



Annual Report

New Zealand Union of Students' Associations

2018



National Office

Jonathan Gee | National President

Nikita Skipper | Vice President & National Women's Rights Officer

Caitlin Barlow-Groome | Chair, *Finance, Risk and Audit Committee*

Ali Leota | National Pasifika Liaison Officer

Sam Smith | Research Officer, *Project Team*

James Ranstead & Ben Schmidt | Policy Officers, *Project Team*

Rhianna Morar | Communications Officer, *Project Team*

Connor MacLeod | Finance Officer, *Project Team*

National Executive

Jonathan Gee | National President

Nikita Skipper | Vice President & National Women's Rights Officer

Jason Woodroffe | Albany Students' Association

Anna Cusack | Auckland University Students' Association

Matalena O'Mara | Unitec Student Council

Poi Whare | Students' Association at Wintec

Dallas Adams | Younited Students' Association

Izzy Paterson / Karla Davis | Association of Students at UCOL

Benjamin Schmidt / Ngahuia Kirton | Massey University Students' Association

Marlon Drake | Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association

James Ranstead | Lincoln University Students' Association

Caitlin Barlow-Groome | Otago University Students' Association

Introduction



L to R: Nikita Skipper (Vice President) and Jonathan Gee (National President)

2018 has been a tough year for NZUSA. However, amidst extremely challenging circumstances, we have continued to be a strong and active national voice for students.

The three main challenges facing NZUSA have been securing financial stability, managing internal culture change and maintaining a strong external presence with very limited resources.

Despite this NZUSA has survived these challenges and has continued to fight to better the lives of students. We cannot forget the wins we have achieved on behalf of New Zealand's students this year, namely:

- The first substantial increase in Student Allowances and Loan Living Costs in over a decade
- Student voice being written into law
- Allowing students studying long courses to finish their study through the extension of the 7EFTS loan cap

These successes are down to the respect and visibility NZUSA has had and continues to have amongst Government, Parliament, the tertiary sector, and the wider community.

Throughout this year, National Office has sought to build foundations to ensure NZUSA thrives in the future. We have done this through:

- Reviewing our internal structures and policies
- Paying off debt and building a reserve fund
- Re-engaging with our alumni and creating an advisory board

In doing this work difficult decisions have had to be made. However, we are confident that we have positioned NZUSA towards a more sustainable path for successive National Officeholders.

We have high hopes for the future of NZUSA. It's only been with the help of members, alumni, community leaders and like-minded organisations that we've been able to endure the challenges we've had this year. NZUSA is an organisation that relies on goodwill, and this collective effort to save our national voice demonstrates that we are an organisation that has a pivotal role not only in the tertiary sector, but in the wider community.

Next year is the 90th anniversary, and we know that our mahi is far from over. With dedication we continue to work hard to ensure NZUSA is future-proof and ready to continue fighting for students for another 90 years, at least.

Jonathan Gee

National President

Nikita Skipper

Vice President

National Women's Rights Officer's Report



It's formally been 19 years of the established NWRO (National Women's Rights Officer) role and it's been beyond humbling to have been apart of the vast history (Herstory).

When I ran for this role at the end of 2017 I was challenged with amazing competition. The people who shared the room when we were each presenting our final campaigning drive knew that this was the year for progress, not just for National Office but for all our local associations. There was a shared feeling that we could take on anything and that's exactly what we did.

2018 has been a challenging year. Holding three key roles within the organisation often meant that I was pressured for time. This year aof staffing and funding meant that the NWRO had to take over the Thursdays in Black (TIB) movement at a national level. Taking over the TIB movement meant that I was in a weird space of trying to help, but not being able to as I am not a trained professional. I disclosed this to everyone, and it meant pointing people to the right forms of support that was often your local student associations. As many of you and your associations know disclosures happen

everyday. I understood the need for these disclosures to be listened to and be taken seriously, and this also meant that this work took priority.

2018 has been a strange time for NZUSA, and it reiterated the fact that we all needed to work with one another and dig deep into the values that we have set and held each other accountable to. Unfortunately, due to restraints in budget and staffing this meant that neither the NWRO nor TIB could perform to the standards that had been met prior years. This meant that my roles relied on support from local associations and volunteers. I would like to give a huge thank you to Geo Robrigado from VUWSA who helped me with TIB orders from National Office this year and the endless positive support that he offered through extremely stressful times.

Although this has been a high stress year, one of the many positives that has come through is that this is one of TIB's strongest years for involvement and engagement at the local association level. This is an amazing feat achieved by our members. There has been an ever growing trend of new interest in associations wanting to expand or either create new TIB groups, clubs and campaigns on their campuses.

This year I have found myself in what I would call "unsafe" situations where people have taken their anger out on me from what they presumed has happened within NZUSA and TIB. Throughout this year, I had slowly started to reside within myself a lot more and I became very distrusting of the people around me, and it took me awhile for me trust people that wanted to work with TIB and with NZUSA.

This year the opportunity opened up for the NWRO position to not be situated within Wellington. This isn't something that made this role hard but it was something that made me distant and disconnected especially through the hard times we faced this year. I've been thinking alot about the future of this role, and how we can have a positive impact in the tertiary sector. I see the succession of this role being held by a member of the NZUSA National Executive or held by a member of a local association executive that has experience, time and technology to thrive in the role at a national level, thus creating a more supported environment and to bring women's issues right to the table of NZUSA.

Nikita Skipper

National Women's Rights Officer

The New Government



L to R: Nikita Skipper (Vice President & National Women's Rights Officer), Marlon Drake (VUWSA President), Hon Chris Hipkins (Minister of Education and former VUWSA President), Jonathan Gee (National President)

After the successful *#WeHavePower* election campaign last year, we were proud to get student issues on the agenda with the new Coalition Government. NZUSA moved quickly to reaffirm relationships with the new Government, in particular Minister of Education Hon Chris Hipkins, Green's Education Spokesperson Chlöe Swarbrick and National's Tertiary Education Spokesperson Hon Paula Bennett.

Overall, 2018 has seen a number of positive changes for students, including increases in financial support, fees-free and student representation on tertiary councils to name a few. The Education Minister's work programme for the next three years has also put students at the centre of the system, where student voice is an integral part of the education reviews currently taking place. However, there is still much work to do to ensure the sustainability of independent student voice in the post-Voluntary Student

Membership environment. Student welfare issues also continue to gain traction, including mental health support and ending sexual violence.



Jonathan Gee (National President) speaking at a panel conversation at the 500+ Government Education Summit in Christchurch

30 Year Vision for the Education System

As part of Labour’s coalition agreement with NZ First, Education Minister Chris Hipkins has embarked on several reviews that seek to create a 30 year vision for the education system. Two Education Summits, bringing together key players from the entire education sector, were held in Christchurch and Auckland. NZUSA and member organisations had a strong presence at both events, even acting as speakers for a number of the summit’s sessions.

Boost in Student Financial Support

The New Government acted soon after the election to fulfil its promise to increase the Student Allowance and Loan living costs by \$50 from 1 January 2018. This was the focus of our lobbying work last year in light of rising rents. NZUSA spoke out to ensure that landlords did not take this financial boost as an opportunity to raise rents.



L to R: Dr Sandra Grey (TEU National President), Chlöe Swarbrick (Green Education Spokesperson), Jonathan Gee (National President) with the Supplementary Order Papers proposing increased staff and student voice on tertiary councils.

Student Representation on Tertiary Councils

Student voice is now the law, with Parliament passing the Education Amendment Bill making it a legal requirement for student representation on tertiary councils. NZUSA partnered with the TEU to push for more staff and student seats in the proposed law, and Chlöe Swarbrick took up that call through a Supplementary Order Paper calling for two student seats. While the SOP did not pass, we have found a champion for student voice in Chlöe Swarbrick, and brought together 14 student presidents in signing an open letter to MPs calling for change. We are currently engaged with the Ministry of Education on how to ensure the implementation of student voice on council is successful, especially in our polytechnics where currently only one institution has a student member.

Fees-Free Study for First-Years

The Government also brought forward its commitment to first-year free tuition fees to kick in from 1 January 2018. While there have been many critics of free education (claiming it has not resulted in a substantial enrolment increase) we have strongly asserted that it is still too early to realise the impacts of the policy.

Tuition fee increases capped at 2 percent

In August, the Government announced that it would cap tuition fee increases at 2 per cent for next year, as has been the case over the last two years. NZUSA successfully fought for a lower increase amidst universities calling for significantly higher increases. Ultimately NZUSA would hope for no increase to tuition fees given the current level of student debt at \$16 billion.

Student Mental Health

Student mental health has been in the spotlight this year after the release of our *Kei Te Pai* report on the experiences of students regarding mental health. *Kei Te Pai* is a culmination of student responses on their mental health, including the factors to cause poor mental health and their perceptions of support services available. Our key finding, that over half of respondents had considered dropping out of tertiary study, gained significant media exposure including on the 6pm news. Shortly after the report's release, the Government announced a \$10.5 million mental health pilot for 18-25 year olds.

With the Government Inquiry on Mental Health and Addiction, VUWSA's *The Wait Is Over* rally at Parliament and meetings with the Minister of Health, student mental health continues to be on the agenda for NZUSA beyond 2018.



Tenant Advocates Network after a meeting with Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Hon Phil Twyford.

Reform of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986

The Government is currently undertaking a wide-ranging review of renting laws with the view of ensuring all Kiwis live in a warm, dry home. NZUSA has had a number of interactions with officials working on the review, mainly through our affiliation on the Tenant Advocates Network. The review focuses on issues such as security of tenure, rent-bidding and no-cause evictions to name a few. There is a further opportunity to engage in consultation when the revised Residential Tenancies Act goes to Parliament next year.

Healthy Homes Standards

The Healthy Homes Guarantee Act (No 2) passed into law in December 2017. The Act amended the Residential Tenancies Act 1986 and enabled the government to create regulations that will set new standards for rental homes, called Healthy Homes Standards. NZUSA made a submission during the consultation period on these standards.

Lifting the 7EFTS cap on student loans

The Government announced in July that it would extend the student loan borrowing cap for students studying long undergraduate courses. This was big news for students studying medicine, veterinary science and dentistry. NZUSA, along with the New Zealand Medical Students' Association, have called for the extension for some time. The extension not only benefits future doctors, vets and dentist but also the health and wellbeing of New Zealand.



National President Jonathan Gee (left) delivering our petition to restore postgraduate allowances, alongside stories from students expressing their struggle without the allowance. Received by Chlöe Swarbrick MP.

Postgraduate Student Allowances

In the lead up to the Government's annual Budget announcement in May, NZUSA put out a petition calling for the restoration of the postgraduate allowance. We delivered our 2159-strong petition to Chlöe Swarbrick MP. While the allowance is not yet a reality, we have continued to heap pressure on the Government to keep its election promise, and hope to see some action in Budget 2019.

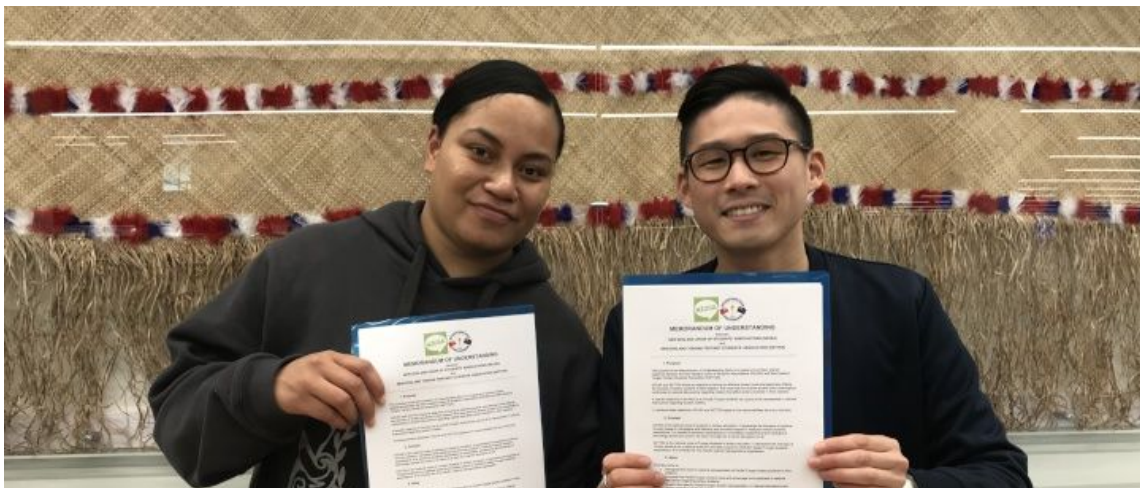
Key Relationships

NZUSA has engaged with the following people or organisations this year:

1. Minister of Education Hon Chris Hipkins
2. Minister of Housing and Urban Development Hon Phil Twyford
3. Minister of Health Hon Dr David Clark
4. Associate Minister of Education Hon Jenny Salesa
5. National Tertiary Education Spokesperson Hon Paula Bennett
6. Deputy Chairperson (Education and Workforce Select Committee) Jan Tinetti MP
7. Green Education Spokesperson Chlöe Swarbrick MP
8. Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Justice Jan Logie MP
9. National MP based in Wellington Central Nicola Willis MP
10. National Mental Health Spokesperson Matt Doocey MP
11. Labour MP Marja Lubeck
12. Labour MP Jamie Strange
13. Ministry of Education
14. Tertiary Education Commission
15. Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
16. Ako Aotearoa
17. Academic Quality Agency
18. New Zealand Tertiary Education Union
19. Universities New Zealand
20. Tenant Advocates Network
21. New Zealand Medical Students' Association
22. New Zealand Law Students' Association
23. New Zealand Tongan Tertiary Students' Association

24. New Zealand International Students' Association
25. Te Mana Ākonga
26. Ministry of Social Development / StudyLink
27. Student Job Search
28. University and Tertiary Sport New Zealand
29. New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)
30. Ministry of Women's Affairs
31. Business New Zealand

Building Connections



NZTTSA President Mary Jane Kivalu and NZUSA President Jonathan Gee with the signed MOU

New Partnership Formed to Empower Pasifika Voice

NZUSA and New Zealand Tongan Tertiary Students' Association (NZTTSA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding this year, expressing our joint commitment to uplifting the Pasifika student voice.

'The tertiary student population is vast and diverse. If NZUSA is to genuinely represent the interests of all students, then we need to be as inclusive as possible,' says NZUSA President Jonathan Gee. 'NZTTSA's voice in national level discussions is vital as the Pacific student population grows.'

'NZTTSA is currently the only national organisation that exists to represent an ethnic Pacific student body,' says NZTTSA President Mary Jane Kivalu. 'As the Pacific enrolment numbers increase in several programmes and institutions, it is important that we speak up as users of the tertiary education system. Only we can speak to what works for us, so we can either make a change or be someone else's change.'



Officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment with Jonathan Gee, Karla Davis (AS@U President) and Ngahaia Kirton (Acting MUSA President)

Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

A formal relationship between NZUSA and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) was signed in September this year, further deepening NZUSA's connections with government. MBIE has oversight of a range of government activities, including tenancy services, immigration, employment, and business.govt.nz. This is an exciting development in the relationship which will give NZUSA a direct communication line through to MBIE, and make more accessible resources on rights and responsibilities for our students when it comes to tenancy, employment and immigration for our international students.

Unitec Student Council join as Full Members

This year we warmly welcomed Unitec Student Council as members of NZUSA. As one of Aotearoa's



largest polytechnics, the Student Council brings an important voice to the national student movement. We know it's when we stand together, we make biggest difference for our students.

New Foundations for NZUSA

Successive deficit budgets since the introduction of Voluntary Student Membership alongside some significant unexpected costs at the beginning of the year has meant that NZUSA has faced extremely difficult financial pressures. Despite this, we have continued to maintain a high level of external activity, including lobbying and advocacy.

Sale of the Office Floor

The National Executive made the difficult decision to sell our shares in Lambton House Ltd, the building where we have owned an office floor for nearly 25 years. The sale has allowed us to pay off our debts and give us a significant reserve fund. A constitutional amendment has been proposed at this year's Congress to safeguard enough reserves to allow for at least six months of operation in the event that NZUSA loses all its income suddenly.

NZUSA has now moved into offices in Education House, where several like-minded organisations and unions also reside. While it has been hard to say goodbye to our old floor, the move into Education House has helped build greater community and has allowed us to work more strategically with organisations like the TEU.

Project Team

As part of rebuilding NZUSA this year, the project team was set up to support the work of a significantly reduced National Office. The Project Team consists of executives from member organisations, who have been tremendously helpful in keeping NZUSA moving.

Interim Advisory Board

An Interim Advisory Board was also set up this year to help advise National Office on how to respond to the many internal challenges we were facing this year. The Board is made up of a mix of alumni, community and alumni leaders. It is proposed at this year's Congress that a permanent Advisory Board is set up to provide governance advice, continuity and an alumni engagement strategy for NZUSA.

2017 Financial Statements

1 January 2017 - 31 December 2017

Balance Sheet

New Zealand Union of Students' Associations Inc.

As at 31 December 2017

Cash Basis

31 DEC 2017

Assets

Bank

BNZ Advanced Call Account	929.91
Jonathan Gee Credit Card	1,217.40
Thursdays in Black	361.64
Total Bank	2,508.95

Fixed Assets

Furniture and Fittings	2,757.00
Leasehold Improvements	165,616.50
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Furniture and Fittings	(1,453.00)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Leasehold Improvements	(73,755.00)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(51,480.00)
Office Equipment	65,544.03
Total Fixed Assets	107,229.53

Non-current Assets

Shares in the Building	560,000.00
Total Non-current Assets	560,000.00

Total Assets

669,738.48

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

AP Credit Card	2,991.71
BNZ Non-Profit Org Account	28,826.57
Credit Card Clearing Account	570.37
GST	89,428.56
Loan Account	48,005.44
Rounding	0.01
Total Current Liabilities	169,822.66

Non-current Liabilities

Loan	(1,494.56)
Total Non-current Liabilities	(1,494.56)

Total Liabilities

168,328.10

Net Assets

501,410.38

Equity

Capital Reserve Account	381,868.74
Current Year Earnings	(75,110.72)
Retained Earnings	(138,493.46)

Balance Sheet

	31 DEC 2017
Revaluation Reserve	333,145.82
Total Equity	501,410.38

Profit and Loss

New Zealand Union of Students' Associations Inc.

For the year ended 31 December 2017

Cash Basis

2017

Trading Income

ACC TIB Project Income	263,666.36
Committee Revenue	960.00
Conference Income	21,828.30
Interest Income	27.29
Levies - Associate Members	5,250.00
Levies - Full Members	148,250.00
Other Revenue	25,665.02
Rent Revenue	1,191.20
Research Income	52,362.22
TIB Income	2,771.45
Total Trading Income	521,971.84

Cost of Sales

TIB Merchandise	5,521.23
Total Cost of Sales	5,521.23

Gross Profit

516,450.61

Operating Expenses

ACC	760.11
ACC TIB Expenditure	127,717.50
Accommodation (Travel)	886.22
Accounting Fees	801.39
Audit Fees	34.78
Bank Fees	1,966.13
Campaigns	61,245.97
Campus Tour	4,597.64
Cleaning	2,259.67
Communication - Cellphones	1,739.14
Communication - Telephone	1,136.81
Company Contribution	33,957.44
Conferences and Training - Congress	918.50
Conferences and Training - other	9,920.85
Conferences and Training - Presidents' Training	6,738.02
Conferences and Training - Workshops	7,883.82
Consulting and Accounting	245.43
Entertainment	123.40
Equipment Rental	9,203.79
Fedex Meetings	1,336.48
Freight and Courier	147.27
General Expenses	434.71

Profit and Loss

	2017
Interest Expense	2,136.56
IRD Penalties	526.37
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions	5,740.14
Light, Power, Heating	2,350.79
National Rep Salaries	43,198.47
Office Expenses	2,140.72
Pasifika Activities	715.65
Photocopying	1,025.11
Printing & Stationery	515.67
Professional Services	2,966.43
Research	78,095.17
Research - ESPRI Licence	1,876.70
Salaries - Staff & Bookkeeping	116,135.50
Staff Allowance	779.37
Staff Procurement	218.60
Te Mana Akonga	26,086.95
Transition & Change	10,987.54
Travel	732.01
Travel - International	7,536.52
Travel - National (other)	983.26
Travel - National (representatives)	24.95
Travel - National (staff)	4,685.13
Website	2,938.57
Women's Campaigns	5,110.08
Total Operating Expenses	591,561.33
Net Profit	(75,110.72)