

Student Campus Councils

The University has established a set of Student Campus Councils (SCCs), recognising the close ties that many students have with their home campus, its community of students, and its campus life and activities. Each campus has a different character and culture, and specific concerns that students might wish to raise. Some issues will concern students across the University, and the university-wide Student Representative Council (SRC) is a place where the SCCs can share their concerns, and organise their university-wide responses, including representations to senior UWS staff and governance bodies, such as the Board of Trustees and Academic Senate.

Some possible issues might include:

- Campus facilities, including IT, teaching spaces, furniture, noticeboards, learning commons, opening hours
- Campus accessibility, including parking, public transport, buses, roads and footpaths
- Disability access and facilities
- Campus safety, including after-hours security, lighting, CCTV
- Resources for specific groups, including parents, faith groups, Indigenous students, women, “queer spaces”
- Communication with various levels of the University
- Awareness and workability of university policies (academic and non-academic)
- Availability of support services
- Academic programs: changes to programs; transition arrangements; problems with assessment; feedback and standards; concerns about staffing levels and learning resources
- Postgraduate issues (coursework and higher-degree research): policies, resources, supervision and support.

Each SCC will also serve as a point of contact and referral service for students who have questions or concerns about UWS-related matters. This is one role that the Interim Student Leadership Group is currently playing, as students may prefer to approach a student organisation for assistance in the first instance. The University can help the SCCs with advice, support and referrals for enquiries, where this is appropriate.

2012 will be the first year of operation for the SCCs, so newly elected members will play a crucial role in building a culture of student representation and participation, working out the best way of operating in their different campus environments, helping to solve problems for

students, and advocating student concerns to senior UWS staff, including the Campus Provosts, the newly established position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students), and the Chair of Academic Senate.

SCC Membership, Meetings and Time Commitment

Each SCC will determine its own schedule of meetings, but normally they will occur each month during the teaching periods. Each year there will be two joint meetings with the Campus Life Committee (CLC), so that the SCC can have input into this aspect of campus activities and the allocation of campus funds.

The University will provide spaces and administrative support for meetings.

Each SCC will consist of nine student-elected members, including at least one postgraduate, international and residential student, plus two campus-based representatives of Clubs/Societies elected by the campus Clubs and Societies Forum.

Each SCC will elect its own Chair and Deputy Chair. It will also elect three of its own members to be members of the university-wide SRC. The SRC will elect two of its own members to be the SRC President and Vice-President, respectively. The SRC will hold at least four meetings per year, rotating between the different campuses.

Each SCC will be able to determine and appoint its own non-voting office bearers to assist with portfolios such as women's issues, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

The proposed SCC Terms of Reference are listed at the end of this document. These will be confirmed after consultation with the Interim Student Leadership Group, and will be reviewed at the end of 2012.

The time commitment for SCC members will depend on the amount of work they want to put in, recognising that many members will already be active in student life at their campuses. Members will be expected to attend SCC meetings and take part in other SCC-related activities, as decided by the SCC. This could include attendance at other meetings and activities, and work on particular portfolios or projects. Student representatives will be invited to take part in training in leadership, management and governance responsibilities.

Funding and Allowances

The Board of Trustees has set the following Guiding Principles for the new structure for student representation and participation:

- A sitting fee policy will be articulated to cover student expenses and service at a University level above and beyond normal representation activities;
- A charter of understanding and funding arrangements between the University and the SRC will be articulated in a formal agreement;
- Elected student members will receive training in leadership, management and governance responsibilities.

The University will determine these policies and arrangements in consultation with the student representatives (i.e., the Interim Student Leadership Group until the SCCs and SRC become operational, and then the elected student representatives.)

Proposed Terms of Reference for the SCCs (for confirmation after student consultation)

The proposed terms of reference for each of the Student Campus Councils are as follows:

- i. identify, advance and promote the interest of campus students and the University,
- ii. promote the participation of campus students in, and the consideration of, matters affecting their interests,
- iii. afford a recognised means of communication between the students and the academic and administrative arms of the University,
- iv. in conjunction with the Campus Life Committees, provide input and direction to the coordination of campus activities and events,
- v. publish hardcopy or electronic communication to campus students from time to time, e.g. website, blog, journal, flyer, newsletter, newspaper or other publications. This may also include submitting story ideas and contributions to existing UWS student publications, such as nUWS (UWS student news site) and Campus Life (uwsconnect eNewsletter), and
- vi. liaise and work closely with the Campus Provost.

Membership

- b. Each Student Campus Council will consist of the following members who shall be directly elected by students via general elections:
 - i. Six (6) Campus Representatives,
 - ii. One (1) Postgraduate Student Representative,
 - iii. One (1) International Student Representative, and
 - iv. One (1) Residential Student Representative.
- c. In addition to the elected student representatives, each campus council will have two (2) Clubs and Societies Representatives appointed by the Clubs and Societies Forum for that campus.
- d. The Student Campus Council may appoint non-voting office bearers to assist with the ongoing development of portfolios, including but not limited to:
 - i. Women's issues,
 - ii. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues,
 - iii. Indigenous issues,
 - iv. Environment issues, and
 - v. Disability issues.