

# Student Senate Annual Report 2024

19 November 2024



## Message from the Chair, Tamim Hasan



This year has been a transformative one for the Student Senate at Federation University. As Chair, I am proud of the strides we've made to amplify the student voice and work towards creating a supportive and inclusive campus. Our goal has been to bridge students and university decision-makers, ensuring that student concerns are front and centre.

From securing key resources like the reinstatement of LinkedIn Learning to discussing solutions to national issues like potential caps on international students, the Senate has taken on big challenges with dedication. Our presence at Orientation Week, forums, the Ballarat Business Awards, TEQSA Conference, and various university events has strengthened our visibility and deepened our connections within the community, allowing us to represent student interests on all fronts.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the growing interest from students who want to join the Senate. I am excited to see this number continue to grow as more students are inspired to make a difference and contribute to our university community.

Thanks to the support of Federation University's leadership, past Senate members, and, of course, our vibrant student community, we're making real progress. I encourage all students to reach out, engage, and continue shaping the future of our university.



*Above: Jeff Pulford, Executive Director, Transformation, Assets and Commercial and Tamim Hasan*



## Message from the Vice-Chair, Jason Squires

How quickly one's confidence can grow in two years when working in a positive, energetic and welcoming environment. This sums up my first two years of working on the Student Senate, with the last six months serving as Vice-Chair to Chair Tamim Hasan. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to the previous Chair Liam, and Vice Chair Chloe for their incredible work and for cementing such a solid foundation to work from along with outstanding support from the senior executive leadership, Thomas Burningham-Glover, Max Ryan, Leon Kerr and Cindy Cash. We have achieved many proposals in 2024 from academic awareness, to personalised student experience, to the environmental side of day-to-day life. We have achieved a lot, but there's still so much work to do with the University's leadership team and the professionals within, to continuously work towards achieving visions, goals and the best outcomes and experiences for our student peers. Here's looking forward to 2025.



*Above, left: Tamim Hasan and Jason Squires presenting at FedAwards.*

*Above, right: Jason Squires and Helen Ryan, Director, Co-operative Placements.*

## Working closely with the Vice-Chancellor

Tamim, Chair and Jase, Vice-Chair have worked closely with Professor Duncan Bentley, Vice Chancellor throughout 2024. This has ranged from a series of informal catchups to formal meetings. Some of the work conducted during these meetings include discussions around international student caps and frameworks around generative artificial intelligence in higher education.



*Above: Jason Squires, Prof Duncan Bentley and Tamim Hasan at Ballarat Business Excellence Awards.*



## Student Senate representation

Throughout 2024, Tamim, Chair and Jase, Vice-Chair have attended various events to represent the Student Senate. These events include the Ballarat Business Excellency Awards, Academic Board Meetings and TESQA Conference 2024. Additionally, the Student Senate sent Kingsley Ugwumba, International Student Committee Member, to be a representative at the 2024 Student Voice Australasia Symposium and Conference in Sydney.

## Building important connections

Throughout the year Student Senate members have held important meetings with Senior and Executive Staff across Federation University. Some of these staff include Birgit Loch, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, Jaime de Ano Jr, Executive Director, Government Relations and Public Policy and Ben Cushing, Manager, Service Support.



## Student Senate networking evening

As part of the Student Leadership Retreat 2024, the Student Senate hosted a networking evening for senior staff and the VCST. This evening was well received by all involved and has led to the creation of Institute Networking Evenings. During this event, Student Senate representatives continued to build important connections with University Leadership.



## National media appearances

As part of their roles in the Federation University Student Senate, both Jubin Raju and Janvi Abrol have been vocal in advocating for the needs and concerns of international students, particularly in light of the Federal Government's recent changes to migration and education policies. These articles have played into a wider campaign to have the challenges imposed by the International Student Caps on regional universities, including Federation University, more closely considered by the Federal Government. Their involvement in national media interviews highlights the growing impact of their advocacy work and the Student Senate as a whole.



Jubin Raju chose to study in Australia to experience a different culture. (Supplied: Jubin Raju)

**"It does arise some doubts about what will happen after my studies," he said.**

*Right: Jubin Raju on ABC News*

## International student cap to slash numbers at Federation University endorsed by Senate

By Tamara Clark and Laura Mayers

ABC Mildura-Swan Hill Education

Thu 10 Oct



Janvi Abrol says it's increasingly difficult for people from her hometown to secure a study visa. (ABC News: Tamara Clark)

## Representative proposals

Student Senate representatives developed 22 proposals and 2 motions, of which all 22 proposals and 1 motion were submitted to Federation University. For a highlight summary of the motions and Federation University's responses please refer to the next pages.

*Left: Janvi Abrol on ABC News*

<b>The Student Senate recommended that:</b>	<b>Federation University response/actions:</b>
<b>Federation University tests Library computers, ensuring good working conditions</b>	Targeted replacement of these Units in Q2 2024 as per the University's 5-year refresh cycle.
<b>Federation University ensure timely release of assessment results within two weeks of submission</b>	Advised that assessments should always be returned to students within the specified timeframe. In the event this does not occur due to unexpected staff leave this would be clearly communicated with students.
<b>Federation University Improve IT Response Times</b>	Engaged in a meeting with Student Senate Representatives to work through the issue and better gauge areas that ITS can improve response times for students.
<b>Federation University Enhance Math Support at Berwick Campus</b>	Employed a new LSA with a STEM specialisation and advised that there was a pilot program in development with IISS for Semester 2 in Berwick.
<b>Federation University address the lack of placement opportunities for Public Health students</b>	Advised that the Master of Public Health and it's nested Grad Dip. does not currently contain placement but will be rolled into the Co-Op Strategy for 2025 with first intakes scheduled for 2026.
<b>Federation University enhance professional development opportunities for international students</b>	Advised that the Co-Op Strategy for 2025 which will be rolled out in 2025 across all courses will address professional development by having 30 days of professional placements. First intakes for fully Co-Op courses are scheduled for 2026.
<b>Federation University take steps to improve the safety of international students, especially women, by working with local authorities and providing better resources and support to make students feel safer in the community</b>	Acknowledges safety concerns raised by students and is committed to ensuring their safety both on and off campus. Recent communications from the International Student Advisory have provided safety tips for public transport use and how to report emergencies. Students have also been invited to attend sessions with Victoria Police for additional personal safety guidance.
<b>Federation University reinstate LinkedIn Learning for all Students</b>	Investigated the viability of LinkedIn Learning to be provided to all Students. It has now been made available and the University is looking into ways make it widely used across all areas of the Student Experience.

## Student Senate representative motion highlights

<b>The Student Senate recommended that:</b>	<b>Federation University response/actions:</b>
<b>Federation University replace all garbage bags with the eco-friendly compostable bag</b>	Started implementing compostable bags across all Campuses. This implementation will be completed by the end of 2024.
<b>Federation University assist international students in gaining access to the International Student Travel Pass</b>	Advised that a business case is being constructed to provide these passes to international students, noting that the scheme is not available for postgraduate and research students.
<b>Federation University include generative AI (i.e. ChatGPT) as an Educational Tool</b>	Advised that the Learning and Teaching team is in the early stages of constructing a framework around the use of generative AI in Education.
<b>Federation University provide sanitary products, in the university's female bathrooms for staff and students</b>	A free sanitary vending machine was installed in the gender-neutral bathrooms at Mt Helen Campus, located in the learning space, S Building and more vending machines have been requested from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Housing with the Wellbeing Team hoping to expand their availability across all campuses.

## Other Student Senate achievements for 2024

- Hosted Student Leadership Retreat for all student leaders - networking, training and development
- Held four Student Forums
- Tamim Hasan, Chair and Jason Squires, Vice-Chair presented the Student Senate certificates at the FedAwards at Mt Helen campus.

## Meeting dates for 2024

<b>SS1</b>	<b>Tuesday 05/03/2024</b>
<b>SS2</b>	<b>Tuesday 14/05/2024</b>
<b>SS3</b>	<b>Tuesday 11/06/2024</b>
<b>SS4</b>	<b>Tuesday 09/07/2024</b>
<b>SS5</b>	<b>Tuesday 13/08/2024</b>
<b>SS6</b>	<b>Tuesday 17/09/2024 – Rescheduled by Vote</b>
<b>SS7</b>	<b>Tuesday 22/10/2024 – Rescheduled by Vote</b>
<b>SS8</b>	<b>Tuesday 19/11/2024</b>



## Representatives for 2024

<b>Position Name</b> <b>Number of Positions</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Ballarat and surrounds area student representative (2 positions):	Tamim Hasan Vaibhav
Berwick area student representative (1 position):	Kevin Alexander
Distance education/off campus student representative (1 position):	Jase Squires
Equity, diversity and social inclusion advocate (1 position):	Janvi Abrol
Federation TAFE student representative (1 position):	Vacant
First nations representative (1 position):	Samuel Crane
Gippsland area student representative (1 position):	Jubin Raju
International student representative (1 position):	Monzurul Hasan
Postgraduate student representative (1 position):	Ashutosh Parajuli
Student representative from the Institute of Health and Wellbeing (2 positions):	Alatun Noor Moon Gurjeet Singh
Student representative from the Institute of Education, Arts and Community (2 positions):	Yakun Pei Rahab Mwaniki
Student representative from the Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability (2 positions):	Prapti Bista Zachary Tan