



Student Senate 2014

End of Year Report

HELP SHAPE THE
STUDENT EXPERIENCE





Message from the Chair

Alex Power

Chair / International student Representative



To my fellow Federation University students and Faculty alike, Let me begin by stating how much of an honour it has been to represent not only the International Student Committee on the Student Senate, but also hold the position of Senate Chair. I have been a part of the now Federation University community for years now, and although for most of that time I volunteered on various committees, nothing has been quite as fulfilling as working with the assortment of brilliant personalities and talents that is the outgoing Student Senate representatives and the participating Student connect officer. Initially it was not my intention to run for Chair of the Senate, but under unforeseen circumstance the opportunity arose and I grabbed at it whole heartedly. Over the last academic year I have gotten to know my peers, watched them grow, helped them face challenges, and learned from them, all of which has deepened my commitment to improving the student experience for as long as I can be effective.

The student Senate, for those who are not aware of it, is more than just a form of student government. It is a median for students with similar ideals and drive to learn together, not just about leadership roles, but, maybe most importantly of all, to learn about themselves. During my tenure I have developed many skills that will be priceless in my professional life to come. Although this marks the end of my time in the Student Senate, I would confidently recommend considering a position on the Student Senate to any motivated student looking to better themselves in any way; in every way.

I would like to wish the incoming Student Senate members an excellent year. To the outgoing Senate collective, I thank you for your part in continuing our progressive steps. We could not have done any of this without you.

What is your name and nickname?

Alex Power. The amount of nick names that have been attached to me over the years is ridiculous. Alex "tin man" "wizard" "Captain" Power. Choose which you like the best. Haha.

What are you currently studying?

I am studying Business, with interests in Entrepreneurship and Politics.

What did you learn through this role?

There are many lessons to be learnt during a term in Student Senate, and of course, your lessons are completely dependent on you, yourself. In my time serving I learned the very basic foundation of how government works, I developed my public speaking skills, and developed greater empathy for the student body as a whole. Through this role, I can honestly admit that I am a much more confident speaker and now can understand the needs of not only my peers, but the needs of other students, teachers, and administrators.

Favourite quote?

"You don't learn by following the rules. You learn by doing and falling over." - Richard Branson



Message from the Senate Advisors

Darren Holland

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Support and Services)



2014 has been another great year for the Federation University Student Senate with a University name change, the incorporation of the former Gippsland Campus of Monash University and the subsequent welcoming of new members from that region as some of the enduring highlights.

There are two particularly gratifying aspects of my role as Advisor to the Student Senate. One of those is to observe the personal growth of those involved in the senate, and then, under their stewardship see similar developmental opportunities extended to, and embraced by the wider student body. The other is to be party to the fantastic work undertaken by the senate and its members in improving the student experience here at Fed Uni. There is no doubt that the Senate's role in providing a direct voice for student issues to University leadership is an effective change an advocacy vehicle.

I would like to thank all members of the Senate who served in 2014, and welcome those incoming members for 2015. I look forward to advising, and being part of the contributions to this university that you will make.

Jeannie King

Director, Student Connect



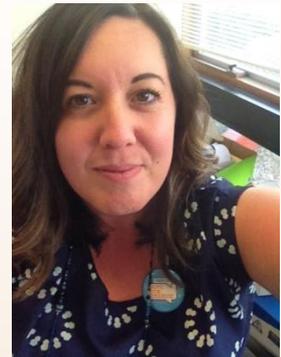
During the 2014 year, knowledge of the Student Senate has increased amongst the student body, with many of the forums held during the year having higher numbers of attendees, and increased feedback and input from students. The inclusion of Senate members for the Gippsland Campus and also a member for distance students has also enabled the Senate to grow and maintain its representative focus.

There have been requests for Senate members to sit on university committees, and also for Senate input during a number of reviews held by different service areas across the university. Improvements in facilities, services and amenities provided to students through both Student Services and Amenities Fees and university funds have been driven by feedback and input from our student body.

The move to holding elections in semester two will ensure that representation across the summer break is maintained and Senate members are available for consultation when required. In closing, the work of the Senate this year, and the creation of an end of year report back to the student body and the university community highlights the strong achievements of the Senate in 2014.



Message from The Executive Officer Naomi Biggs



The 2014 Student Senate, quite literally, got off to a flying start this year with 14 of the elected members bravely taking on a giant swing to help face their fears, build team communication and explore personal leadership skills. The terrifying antics took place as part of a two day induction back in April, extended from last year's 1 day induction to assist members to get a fuller understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Since then the Senate reps have been a hive of activity running 11 Student Forums across 5 campuses. The student feedback and opinion gathered at the forums has helped to influence a variety of University initiatives, and this year has seen a massive demand from University staff and senior management to engage students in their decision making processes. In 2014 Senate members have had many valuable opportunities to input into a range of committees and projects, including:

- **Social Inclusion Committee**
- **Way Finding Project**
- **Mt Helen Master Plan project**
- **Review of the exams process and timetables**
- **ICT's roll out of Office365 to students and Andrew Tully's 100 day plan**
- **Disability Action Plan**
- **The VC's staff awards panel**
- **Campus Watch security meetings**
- **Learning and Teaching Plan Review**
- **Supporting students during Check-in Week**
- **Lecture Capture Evaluation**



We have had some big changes to the Senate with two new positions at our Gippsland Campus going live, the new role of Vice Chair on the board and moving our nominations from the beginning of the year to August. All have added challenges as we trial new ways of working, but already we are seeing great benefits. Our two Gippsland campus reps are kicking goals with a Student forum already under their belt, improvements to student spaces actioned recently, FEDPRESS has expanded to the campus and they have been introducing themselves to key staff. The change of the nominations date is allowing a much better handover between current and future members, with next year's team attending the last Senate meeting of this year as observers.

Plenty of action has been created across the year, details of which are included in individual member reports below.



Laura Ryan

Vice Chair / Academic Board student Representative

What is your name and nickname?

Laura Ryan

Rhino



What are you currently studying?

Bachelor of Management majoring in Human Resources

What did you learn through this role?

- I have learnt how to work as a team through this role. I can now find an appreciation for each role that a team has. As a senate member I am always in senate meetings with other leaders. This is one of the reasons why we got this position on the senate and we are driven by our passions.
- I have learnt that even as a leader, you do not always have to be the leader of a group. You can show great leadership by standing back and taking on a different but just as important role.
- I have had many opportunities to network with both staff and students within the university. I have learnt that there are so many issues within the university. Some great, some small and others of more urgency than others. Prioritising is now a key strength of mine because I had the chance to develop it through my role on the Student Senate.

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

I had a goal of working with Federation University Sustainability Society (FUSS), to create ideas about a location and execution of a blackboard for students/ I also had recruitment goals for new Senate members as well as managing the goals of 2014 Senate members.

Favourite quote?

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!"



David Thiu

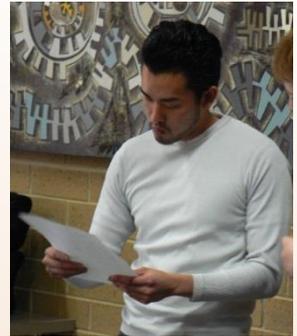
SITE School Board Student Representative

What is your name and nickname?

My name is David, but you can call me 'Dave' or 'Davo', or whatever makes you happy.

What are you currently studying?

I am currently studying 'Bachelor of Mining Engineering', and my current plans are to become a 'Mine Planning Engineer' that specializes in mining Gold and Silver.



What did you learn through this role?

This role has helped me develop various skills such as leadership skills, team work skills, communication skills, and time management skills.

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

- As a SITE and Student Senate Representative I have strived to fulfil my role of representing the students and providing a voice to make recommendations to improve student experience at Federation Uni, while at the same time trying to balance other commitments such as work and study.
- As a result of the feedback provided at the SITE meetings, the University will be looking at: Enhancing student learning experiences by implementing more online learning materials such as audios, and videos
- Restructuring some of engineering programs to allow students to gain a more solid foundational knowledge before progressing to more difficult courses
- Working collaboratively with various faculties to provide students with better guidelines on 'Technical Report Writing' and a more standardized approach to marking
- Implementing more material related to 'Career Planning', and assisting students in secure employment in this very competitive market

As a Student Senate Representative I have:

- Created a Moodle Page to ENHANCE communication and inform students about the SSAF, Federal Budget, and various facilities and services available at Federation Uni
- Looked into implementing an SMS subscription system to inform students about various events happening at Uni in a timely manner
- Facilitated the Semester 1, 2014 Mount Helen Forum, where outstanding feedback and suggestions to improve student experience at Federation Uni was provided
- Informed the maintenance and ICT department of issues affecting students right away

Favourite quote?

"The quality of your life is based partly upon the quality of the questions you ask yourself daily."

-Demartini



Saumya Desai

Clubs & Societies Representative

What is your name and nickname?

Saumya. It is a **Sanskrit** word. (It means Calm, Quiet, Gentle). My nick name is **Sammy** .

What are you currently studying?

Graduate Certificate in IT Professional Practise



What did you learn through this role?

- Through this role I have developed skills such as leadership, communication, Time management, organisational and team management.
- I got a chance to see how official/formal meetings run and became a part of it. (of course food was the best part 😊)
- It is a great opportunity for networking. I met lots of students, wonderful senate members, friendly and approachable staff members, Deputy Vice-chancellors, Vice-chancellor and Chancellor.
- I visited all the FedUni Campuses so this role provided me the broader view to look into this organisation from bottom to top.
- I attended the National Student Leadership Forum 2014 at Canberra through Student Senate and got a chance to learn the concepts of leadership from the political leaders of this country.

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

- 24 Hours security at all the campuses,
- Kitchen Facilities in 24 Hours lab in F building at Mount Helen,
- Contacted each clubs and societies to raise awareness about the benefits they are getting by being a club or society such as printing, promotion for the events, to host the BBQ lunch etc.
- Resolved the limited Internet access issue on Res. especially at Gippsland which will be unlimited access from 31st December 2014 on FedUni Living,
- Introduced new Director of ICT Andrew Tully to the senate,
- Participated in Lecture Capture Evaluation as a Student Representative,
- Prepared the End of year report for 2014.

Favourite quote?

Think BIG! You are going to be thinking anyway, so think BIG! — Donald Trump



Jessica Brady

Learning & Teaching Committee Student Representative

What is your name and nickname?

Jess Brady (JB, Brades, JBrades, Mum)



What are you currently studying?

Bachelor of Education (Physical Education)

What did you learn through this role?

- I have had the opportunity to learn from some of the University Senior Leadership team including the Chancellor, the VC, DVCs & Directors, and further developed my communication skills in formal and informal settings.
- This role has also allowed me to see the university from another point of view, not just as a student. For example, the formal processes and procedures that the university is governed by are extremely intricate which can sometimes make change within such a large institution difficult.
- As a senate member in 2014, it has been most pleasing to see that the university Senior Team do listen and act upon our opinions, on behalf of the students at FedUni.

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

- This year, in conjunction with the FedUni PE Society we raised \$1000 for the Blue Tie Ball – Raising awareness for the Beyond Blue Foundation.
- I participated in Learning & Teaching Committee meetings and discussions around redevelopment of the Student Plagiarism Policy and developing the Learning & Teaching Plan for 2015-16.

Favourite quote?

I am a very team-oriented person and so my favourite quote would be:
“Work with each other, for each other.”



Kelli Zaleski Sports Representative

What is your name and nickname?

Kelli Zaleski (I don't really have a nickname)



What are you currently studying?

I recently completed my formal study in Bachelor of Sports Management

What did you learn through this role?

- I gained exposure to the various facilities and campus of Federation University, allowing me to develop a greater understanding of what the University provides to the students
- The roles and responsibilities of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
- I am now also aware of the processes used to implement and allocate funding to provide services requested by students

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

- **Refurbishment of the Mount Helen Squash Courts**



Favourite quote?

"When considering the stature of an athlete or for that matter any person, I set great store in certain qualities which I believe to be essential in addition to skill. They are that the person conducts his or her life with dignity, with integrity, courage, and perhaps most of all, with modesty. These virtues are totally compatible with pride, ambition, and competitiveness."

SIR DONALD BRADMAN



Callum Bennier

Camp St Visual Arts Representative

What is your name and nickname?

Callum. My nick name is Cal.

What are you currently studying?

Bachelor of Communication Design



What did you learn through this role?

- I have learnt to develop skills such as leadership, communicating, especially time management, and team management when it is needed.
- A chance to be able to attend official meetings and also run apart of it this has helped me to learn more about communication and gave me a taste of how large official meetings work.
- It was the perfect opportunity for networking with fellow students and official staff members.
- I attended The Blue Tie Ball this year, which is a charity fundraiser ball the profits go directly to Beyond blue it helped me to understand depression further and at the same time I was able to give back to charity.

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

- Currently in progress with Amanda the performing Arts Rep to redesign the student computer lounge at Camp St. to make it a efficient study space for all students.
- Work underway to include design workshops for the visual arts department working with Luke Icely from the Leadership and Volunteering program to achieve this.
- The inclusion of needed visual arts materials / equipment funded through the combined efforts of the student senate.
- Feedback meeting with visual arts students was a interesting experience got some interesting information back from this.
- Work underway with Amanda the possibility of increase library times within SMB library to tie into current camp st student free periods.

Favourite quote?

To command is to serve, nothing more and nothing less. - Andre Malraux



Amanda Beckerleg

Camp St Performing Arts Student Representative

What is your name and nickname?

Amanda Beckerleg

What are you currently studying?

Final year in Bachelor of Arts- Acting



What did you learn through this role?

I learnt this year the importance of taking all of the necessary little steps to achieve a larger goal.

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

- This year I strove to find out what students on my campus needed and how I could work to achieve these goals. Most of the students concerns came back to general maintenance and facilities. I am glad that throughout the year we have been able to make improvements at the Arts Academy and see the beginnings of working towards much larger plans for the future of the facilities.

- I am also very proud to still have the ball rolling on some larger goals such as helping our students with configuring Library hours that are more suitable for everyone, and improving our Computer Lab and Student Lounge facilities at Camp St.

Favourite quote?

"Life is a challenge, and many people who have accomplished great things in their lives have done so not in spite of serious setbacks, but because of them."

JIM STYNES



Fiona Harris

Western Campuses Higher Education Representative

While during my time as HE Student leader I did a number of things including the following:

- Provided an extra microwave for the canteen area, so now we have two
- Wii console and games to add atmosphere to the cafeteria and allow the students something to help relax with between class times and lunch times
- I requested student lockers for our main entrance hallway. Due to our rural setting, students travel long distance and bring all their books to campus, lockers will save them having to carry them all day. (Lockers are still in the process of being set up).
- I feel as though my leadership time has added to student engagement on campus through increasing engagement on Facebook pages, better attendance at events and the student forum.
- I organized a group of Nursing students a bus to the careers open day at Mt Helen campus, which in turn gave students a better awareness of the Mt Helen campus, careers service, leadership program and student support services
- Better support on the Horsham campus from CLIPP
- Three Horsham students recently attended the Leadership conference at Mt Helen – this level of engagement would not have happened last year!
- I helped to promote the Student Senate so that it will hopefully be more of a success for next year's students and leaders
- I have attended all but one of the meetings, either in person or by web cam.



Mathew Sneddon

Health Sciences School Board Student Representative

Key issues for the Health Faculty students are:

- Course descriptions are not concise enough. This issue is currently being discussed with course coordinators
- Assignments have been asked to be changed due to what is deemed to be unethical and unfair content requirement by students
- Students have requested more professional development opportunities. The Pscyh society is working on creating more opportunities.



Brodie Ticehurst

Education and Arts School Board Student Representative

What is your name and nickname?

Brodie Ticehurst

What are you currently studying?

I'm currently studying double degree, a bachelor of psychology and a bachelor of education.

What goals did you achieve in 2014 as a Student Senate member?

- This year I have been focusing on opening up more communication channels between staff and students to help prevent issues like this from festering in the first place. I have also been looking at resolving timetable conflicts among double-degree students, and rescheduling placement dates (for example going on year 12 placement after year 12's have graduated is a fruitless endeavour).

- Next year I'd like to see timetable conflicts completely resolved, placement dates adjusted, channels of communication open and on top of this I'd like to push for a redesigning of a few of the assessment tasks that don't cater to all students, or are confusing in their requirements of students. I'd also like to get double-degree students going on placement in their first years so that they can get a feel for whether or not teaching is for them before they've been studying for almost 2 years.

Joanne Bott

Business School Board Student Representative

I have been working on 2 goals within the business school this semester. After consulting Faculty of Business students via classes, Buzz and Facebook, I heard that the two most popular issues that they had were the lack of a common area within the Business School and the running of 2nd and 3rd year courses over the Summer Semester.

Students expressed a lot of interest in having an area within the school that encouraged familiarity and a sense of belonging to the school. Many of them said that they didn't have any reason to go into the Business School in their 1st and 2nd semesters because their large class sizes saw the core subjects taught in other parts of the University. A common room would also allow for social and academic interaction between students and also the lecturing staff. The Business Students Society, BUZZ, also requested a permanent home and were happy to use and maintain the common room area.



Squash courts



Extended Kitchen Facilities in U - Building

An extra bench was added in the student lounge in U - Building with an extra microwave to help reduce waiting times.





New Kitchen Facilities in 24 Hours Lab (F - Building)

The 24 hours computer lab has moved to the F Building and it is the focus of many after hours and weekend classes. We therefore had many student requests to provide hot water and a kitchenette in the building as students could not get access to other student kitchens or the café. A vending machine with hot drinks will also be located next to the kitchen by the end of the year.



New Kitchen Facilities in E - Building

Students gave a great deal of feedback about long waiting times to use the microwaves and kitchen space in the Student Lounge of U Building and general overcrowding. We have created a new kitchen in the E Building, located next to the U Building, in a space that was previously wasted with nothing in it. E Building is often used for TAFE classes run in the evenings and weekends so students here after hours can now access hot water and the kitchen equipment.





Breakout Area in T - Building

This space was previously cluttered and uninviting. It has been decorated and chairs, sofas, tables, power points and a wall mounted screen have all been installed to give students extra break out spaces and group work areas. The extra power points allow for personal computer devices to be used for individual or group study.



Hub Space in the U - Building

This area was used mostly as a storage area in the past, it was rarely clean and very uninviting. It has been fully decorated and kitted out with comfortable bench style seating for students to relax or study. Multiple power points have been included in the space to allow students to use personal electronic devices if they choose, or they can just chill out during lectures.





Meet The Student Senate Members For 2015



Amelia Best
Academic Board
Student Representative



Elisabeth Eccles
Learning & Teaching Committee
Student Representative



Marie Digna
Mt Helen HE Student
Representative



Mark Harse
Clubs & Societies Student
Representative



Callum Bennier
Camp St Visual Arts
Student Representative



Lilli Chester
SMB Campus
Student Representative



Markus Middling
SMB Campus
Student
Representative



Samuel Hooper
Postgraduate Student Representative



Meet The Student Senate Members For 2015



Nicholas Jones

FedCollege Student Representative



Jessica Kelly

Mt Helen HE Student Representative



Saad Saud Almashouq

International Student Representative



Patrick Thorpe

Sports Student Representative



Lisa Dourley

Gippsland Campus Student
Representative



Kim Peters

Gippsland Campus Student
Representative



Evie Lo

Horsham Campus HE Student Representative



National Student Leadership Forum 2014

By Saumya Desai

Thanks to Federation University of Australia, Student Connect, on 4th September I attended the National Student Leadership Forum at the Parliament House in Canberra. The main theme of the forum was the servant leadership – understanding, listening to and recognising the needs and strengths of those around you and using this as a platform for being a proactive, community-orientated leader.

The Forum gave the delegates opportunity to hear from and engage with national and international political, corporate and humanitarian leaders and see how they demonstrate servant leadership in their everyday decisions and occupations. These speakers provided a platform for dealing with the partnership of ethics and leadership, identifying our own vision for leadership, our own core values and articulating these and transforming them into action.

My favourite highlight of the forum was the speech by Mr. Toby Hall when he asked everyone to write down the year they were born and put a dash (-) next to it. Then put “?” next to dash. It will look something like this.

19XX - ?

Now the year you were born, it was not in our control. Similarly the “?” is not in our hand. The only thing in our control is the dash (-).

It is up to us what we do with the dash, what we do with our life, how we can serve the community so that we can make the difference as a leader.



With Mr. Graham Perrett, MP



Business and Entrepreneurship Conference

By Laura Ryan

I received an invitation through Golden Key to attend a conference in Sydney and New Zealand. This conference was based on Business and Entrepreneurship and attracted students from around the world. Many of the students on the trip were from the USA, one was from South America and myself and two others from Australia.

I was given a great culture shock by spending time with people from the US and seeing their reactions to how we live here in Australia and the similarities Australia has with New Zealand. We attended many businesses and organisations with talks about how managers have progressed through their careers and how they keep up to date with innovation and customer demand.



In New Zealand we visited SHE Universe in Christchurch. This is a small chocolate shop, café and a place for meditation sessions. We spoke with the owner who told us how he came about owning a business and how he has travelled to this place in time throughout his career. He started in Scotland, his home country, and then moved to Melbourne Australia, to work in a skyscraper doing managerial work. He found that this was stressful and he and his family would take holidays to New Zealand. This is where he found a meditation place and decided that he was ready to move from Melbourne to Christchurch to start his own meditation business. He had dealt with many hurdles such as his café burning down and the earthquake in New Zealand and many aftershocks of this event. He told us most importantly to find something we love to do and pursue it. You may come across challenges and be tempted to give up, but if it is really your dream you will continue working towards the goal.

I was lucky enough to receive sponsorship for my conference from SAAF money and without it I wouldn't have been able to go on this learning adventure. After meeting so many new people I have been able to learn about different cultures, share a learning experience and make some great friends from different countries. Seeing how hard everyone worked to attend this conference made me appreciate how great we have things here at Federation University and really gave me a positive view of my university experience. I have learnt that you should never give up on your dreams and to open my eyes to seize the opportunities that come my way.