Federation Office was very active in monitoring and preparing students for the Select Committee oral submissions process. David Do attended virtually all the Select Committee hearings except those held in Dunedin, and made extensive notes and recordings of submissions. This allowed us to learn more about the Committee's thinking through the process and assist future submitters.

The process was very helpful in shifting some National MPs' thoughts on the issue. Enthusiasm for the bill was, we believe, tempered by the reality that associations serve students well, and that students overwhelmingly support the status quo. The Committee heard irrefutable evidence from students, NZUSA, and the public on the value of associations and the damage this law would do. Every submission nudged the Committee a bit further away from the Bill.

Analysis of submissions

- **Strong majorities against Bill in total submissions, substantive submissions, and oral submissions**



The Select Committee report received a total of 4837 submissions, a very high number of any Bill. An overwhelming 98% were opposed, and there was strong opposition in both the 'substantive' submissions and oral submissions.

Submitters opposed to the Bill included students, many universities and polytechnics, students' associations, roopū, non-governmental organisations and community organisations, unions, the Human Rights Commission, Ako Aotearoa (National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence), key players in the tertiary sector, many on campus and off campus clubs and societies, and also individuals like David Caygill and Norman Kingsbury.

The Committee heard 132 oral submitters from Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch, and Dunedin (and a few overseas too). This means that the Committee heard many differing arguments around the country, all against the Bill. Most of the submissions in favour of the Bill were based in Wellington and had concerns regarding just one campus.

Media

Throughout the year we continued to provide a strong national voice in the media against the VSM Bill. We were featured in print, radio, and TV, and also issued many press releases throughout the year that received good pickup. The media coverage itself was mostly positive, and highlighted our angles.

We also engaged with students and the public through social media. The Save Our Services Facebook page was regularly updated. At the end of 2010 it had about 2300 members, compared to the pro-VSM 'Free Me' group which had around 690.

Research

A significant part of our policy work in 2010 revolved around the VSM campaign. This included an analysis of the advice to Select Committee and a comparative analysis of the original Bill (2009) and the revised Bill as recommended by Select Committee (2010).

In late 2009, NZUSA commissioned an independent economic analysis from PriceWaterhouseCoopers on the input value of services provided by students' associations, as well as the potential effects of voluntary membership on this activity. This was completed in March and provided significant supporting evidence of VSM's impact on services to students. Its findings were accepted by the Select Committee.

The main findings from the report were: the input value of students' association services was \$25.1m in 2008; service levels could reduce by between 48 percent and 73 percent for fee-charging associations under VSM; and associations are not likely to recover the fee revenue that would be lost under VSM by charging for membership or from institution funding.

NZUSA also commissioned UMR Research to gauge the public's attitudes on the issue. We were keen to demonstrate that the position NZUSA and students' associations were taking against the Bill was shared by the public at large and to reinforce the positive result from the thousands of public submissions received on the Bill in March. On November 29 (in the lead up to the Committee Stage), we released poll results which showed the public strongly supported the current law. 77% of respondents felt that students should decide the structure of the membership of their associations, compared with just 17% that believed that it was the government's decision (6% were unsure).

Select Committee report back

We know that our work in putting the arguments, people, and evidence had a significant effect on the National members of the Select Committee and the Minister. Combined with our observations at the Committee hearings, and lobbying meetings, they had clearly moved from quite an uninformed and negative position regarding associations, to a more centrist view where they recognised the contribution associations make and the services and facilities they provide.

Despite this, we faced a major setback when the Government majority on the Committee recommended the Bill proceed in its report back to Parliament in late September. We believe events outside our control may have contributed to this outcome.



Latter quarter of the year

We continued to coordinate national level activity, and sought to work with associations on local actions, lobbying, and working with their institutions.

In the run up to the start of second reading on October 20, we ran an extensive email campaign which led to MPs receiving hundreds of emails from students and people against the Bill. These were definitely noticed by MPs, and showed the strength of opposition to the Bill.

The Second reading was concluded on November 10. Protests were held outside MPs' offices in early December as committee stage of the Bill got underway.

Throughout this time we kept in regular communications with supporters through regular campaign emails. This got a very good response - individual students and supporters continued to be enthusiastic and when contacted by phone were keen to keep participating and helping out. Institutions were also approached to lend their support as well.

Conclusion

In hindsight, more could have been done to continue the momentum built up in March to continue positive events and communication to keep students engaged with the campaign.

Lots of useful campaign ideas and actions were generated and suggested by Federation Office and others but sometimes we weren't able to proceed with them due to a lack of capacity and people on the ground at campuses to see them through. Towards the end of the year there was a mood of deflation or low morale which was a barrier we had to work against throughout this time.

Still, the work done throughout 2010, especially in March, has created a strong 'tailwind' which has carried us much further than anyone could have imagined. We are hopeful that the continuing slow passage of the Bill since December may yield positive, even surprising, results in 2011.

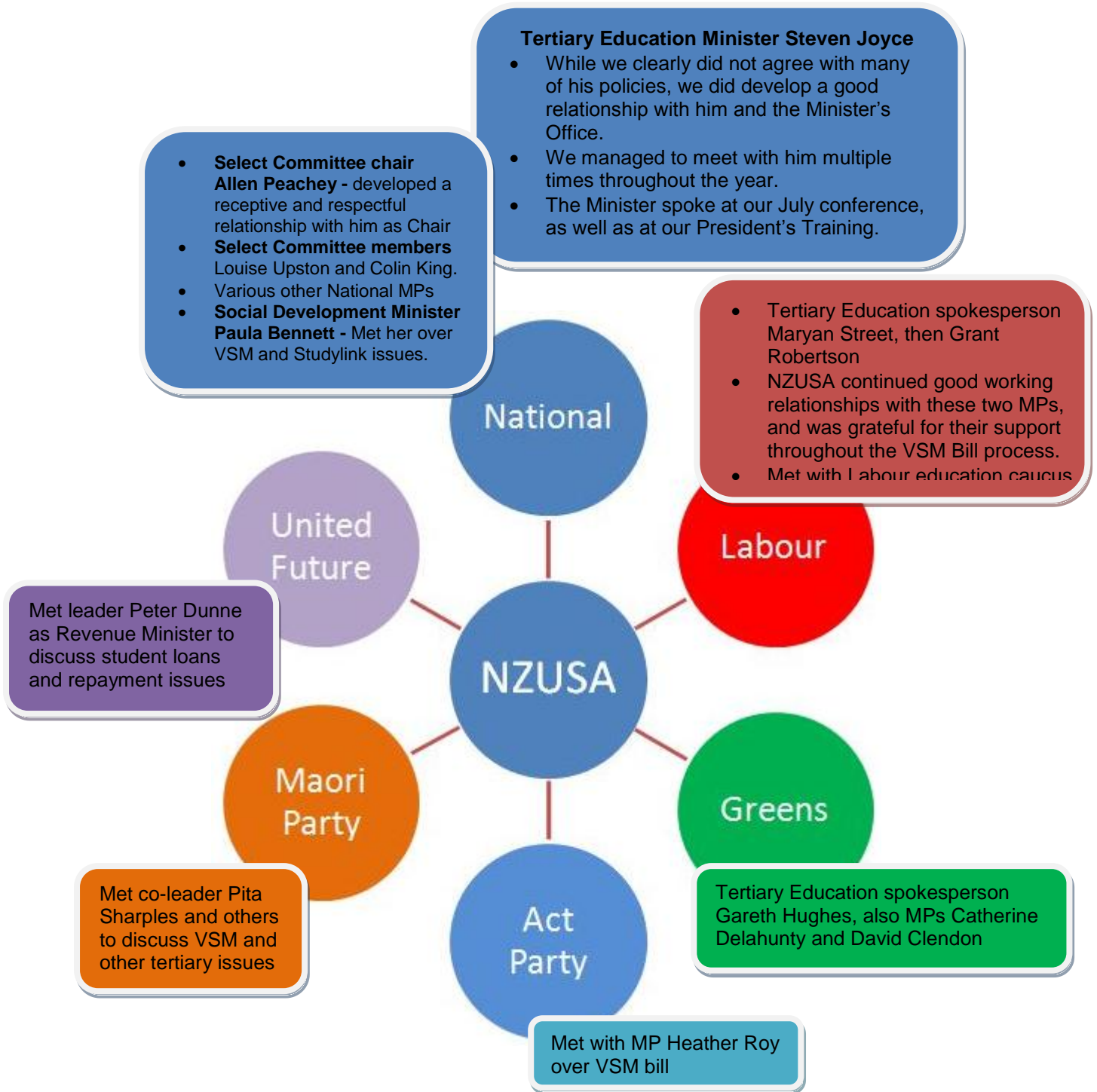


Advocating for Students

Representing students through political engagement, lobbying, and research

NZUSA continued to have strong working relationships with all political parties in Parliament. We met with the Minister of Tertiary Education Steven Joyce several times in 2010, and stepped up engagement with Opposition MPs as well. NZUSA also continued to conduct research and policy analysis in a range of areas.

Here is a diagram showing our relationships with Parliament's political parties in 2010:



Research, Analysis, and Submissions

As a peak representative body advocating on the needs of its members, NZUSA must be informed and supported by appropriate, evidence-based research. A range of research projects, policy analyses and resources were created and undertaken over the course of the year:

Income & Expenditure Survey

In 2010 we carried out our most significant research project, the triennial Income & Expenditure Survey (I&E). This project is our flagship research, is the only work of its kind, and has been carried out regularly since the early 1990s in the year immediately prior to the general election for use in NZUSA's election campaign.

The project sought to survey 6000 students at universities and polytechnics nationwide, seeking feedback on how they financially support themselves in study, what their academic and living costs are, and establish the national student perspective on a variety of tertiary education policy issues.

The information gathered assists in making informed representations to tertiary institutions, politicians, media and other key stakeholders. It is a major tool in NZUSA's lobby kit, and information requests can be fulfilled by campus/region/sub-sector etc so it is of great benefit to Federation Office and members alike.

We undertook a thorough tendering process for the project this year, and were pleased to have several prominent national research companies submitting proposals. Colmar Brunton was the successful company contracted to undertake the 2010 survey.

Extensive fieldwork was undertaken and completed over the September-November 2010 period, and for the first time electronic communications with survey participants was offered, which increased the uptake considerably. Ongoing meetings were held with Colmar Brunton throughout the fieldwork stage and following, regarding outliers, progressing the survey response rate, report planning and review of the draft report, in order to be ready for the launch in January 2011. We were very pleased to reach a 50% response rate this year.

Other outputs

Briefing to Incoming Minister

We wrote a new and thorough BiM for the new Minister of Tertiary Education, Steven Joyce, providing a student perspective on the issues and concerns of tertiary students. There was a significant emphasis on VSM in the briefing.

Advertising & marketing expenditure

We again collected tertiary institutions' advertising and marketing expenditure data from research company AC Nielsen. This information has proven useful and relevant in the fight against ongoing tuition fee rises at universities and polytechnics, as the amounts spent on ineffectual advertising campaigns is often very similar to the rate of fee increases.

Official Information Act requests

We continued to send Official Information Act requests on a variety of issues and topics to inform and complement our work. These were useful in probing beyond public statements and releases and into the advice and considerations that contribute to Government decisions, which in turn assists our lobbying and media work. OIAs in

2010 focused on more in-depth information regarding Budget 2010 policy announcements, student allowances, equity funding, the Student Loan Scheme, fee maxima and fee regulations, Government-funded scholarships, TEOC funding, and the 7 year lifetime EFTS limit for student loans. We also requested information on full fee-paying domestic students, the future of Studylink, the future of quality assurance and interest-bearing student loans.

Budget 2010

We undertook post Budget analysis and reported on this to members, and a pre Budget blog post was prepared for Education Directions.

Fee setting

A Fee Setting resource pack was created (complementing the fee setting training given at July Conference) to support associations and student representatives as they prepared for the annual fee setting processes at institutions.

Performance data release

A briefing paper was prepared for members on the newly introduced annual performance data of tertiary institutions, released by the Tertiary Education Commission, and included detailed media commentary tracking reporting and news stories in response to the data in the week following the release.

Submissions

2010 was a busy year for submissions on a wide variety of issues, with consultation, research and a policy position developed and submitted on the following:

- *Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill*

- *Student Services Levies Review (upon invitation of the Minister of Tertiary Education)*
- *Student Services Levies Review (part two)*

- *Education (2011 Annual Maximum Fee Movement) Notice 2010*
- *AMFM (and exemptions) submission*
- *Fee and Course Cost Exemption paper (upon invitation of the Minister)*

- *University Entrance Review*
- *Special Admissions Review (Ministry of Education)*

- *National Degrees*
- *Targeted Review of the Qualifications System: Progressing the changes*

- *Student Loan Scheme Bill*
- *Student Loan Scheme Annual Report 2010*

- *Review of student immigration policies 2010 (Department of Labour)*
- *Revised Code of Practice for International Students*

- *Employment Relations Amendment Bill (No.2)*
- *Electoral Referendum Bill*

Making Connections

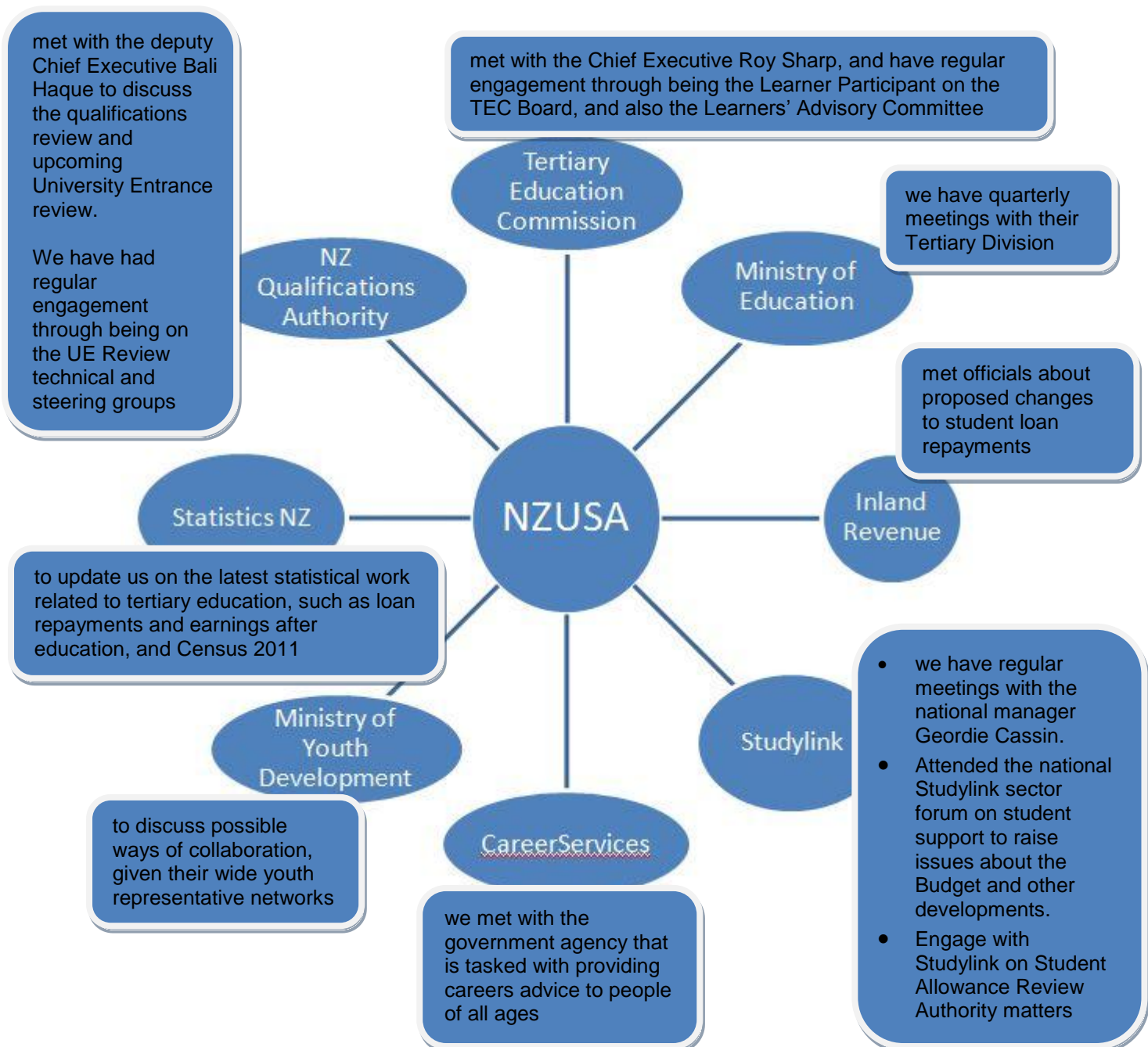
Representing students to the sector, government, and the community

As co-presidents we built and maintained many connections with our supporters, other organisations in the tertiary sector, and government agencies.

Having good working relationships with the tertiary sector and other organisations is vitally important to our work and being effective national representatives. Introductory meetings lead to ongoing meetings, which lead to new relationships, projects, or collaborations.

Our key external relationships can be broadly grouped into government agencies, the tertiary sector, and other non-governmental organisations:

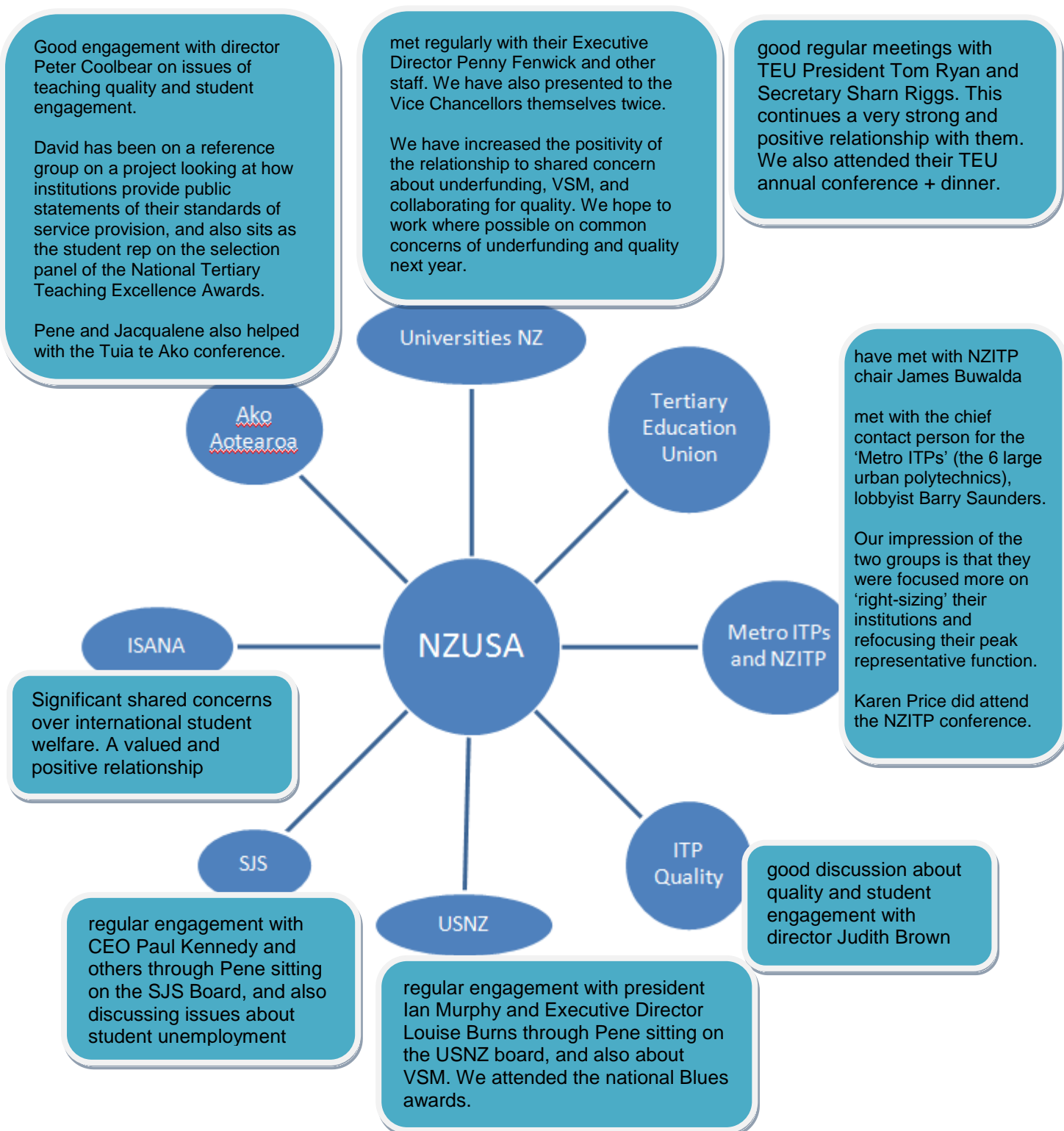
NZUSA relationships with Government agencies





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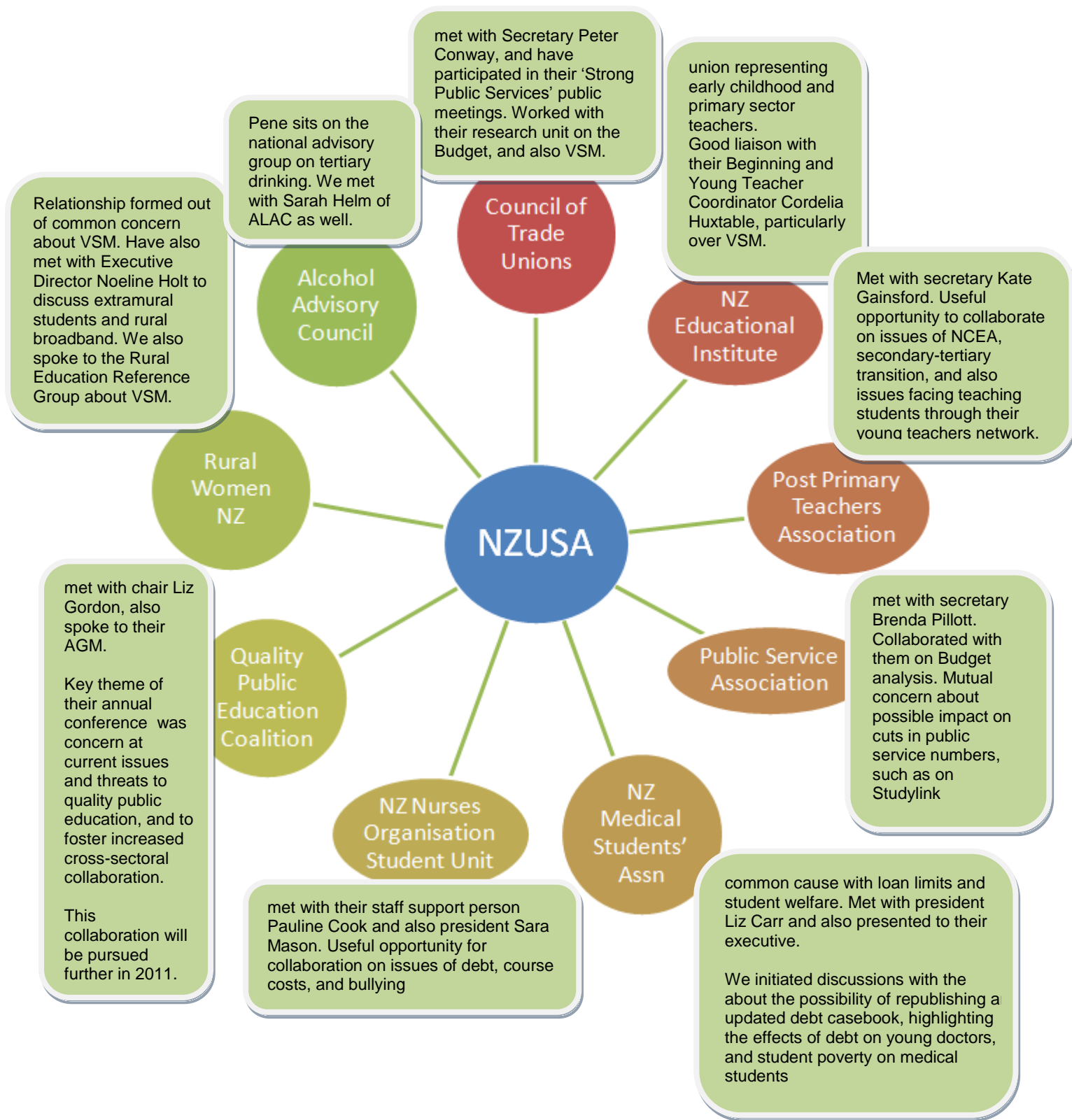
NZUSA relationships with rest of the Tertiary Sector





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NZUSA relationships with other non-governmental organisations/unions



Representing Students

In the media and on national committees

Media

Media continue to come to NZUSA for the student perspective, in recognition of our role as the national voice for students. Key issues attracting most coverage in 2010 were the VSM Bill and the government's pre-Budget announcements.

We have been interviewed on a wider range of education issues this year, and have been carried on all major TV(TVNZ, TV3, and Prime), radio(Radio NZ, Newstalk ZB, Radio Live), and print outlets(NZ Herald, Dominion Post, Otago Daily Times, regional papers as well).

Committees

NZUSA is appointed onto several national-level education committees and boards. This ensures that student concerns are heard at a national level and that national policies are working for students.

Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Board Non-voting Learner Participant (NVLP).

The TEC Board got a new Chair Wira Gardiner, approved the performance-linked funding system, Plan Guidance, how it approaches institutions with negotiations, and performance information, among other things.

David has successfully worked to ensure the position and contribution of the NVLP is respected and well-heard, and that learner perspectives are heard and considered in Board discussions

Academic Audit Unit (AAU)

Pene sits as NZUSA's representative. The unit is currently preparing for the audits of Canterbury and Waikato. It has also moved premises to be co-located with NZVCC. New director is Jan Cameron.

The Unit is considering how it can enhance its contribution in the wider tertiary environment. It is moving to shorter more subject-specific audits rather than traditional large institution-wide audits

TEC Learners Advisory Committee (LAC)

The TEC also has a learners advisory committee, which advises the Board on how tertiary policies may impact students and learners. Jacqualene Poutu, Sam McKenzie, Deni Tokunai, Ralph Springett joined David on this committee.

This met four times and considered a range of issues including performance statistics, Maori and Pasifika issues, performance-linked funding and its impact on quality, literacy and numeracy, ITOs, and apprentices.

Committee for University Approval of Programmes (CUAP)

Pene sits as NZUSA's representative. The main work of this committee has been to look at provisions of quality in the University sector. It has discussed changes to University Entrance and the Qualifications review, as well as proposals to programmes.

CUAP has also established subject committees/conferences, where people in subject areas can come together to discuss their specific issues.

Student Job Search(SJS)

Pene sits as NZUSA's representative. The organisation went through change with the new CEO Paul Kennedy leading a review of how operations are carried out. Significant streamlining of operations, a Wellington-based call centre, increased presence amongst employers have resulted.

Both co presidents attended the AGM. Pene continues after this year as Board General Rep.

University Sport New Zealand (USNZ)

Pene sits as NZUSA's representative. University sport continues to consolidate. In April University games were held in Invercargill with over 800 athletes participating. The 91st University Blues Awards successful showcased top grade athletes who received the highest honour for tertiary sport.

The future direction of the organisation under VSM has also been discussed. Pene also assisted by being on the selection panel to fill the vacant Executive Director position.

NZQA University Entrance Review

Pene sat on the Steering Group, Karen Price and Jacqualene Poutu on the Technical Advisory Group

National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards

David sits as the student representative on this decision panel. In 2010, over 60 nominations that were narrowed to 10 prizes.

National Advisory Group on Alcohol

Pene attended this biannual meeting where many of the topics discussed linked to reducing harm on campus. Research was provided to indicate that students were more inclined to have increased drinking rates where Liquor stores were within 1km proximity to campuses. Discussion was also held around the Law commission's report on Alcohol.

Networking for Students

Communications, Training, Campus Tour, Conferences, TMA, Women, Rep Groups

Communication to Members

This year we sought to ensure good regular communications with our member associations and student representatives. We sent regular fortnightly newsletters to executive members, informing them of the work we are doing at NZUSA. Of course, we were in regular communication with Fedex through emails and phone calls.

Executive Training

Pene has assisted with executive training at AS@U, SAWIT, MUSA, and MAWSA. Pene also helped with 'Ako Pai', TMAs training for roopu.

Presidents Training

We ran a week-long President's Training in November, which was very useful for incoming presidents. This took a considerable amount of time in planning and preparation, and we were constrained by January Conference's halving of the budget line, which limited our options for media training for presidents, among other things. We're grateful for the alumni and presenters who came along.

Campus Tour

We visited all our member associations in March during 'Campus Tour'. The things we have learnt, talking with student representatives, staff, and the institutions, have helped inform our work here at Federation Office.

Other conferences

- ITP conference was hosted by WITSA in Rotorua.
- General Managers forum also continued this year, hosted at AUT.
- We also attended the ISANA conference, TEU conference, NZITP conference, Ako Aotearoa Self-Assessment Conference, and NZ Higher Education conference.

Te Mana Akonga (TMA)

We continued to fulfil and maintain our relationship as outlined in the MOU. We continued to work on a daily basis with Tumuaki Jacqueline Poutu, who is a valued and lively presence in the office. In particular there was collaboration in key issues such as VSM and University Entrance.

Both Co-Presidents attended Te Huinga Taurira 2010, and helped chair the AGM. Towards the end of the year we clarified funding arrangements for TMA in 2011.

National Women's Rights Officer and Tertiary Womens Focus Group

After a vacancy covering all of 2009, the National Women's Rights Officer has again become a regular part of the Federation office Team. Working with the Tertiary Womens' Focus Group(TWFG), the NWRO has sought to ensure women's issues are represented nationally and that issues of concern to tertiary women are acted upon. The NWRO position was vacant between July and October 2010 – Sophia Blair was NWRO to July, Caitlin Dunham was NWRO from October.

VSM

The threat of VSM has been a significant feature of NZUSA's work and this applies to the NWRO too.

Much of Sophia's time as NWRO between January and March was spent gathering up submissions from individuals and community groups around New Zealand as well as assisting TWFG members with their own submission collection. A TWFG briefing on VSM was produced and distributed to Fedex and TWFG. The NWRO wrote and presented the TWFG submission on the VSM Bill and helped others with their own submissions. There was a significant amount of time at the January conference devoted to the impact that VSM may have on the services and advocacy that student associations offer to female students.

In the latter half of the year, Caitlin helped with media and campaigns activity, such as MAWSA with their sausage sizzle/black out event, various campuses with their VSM banners, along with various strategy meetings.

Representation and Building Connections

The NWRO has re established good working relationship with political parties, the tertiary sector, and the feminist community.

- These include: the Labour Women's Caucus, National Council of Women, New Zealand Aotearoa Adolescent Health and Development, Rural Women New Zealand
- Women's Action Health Trust, Women's Health Council, Zonta, Business and Professional Women's Federation,
- Auckland Women's Centre, North Shore Women's Centre, Auckland University Feminist Collective, the Young Wellington Feminist Collective,
- It's Not OK campaign, EDEN (Eating Disorders Education Network), Auckland Sexual Abuse Help, Working Women's Resource Centre,
- Council of Trade Unions, Tertiary Education Union, and the Pay Equity Coalition.

Thursdays In Black

May saw a Thursdays in Black National Day of Action. TWFG members decided to each do their own individual actions on their campus, but to also participate in a national campus safety audit. A briefing document and handbook about the campus audit was distributed to ensure that TWFG members had enough information so they could explain their plans to their executives, institutions and students.

Progress has been made on putting together an order form for Thursdays in Black merchandise, and investigating the possibility of setting up an online store for buying Thursdays in Black merchandise as the NWRO receives emails from the general public about purchasing t-shirts and hoodies.

July conference focused on a potential rebrand of Thursday in Black and an external facilitator was invited and some work was done around canvassing various member association's thoughts on the Thursday in Black campaign.

No Diet Day

This day was also celebrated in May. The NWRO prepared a small list of "10 Easy ways to celebrate Non Diet Day", and a facebook event. She received quite a few emails from ordinary students asking for No Diet Day resources.

Some brief research was done around proposed legislation in Britain and Germany that requires advertisements that have been airbrushed/photoshopped to contain a statement that outlines that the photo has been airbrushed. This maybe something that TWFG might like to push in New Zealand.

Campus Safety Audit

A major project that was started is a campus safety audit booklet for TWFG members. This took considerable time to put together. We were able to use material from overseas campus feminist groups with their permission, and this was edited to fit the New Zealand context. This is a project which will be completed in 2011.

Media

Media in 2010 arose out of press releases such as lack of women on polytechnic councils, feminism, Thursdays in Black, campus safety audits, and VSM.

Other activities

Helped organise Women's conferences for January, July, and October, investigated a TWFG website, set up a TWFG google group, and have updated several TWFG resources including TWFG policy.

The NWRO also contributed to discussion at the December 'Conclave' and advocated for retention of the TWFG as part of NZUSA operations in the future if VSM comes in.

Conclusion

2010 was a difficult year for the NWRO position. With no one holding office in 2009 there was a lot of work to be done, which wasn't easy given that most of the year was taken up by trying to save the role. Despite Sophia resigning in July, her hard work was continued by Caitlin who now holds the role for 2011. Sophia and Caitlin are grateful to everyone they had the opportunity to work with.

Representative Groups

- Pasifika Fono was hosted by the Waikato Students' Union and the Waikato University Pacific Island Students' Association. Pene attended and assisted with facilitation of workshops.
- UniQ conference was held at Canterbury University. David attended and presented there.
- We have been in regular contact with the National Queer Rights Officer John Kingi(elected by UniQ conference) and National Pacific Island Coordinator Eddie Tuiavii(elected by Fono) to provide support.
- Consideration was also given in November to creating a 'Rep Groups Council' to better coordinate rep groups activity and bring more consistency into funding for rep groups.

Overseas

We also made connections with the student movement overseas. David attended NUS Australia conference 2009 (where he also met the president of the United States Students' Association), and kept in touch with NUS throughout 2010 especially on the VSM Bill. NUS president Carla Drakeford also visited and presented at President's Training.

NUS UK and the Swedish national student union submitted against VSM.

We hosted a delegation from the National University of Singapore in January, and was in correspondence with the University of South Pacific Students' Association.

Non members

We have sought to maintain cordial relationships with non-member associations, and pursued particular collaboration around the VSM issue(an issue that affected all tertiary students, not just members) and the PriceWaterhouseCoopers report.

In particular we liaised often with the students' association at AUT (AuSM), the Unitec Students' Union (USU), and the students' association at Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology (SANITI). We are hopeful of future membership by some of these associations.

Improving Operations

As well as high levels of external activity, we have sought to improve the way the Federation office works.

Finances and Audit

- Federation Office was very conservative in its spending and financial management, in recognition of its tight budget.
- Fedex's Finance Committee helped monitor NZUSA finances and regular financial reports were sent to Fedex.
- We adopted a new Finance Policy, passed at October conference, and this has been embedded into our operations.
- We gave increased attention to outstanding debtors and this led to a considerable reduction in outstanding levies and other debts.
- When the Office Coordinator became vacant on December 1, we hired GoFigure, a financial clerking company, to maintain our financial bookkeeping. This has significantly increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- The 2009 Audit came late due to various delays. Keeping up to date with financial affairs was hampered due to Karen Palmigiano's unfortunate arm injury at the start of the year. This impacted on clearing a backlog of more than 25 pages of information from 2009 to ensure we were ready for audit. The accounts were adopted by postal ballot in late November.
- New procedures have been put in place as well as the new financial policy, and work on the audit will commence earlier next year.

Phones and internet

We put in a new phone system to replace a system which had random interruptions of the router which played havoc on our external communications. We also changed to better and less expensive phone and internet providers

Membership

We retained our 14 member associations this year. Membership referenda were held at OPSA and OUSA mid-year which led to notices of withdrawal. We also received other notices of withdrawal from more than half our members after the VSM Bill was recommended to proceed by the Education and Science Select Committee.

'Conclave'

NZUSA brought together its members over December 9 and 10 to discuss renewing and refocusing NZUSA's work and goals given the possibility of VSM and the uncertain funding environment this creates for members and NZUSA. The outcomes of the conclave provided a platform for clarifying and refocusing NZUSA's purpose, mission, vision, and objects of the Association, as well as confirmation of the values that should underpin our organisation. Consideration was also given to prioritisation of NZUSA's key activities.

Lambton House

NZUSA owns the floor of the building(Lambton House) it is based in. As such we are part of the 'body corporate' which meets semi regularly to consider building matters. NZUSA continues to chair the body corporate.

Cleaning

We hired Muhammad (Bob) Akashah in June as our new office cleaner. He is a Malaysian exchange student studying currently at Victoria University. Bob takes over from Karthik Poobalu who had been with us for five years.

Conclusion

NZUSA would like to thank all our member associations for their commitment to campaigning and advocating for the rights of students in 2010, especially all those who ably participated in Fedex and thus the management of NZUSA.

We would also like to thank every one we have had the pleasure of working with in the tertiary sector this year. With the anti-VSM campaign, we are grateful to the huge outpouring of support we got from students, institutions, staff, the tertiary sector, and the wider community throughout this year.

We are also very grateful for the regular advice and support we received from NZUSA alumni throughout this year. In particular, we'd like to thank Andrew Campbell, Rebecca Matthews, Tanja Schutz, Fleur Fitzsimons, David Choat, Joseph Randall, Josh Clark, Jordan King, Hayden Wilson, and Norman Kingsbury.

2010 was a challenging year for NZUSA. As the leaders of the student movement in 2010, we would most significantly like to thank the students of New Zealand for allowing us and having faith in us to fulfil this important role. It has been an enormous privilege to serve.

*Whāia te iti kahurangi
Ki te tūohu koe,
me he maunga teitei*

*Pursue excellence
should you stumble
let it be to a lofty mountain*

Yours Sincerely



David Do and Pene Delaney
Co-Presidents
July 2011