



TUSA STATE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Acknowledgement of Country

The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) operates across the Aboriginal land, sea and waterways of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the Eora nation (Sydney). We acknowledge, with deep respect, the traditional owners of the land, the palawa and pakana people of lutruwita, and the Gadigal and Wangal peoples comprising a part of the broader Eora Nation.

The palawa, pakana, Gadigal and Wangal peoples belong to the oldest continuing culture in the world. They cared for and protected Country for thousands of years. They knew this land, they lived on this land and they died on this land. We honour them.

TUSA pays respect to elders past and present, to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status, and to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, and broader Australian Aboriginal Community, who continue to care for Country.

We recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of invasion and colonisation upon Aboriginal people, resulting in their forcible removal from their lands. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and that reconciliation needs real action.

We stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language and history. We stand for a continued effort to fight for Aboriginal justice and rights, paving the way for a better future.



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President's Welcome

Welcome to the 2024 TUSA State Council Annual Report!

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary for the Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) as we proudly celebrate our 125th year. As the third-oldest student union in Australia, this milestone is a testament to the enduring strength of student representation and advocacy.

Among the highlights of this historic year, TUSA secured its first funding increase since the introduction of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) in 2012. This long-overdue victory is a powerful affirmation of the value of student-led organisations in driving meaningful change and addressing the needs of our student body.

On the national stage, the passage of transformative reforms—reduced HECS indexation, paid placements, and mandatory SSAF funding for student-led organisations—through the Australian Universities Accord marks a watershed moment in higher education. These advancements, paired with TUSA's advocacy, reinforce the critical importance of student voices in shaping the future of our universities.

Closer to home, TUSA has made significant strides. The reintroduction of the beloved Unique Tassie Experience program invites students to engage with Tasmania's unique natural and cultural heritage. We've also laid the groundwork to expand the Food Hub program to more campuses in 2025, ensuring that essential support is accessible to even more students.

Meet your Elected 2024 State Council Representatives



Liam McLaren
President



Mark Warrington
Equity President



Kt Lertsinpakdee
Education President (Undergraduate)



Shan-Yu Yu
Education President (Postgraduate)



Jack Oates Pryor
Southern Campus President



Libby Alsop
Northern Campus President



Angus Bisset Stewart
Cradle Coast Campus President



Matthew Douglass
Rozelle Campus President

Send in your inquiries, feedback, and suggestions to president@TUSA.utas.edu.au

President's Welcome

Student representation has reached new heights with the addition of a General Secretary to the State Council and the establishment of seven Equity Officer roles within the TUSA Equity Committee. These changes reflect our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive student voice.

This year, we have also seen a shift in university policy towards a more student-centric approach. The imminent release of the University's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan represents a significant step forward in ensuring a safer and more supportive campus environment for all students.

As my two-year term as TUSA President comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've undertaken together. Special thanks to Chloe Harris, our State Council Executive Assistant, and Eloise Knuckey, our former Executive Assistant, whose dedication and support have been instrumental to our success.

Celebrating our 125th year reminds us of the legacy we inherit and the responsibility we carry to shape a brighter future for students. This report is both a reflection of our achievements and a promise to continue striving for excellence.

Thank you for the honour of serving as your TUSA President.

2024 TUSA President
Liam McLaren



Our 2024 Focus Areas

Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF)

- ✓ Advocacy for increased transparency of SSAF allocation by the University
- ✓ Increased involvement of student voice in allocation process of the University
- ✓ Winning increased SSAF funding for 2024
- ✓ Winning federal legislation of 40% SSAF funding for student-led organisations from 2025

Food Security

- ✓ Supporting the continuation and planned expansion of the TUSA Food Hub to all campuses and continuous advocacy for expanded funding of this program
- ✓ Continued representation to University management of current state of play faced by students, Cost of Living Crisis, increased hours of work needed to support Cost of Living, increased competing priorities, and the need for University recognition of this in decision-making

Gender Based Violence

- ✓ Students drove the University to conduct an independent review into how they handled Gender Based Violence
- ✓ Working with the University in the creation of a four-year action plan for addressing Gender Based Violence covering everything from cultural change, to improved disclosure and support options, to systemic changes to operations

Student Housing & Accommodation

- ✓ Advocating for individual student issues, as well as systemic representation on issues of housing affordability, access and broader crisis housing support advocacy within the University
- ✓ Campaigning to the University to review and overhaul of pricing structures and lengths of University Accommodation lease agreements.

Improving the Student Experience

- ✓ Advocating for improvement of the Student Experience through representation and lobbying on a number of University bodies including the Student Experience Committee
- ✓ Continual push for more student voices in University future campus planning and decision making to dramatically improve student extra-curricular spaces on campus
- ✓ Advocacy for the University to prioritise funding improvements to Student Experience in a tight budgetary environment, including through improved transparency and student oversight of SSAF allocation

Australian Universities Accords

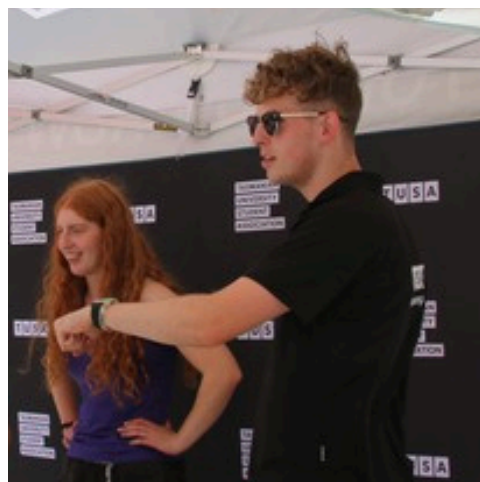
- ✓ Winning promises of reduced student HECS indexation, paid placements, mandatory SSAF, improved means-testing for government support payments, and University funding models that represent the needs of regional universities.
- ✓ Advocacy and engagement in the creation of legislation and policies in line with these promises to ensure that the good intent of the promises were carried through to legislation.

Sustainability & Social Responsibility

- ✓ Ongoing feedback into TUSA ethically sourced sustainable merchandise
- ✓ Support of environment-focused student groups
- ✓ Representation at the UTAS Sustainability Committee
- ✓ Advocacy for student representation and oversight on University financial investments
- ✓ Advocacy for transparency and consideration of academic partnerships in line with the social responsibilities of the University, to address indirect connections to non-ethical partners.
- ✓ Ongoing student input into TUSA governance decisions about existing TUSA ethical divestment from fossil-fuels
- ✓ Holding the University accountable to their divestment of fossil fuel and ethical investments, and pushing for further preventative and restorative actions at all levels of University governance.

President's Report

Well, that year flew by! If I felt my first term went quick, then the second felt like I blinked, and it was gone. It started with TUSA finally earning our first Student Services and Amenities Fees funding increase since it's inception in 2013, as our SSAF funding increased from \$1.022M to \$1.404M, as the University finally took the step to fully fund student representation, increase advocacy and legal support funding, and start to bridge the underfunding of clubs & societies. Proportionally SSAF funding increased from 19.5% to 25.8% of the SSAF pool.



My first term, the central goals of Relevancy – Autonomy – Transparency were central to all that I did, and those same goals drove things again in 2024, all backed up by the central motto of (let's) get shit done.

Looking outwards – external to our University community

The start of the year saw the handing down of the final report of the Australian University Accords, a report that saw huge wins for students both at home but also across the country! To name a few, we saw:

- Changes to HECS Indexation to include wage growth index as an additional measure of which indexation can be indexed at, and a backdating of HECS Indexation to prior to July 1st 2023, which saw the largest single indexation (7.1%) of student debts since 1991, representing an average cut of \$1100 for students across the country.
- The groundbreaking introduction of means tested paid placements for Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching and Social Work students.
- Additional fee-free courses.
- Mandatory 40% SSAF funding for student-led organisations starting 1st January 2025.
- A National Action Plan for Addressing Gender Based Violence in Higher Education and promises of another National Student Safety Survey to be conducted and reported in 2025.
- Promises of a new National Report into Racism on Campus to be conducted in 2025.

Each of these can be directly aligned with our TUSA submission to the Accord alongside student unions across the country and can be seen as a win and step in the right direction for students.

However, it would be remiss of me to not equally call out that many initiatives do not go nearly far enough.

President's Report

Paid placements need to be available to all students completing mandatory placements within their degrees. HECS indexation needs to be frozen whilst we continue to be in a period of high inflation. Finally, that SSAF funding needs to match Western Australian state legislation in giving 50% of SSAF funding to student-led organisations.

Elsewhere, in the national space, huge movements have been made to international student numbers and pathways to migration. Both government and media have worryingly sought to correlate housing crises around the country with high international student numbers, including in Tasmania: a state where we have an ongoing housing crisis yet where our March '24 annual population growth was just 0.38%...

UTAS

Within the University, the year began with the handing down of the Walker Report into Gender Based Violence at the University, as lobbied and won by TUSA student representatives in 2023. The independent report handed down 47 recommendations being made to the University in preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence, leading to a year long project we have worked with the University on in creating the UTAS Gender Based Violence Action Plan which I hope will be released publicly imminently.

Following our calls for greater student engagement in future campus planning, we engaged with the University in their STEM Appreciative Enquiry. This led to their announcement that STEM will be remaining in Sandy Bay into the future with a world-renowned industry intertwined campus!

We drove policy overhauls in repealing policy restrictions on Higher Degree by Research Stipend Students being able to work outside of their degree so they can afford to live. We have led calls and sat on working groups to overhaul outdated University policy and procedures from Review and Appeals to Assessment and Results. We have continued to drive the need for increased elected student representation on our University Council



and oversight of university investments, including ensuring that investments continue to remain fossil free and ethical.

Following our SSAF is for Students campaign in 2023, we continued to push the University to increase student oversight and governance of where SSAF is spent, and place 50% of SSAF back in student hands through our student-led organisation. Although, we are seeing legislation implemented for mandatory SSAF in 2025, the

President's Report

University has continued to seek to kick the can down the road and avoiding putting SSAF back in student hands!

TUSA

Within TUSA, we continued to push for change! Our Food Hub was successful in receiving marginal University support in continuing in 2024, as TUSA agreed to fund operational costs ensuring the over 6000 students that accessed Food Hub in 2024 were able to have that access. We are set to hopefully expand to more UTAS campuses in 2025. We were successful in the reimplementation of the Unique Tassie Experience program for 2024 after receiving SSAF funding for the program, providing students access to the best parts of our island state.



The State Council overhauled our own processes inline with our 2024 TUSA State Council Strategy and implementation of a 2024 SC Workplan to ensure that no issues slipped through the cracks. Similarly, we recognised the lack of operational support being provided to our student representatives, and successfully implemented a new role in that of General Secretary and a standardisation of student representative honoraria.

In the governance space, we have driven soon to be realised changes to the TUSA Constitution in increasing student representation on the Board of Management and within Annual General Meetings to be majority students, ensuring that our student-led organisation is truly student-led!

Additionally, we have dramatically increased student representation with the addition of seven office bearer roles within the TUSA Equity Committee, each provided with a small honoraria and operating budget.

Finally, I want to thank our State Council for 2024! Each one of them stepped up and moved the State Council forwards, leaving it in a better position than that they found it.

- Matthew drove TUSA relevance and awareness in Rozelle in ensuring that Rozelle students issues were not left in the dark and taking on systematic campus issues.
- Laura and then Angus, were pivotal in identifying and then stopping unit cuts on Cradle through University strategy misalignment with policy implications.
- Libby has been crucial in building relationships in the North, whilst ensuring that campus moves are being conducted in the best interests of students, and successfully getting a campus shuttle pilot implemented.
- Shan Yu's work in the Postgraduate space has been crucial to policy changes such as repeals of working constraints and research access plans and her tireless work in

President's Report

building a sense of community for our postgrad students.

- Kt's work has been central to the policy and procedure work that we have focused on in 2024, as well as being a huge driver behind the incoming UTAS Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- Mark has revolutionised the Equity portfolio, implemented the amazing Equity committee and seeing a number of programs and initiatives being implemented including:
 - A TUSA commitment to an organisational Reconciliation Action Plan
 - Oversight of the final reports of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and working with UTAS towards the next version of the plan as it expires
 - TUSA anti-drink spiking initiatives
 - An online student feedback survey and report
 - Several international and ethnocultural student-led events
- Jack stepped into the role of Southern Campus President and taking on Deputy President as well. As Deputy, Jack provided outstanding cover for myself in my absence and was crucial in supporting the newly implemented Equity Committee as Deputy Chair. He has worked tirelessly on ensuring that student voices are central to conversations around any future plans of campuses in Southern Tasmania.

Over the past two years as President, and six months prior as a casual staff member, I have been adopted by a wonderful team of staff at TUSA, the organisation has become a second home for me, and I have come to see the staff as part of our crazy and quirky family! All the staff have supported and nurtured me throughout my time and provided an amazing environment for me to grow and feel supported to go out and into battle for students. They say it takes a community to raise a kid, well I say it takes a TUSA team to raise outstanding student representatives! To Danny and the Board, thank you for your guidance and support throughout my time, and I look forward to continuing on in 2025. To Jon, Kate, Stephen, Alec, Sarah, Steph, Elias, Bron, Ingrid, Chris, Kim, Avery, Michelle, Eloise, Guleid, Naomi, Chloe, Renee, and Shauna-Lee, thankyou to each and every one of



you for your support, advice, insight, lessons, laughs, and snacks, I would never have run for a second term if it was not for the TUSA family, and the day that I do finally move into the next phase of my life, I will have a huge hole in my heart and life, to fill.

2024 TUSA President
Liam McLaren

President's Report

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2023	Actual Attendance
TUSA State Council	12	12
TUSA Grants Committee	8	8
TUSA C&S Council	4	3
Student Experience Committee	5	5
SSAF Working Group	3	3
Academic Senate	6	6
Monitoring & Assurance Committee	4	3
Walker Oversight Working Group	4	4
University Learning & Teaching Committee	5	5
Student Equity & Success WG	6	5
Standing Academic Committee	2	2
Review and Appeals Taskforce	5	4
TUSA Board of Management	7	7
TUSA Team Meeting	6	6
TUSA Executive WIP Meeting	48	48

President's Report

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2023	Actual Attendance
Young Worker's Movement Lutruwita	7	6
University Council	1 (by invite)	1
TUSA/TUU AGM	1	1
Sustainability Committee	6	3
National Union of Students National Executive Meeting	9	8

Annual Quantitative Reporting Overview

Item	Measure	Actual
TUSA Meetings	Attendance	361
UTAS Meetings	Attendance	145
UTAS Committees	Attendance	55
Events	Attendance	104
Miscellaneous Meetings	Attendance	78
Media Communications	Participation	23

Deputy President's Report

2024 has been an exciting year as Southern Campuses President: it has been a privilege to be involved in conversations about UTAS's future campus presences and the current challenges that students are faced with on the ground. I continue to feel immense gratitude to have been elected into a role in which I get to hear stories from students, this year including students who were homeless, hadn't eaten in two days, had not met any friends on campus, or were irate at their education, for example. To advocate for these students, to fight for progressive systemic change, and to share student voice has been a joy.



The decentralised university campus model in Southern Tasmania continues to be a challenge to meaningfully engaging students in community building across disciplines, let alone within disciplines, and particularly so when their degree is not delivered fully on campus. We have seen the many UTAS and TUSA systems endeavouring to do so improve this year, but they all still have a long way to go. The number of student-owned spaces for extracurricular connections, study, and events need to increase to support this, as do the number of 'equity spaces' available to students. That said, student culture and capacity to engage in these activities has drastically shifted since COVID-19 – one of our jobs as the peak student representative body is to support other student leaders across the university to engage and lead their cohorts and students in this era of poly-crisis too. We have also seen an increase in political engagement from our students in the south this year too, with one such example being the 3-month-long Encampment in the heart of the Sandy Bay campus, whose full list of demands remains unmet. Another challenge of the many silo-ed campuses in the south is fit-for-purpose and accessible transport between campuses – through advocacy and action from our SC, we have seen promises of an additional UniHopper, more bike and e-scooter facilities, and a re-opened conversation with Metro about student access to buses between campuses. Again, it has been a joy and a privilege to work alongside this whole TUSA Team in 2024, both in Hobart and Sandy Bay with my Southern President hat on, and across all of UTAS with my Deputy President hat on. I keenly look forward to seeing how future State Councils continue to positively shape student experience, educational outcomes, and robust student voice.

I'd like to mention a few key groups within TUSA whom I could not have survived this year without. First, thank you to the students, and all the Clubs and Societies for your resilience, enthusiasm, and care for student experience. Thank you to all the TUSA Teams – Events, Media and Communications, Clubs and Societies, SLS and Advocacy for

Deputy President's Report



each supporting us in our capacity to connect with staff and students. You each put in significant effort and energy into supporting our students – thank you for the difference you make every day. Thank you to Chloe and Eloise for all the work you have both done behind the scenes for the State Council this year, we seriously could not do this without you and deeply appreciate your support. Thank you, Renée, for your mentorship and challenging me to be the best version of myself in these roles, and thank you Shauna, for your infallible kindness and

empowerment – we are so lucky to have you leading us in this chapter. And, of course, thank you Liam, for your ongoing guidance and support, as a leader, a mentor, and a friend, you're an inspiration and an aspiration. Thanks to the whole 2024 State Council Team, I look forward to seeing the next chapters of life for you all.

2024 TUSA Deputy & Southern Campus President
J Oates Pryor

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2023	Actual Attendance
TUSA State Council	13	13
TUSA Equity Committee	3	3
TUSA Team Meeting	6	5
TUSA Grants Committee	8	7
TUSA C&S Meetings	4	4
Total TUSA Meetings		84
Total TUSA Events		43
Academic Senate	7	6

Deputy President's Report

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2023	Actual Attendance
Student Experience Committee	4	4
SSAF Working Group	4	4

Annual Quantitative Reporting Overview

Item	Measure	Actual
Total UTAS Meetings	Attendance	66
Total UTAS Events	Attendance	30
Public Statements on Behalf of State Council	Participation	2
Miscellaneous Meetings	Attendance	60
Miscellaneous Events	Attendance	11

Equity President's Report

As the TUSA Equity President for 2024, it has been an honour and privilege to lead a year filled with meaningful achievements, tireless advocacy, and a collective commitment to equity and inclusion. Below are some highlights from the year, which reflect the efforts of the Equity Committee, TUSA team, and our vibrant student community.



Major Highlights

Implementation of the Equity Committee

Establishing the Equity Committee has been a cornerstone of this year's efforts. This dedicated team of seven equity officers along with Deputy Chair J Oates Pryor, have worked diligently to amplify the voices of underrepresented students, addressing key issues and advocating for meaningful change. Their passion and commitment have been truly inspiring. I thank everyone involved for helping set this up with a special thank you to C Harris for being the sounding board and at times mentor for such technical wizardry as Doodle polls!

Advocacy for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

Persistent efforts to ensure UTAS reviews its DIAP have been a challenging but rewarding journey. Through numerous planning meetings and consultations, we have succeeded in securing a commitment to address critical gaps in disability inclusion across the university. Work in this space is ongoing and with the amazing efforts of A McGovern and support from R Zollner I have complete faith that our recommendations to UTAS management will be held in high regard.

NUS Disability and Ethnocultural Conferences

In October, the TUSA delegation attended the National Union of Students (NUS) Disability and Ethnocultural Conferences. These events offered invaluable opportunities to exchange ideas, discuss national issues, and strengthen our advocacy efforts, ensuring the voices of our students resonate on a broader scale. In short this was an epic week but a week that will stay with all of us who attended and drive within each of us that positive impact for many years to come.

Pronoun Badges Initiative

The introduction and distribution of pronoun badges across UTAS campuses highlighted our commitment to gender inclusivity and respect for individual identities. This seemingly small gesture has had a significant impact in fostering a more welcoming campus environment. What can I say, I don't think there is anything I don't know about making badges now. A task that was frustrating and therapeutic at the same time. I thank all those who played a part in supporting me punch those little tackers out. I should also

Equity President's Report

share that the secret to assembling a good badge in the badge machine is to press down on the lever with conviction but not reckless abandon! Just so you know.

Acknowledgements of Country

We adopted a more personalised and meaningful approach to delivering Acknowledgements of Country, reflecting our commitment to genuine engagement with First Nations communities and respect for their cultural practices. Coming in to the State Council I was determined to make a change and offer a way in which Acknowledgements of Country could be done that didn't follow a tired old script. It made my heart sing to see the TUSA community adopt this style of delivery and bring meaning back to what is an important part of the story of us.

Media and Advocacy Responses

Throughout the year, TUSA responded to several critical issues in the equity space:

- Advocating for better disability representation in the University Accord.
- Contributing to statements on international conflicts, including the Israel-Gaza crisis, with the outgoing TUSA State President, L. McLaren demonstrating the utmost professionalism in taking a stance that had input from many diverse stakeholders. That was some amazing work Liam!
- Developing and disseminating the Invasion Day statement, reflecting our stance on historical and ongoing injustices.

One person who has been a presence throughout many activities of the TUSA State Council and played a big part in drafting many documents including the media statements mentioned above has been E Knuckey. A sound mind in troubled times – we won't mention the election!

Representation and Advocacy

Representation and advocacy have been central to my role this year. I've actively participated in regular meetings of key university groups, including the Disability Inclusion Campus Reference Group, the Gender Identifiers Reference Group, and the



University Executive Team Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Working Group, ensuring UTAS student voices are heard in crucial decision-making processes. My contributions extended to discussions on the allocation of Student Services and Amenities Fee funding, advocating for equitable resource distribution across all areas of student life. Beyond the university, I represented TUSA State Council at community forums such as the Greater Hobart Strategic Planning Workshop, fostering collaboration and ensuring student

Equity President's Report

perspectives are integrated into broader community initiatives. On a personal level I've provided direct support to numerous students, acting as a support person and connecting others with appropriate resources, reinforcing my commitment to both systemic and individual-level advocacy.

Personal Growth

This year has been transformative for me as Equity President. Leading the Equity portfolio has significantly boosted my confidence in managing the complex infrastructure of large groups, demanding both strategic planning and effective delegation. I've honed my skills as a storyteller, translating complex equity issues that resonate with diverse audiences. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities this role has provided, including attending the ASIST Suicide Prevention workshop—a profoundly impactful experience—and serving as a student representative on the TUSA Board of Management which involved navigating the intricacies of governance and strategic planning. I successfully lead major projects, such as the significant recruitment drive for the seven Equity Officers, which has further developed my leadership capabilities and project management skills. So as not to sound like a resume the point of this paragraph is to sell what the experience of serving as a TUSA State Council representative gives back. The challenges and rewards of this presidency have been immense, and I wholeheartedly recommend this experience to anyone seeking to develop their advocacy, analytical, and leadership potential.



Special Thanks

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of the TUSA operations team behind the scenes and leading the charge! The ability to achieve so much with meagre resources is astounding to say the least! I've mentioned it before but its worth mentioning again the incredible work of our seven equity officers who continue to advocate and support marginalised and disadvantaged students across the UTAS community, your presence and impact has resonated well beyond. It is your dedication to creating a more inclusive and equitable university experience which has been nothing short of remarkable.

Personal Reflection

I am deeply humbled to have been re-elected as the TUSA Equity President for 2025. But this is a somewhat bittersweet moment as I bid farewell to the inspiring 2024 State Council team. Your camaraderie and passion have left an indelible mark on me, and I look upon all of you with great fondness.

Equity President's Report

The coming year beckons with excitement as I look forward to working with the incoming 2025 State Council and we continue this journey together.

Finally, to all of you that make up this wonderfully positive TUSA community, thank you. Thank you for your continued support and trust. Together, we are building a university community where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive and I'm proud to be a part of that.

2024 TUSA Equity President
Mark Warrington

Attendance Actuals

Item	Measure	Target	Actual
TUSA Meetings	Attendance		131
UTAS Meetings	Attendance		41
UTAS Committees	Attendance	24	30
TUSA Events/Training	Attendance		49
Miscellaneous Meetings	Attendance		59
Media Communications	Participation		2
Conferences	Attendance		2

Northern President's Report

This year has been an incredible experience as the Northern President for TUSA. I have had the privilege to meet so many amazing people and be part of some great initiatives. The year seems to have rushed by so quickly, and I do find myself slightly dismayed that I could not pursue further actions in the North, though I am overwhelmed with gratitude at the support I have received from such an awesome team. I have been witness to some amazing actions taken by my fellow representatives, and even by students who hold no formal role.



Highlights

I believe my biggest achievement to be the trial of a shuttle bus between Inveresk and Newnham campus. Student safety should always remain the North's highest priority, and this shuttle allowed students safe and affordable travel, counteracting the many discrepancies of the public bus service that students face. Unfortunately, likely due to the timing of implementation, the shuttle was not as successful as hoped, with the cost outweighing the benefits. I am hopeful that plans remain to attempt a secondary trial at the beginning of semester 1 in 2025, and that students will access it to the fullest of its capabilities.

My favourite highlight is most definitely the small wins, being able to help individual student concerns that impact a broader range of issues. For example, when the e-charging parks were established near the AMC building at Newnham, the restricted mobility spots were inadvertently removed. These spots are crucial for students who do not qualify for official disability spots, yet still suffer from walking extended distances. With the support from UTAS staff, this issue was rectified.

With sustainability at their core, and as a student majoring in sustainability, it is crucial to remind UTAS that sustainability is not just tied to the environment. In fact, the environment is secondary within the Sustainability Development Goals system. People are at the heart of sustainability, whether it be food, shelter, or equitable access to education. This small win can be a prime example to remind UTAS that no matter how environmentally friendly they try to be, they will never be sustainable if disadvantaged students of any kind are unable to access fair and equal opportunities. I know that my successor, Hanna, will follow this path in ensuring student preferences are always held more highly than aesthetics and awards.

Northern President's Report

My most public win was likely assisting with the development of the equity room at the workshop at Inveresk. As many would be aware, Launceston is always placed second in both its funding and its amenities. There are few spaces for students to safely and comfortably interact with their peers. Safe spaces, including prayer rooms and parenting rooms, are either not easily located or simply do not exist. The equity room enables students a private, inclusive, and comfortable space to interact with their peers. It is my hope that more areas are transformed into inclusive spaces so that all students can feel welcome, further supporting the ideal that safe and equitable access is the key to improving Launceston campuses.

UTAS Engagement

As a representative of Launceston students, I have served as a voice for my peers by actively participating in various meetings, committees, one-on-one discussions with key UTAS staff, and collaborative sessions, ensuring our concerns and ideas are heard and represented in decision-making processes. At the round table meeting, I was able to speak up about units being cancelled or over booked, and units where lecturers were unsupportive of student's needs. This led to further meetings with course coordinators about where improvements on courses can be made. I've sat on the Disability Inclusive Campus Reference Group, ensuring Inveresk campus architecture and design are held to acceptable standards for students. Mark has been a key element in identifying and advocating these issues to allow for rectification.

Whilst some meetings simply resulted in a better understanding of situations, others led to changes that I was able to see first-hand. Collaborating and updating the AMCSA committee and student residential staff helped strengthen ties and encouraged better communication. This, paired with a simple email exchange and a phone call meeting, resulted in our first security feedback session, allowing students to voice their concerns directly, and gain a better understanding of how the system functions. Casual catchups with staff allowed me to comfortably contact them when something needed fixing, the



RA spots for example, as well as bringing ideas and concerns to their attention without a formal meeting being needed. I have formed many positive relationships with Northern staff such as Natalie Brown (Pro-Vice Chancellor of Launceston) and can now pass these onto Hanna. My hope is that this leads to a more streamlined system of response when action is needed.

Northern President's Report

Student Engagement

I have attended a multitude of events throughout this year, from orientations and openings, to recreational and educational. I began this role knowing a significant number of students, but these events have led to that number increasing dramatically. At stalls I was able to inform and assist students as the face of TUSA North, leading to in depth discussions and informal conversations. I have had many students approach me after these small interactions, thanking me for their improved experience, or informing me on issues they have identified so I help rectify the issues. I was informed by many that my orientation presentations made them feel more comfortable with talking to staff and more confident in beginning their journey in higher education.

Conclusion

I am overwhelmed with the kindness and positivity that has been given to me this year. I have felt supported and needed in more ways than I can describe. My fellow representatives have been incredible, and I could not ask for a better team to be a part of. I am so excited to see Hanna excel in this role and continue fighting for students of the North. There are many experiences that I am unable to include in this brief piece, and many more that I simply will not put into words for fear of undervaluing them. I could never have seen myself in a role such as this just a few years ago, and I never would have envisioned that I would be able to accomplish so much, even with so much left to do. A final thank you to everyone at TUSA, your lovely selves brightened each meeting and made every email shine.

2024 TUSA Northern Campus President
Libby Alsop

Attendance Actuals

Item	Target	Actual
TUSA State Council	12	11
TUSA Meetings	48	46
UTAS Meetings	29	29
Miscellaneous Meetings	11	11
UTAS Committees	19	19

Northern President's Report

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total	Actual
TUSA Events	22	22
UTAS Events	32	32
Media Communications	2	2

Cradle Coast President's Report

This report summarizes activities and achievements during my tenure, which began on August 15, 2024. My efforts have been directed towards fostering student engagement, enhancing communication between stakeholders, and improving the student experience at the Cradle Coast campus.

Key Meetings and Engagements

State Council and TUSA Engagement

- State Council Meetings: Regularly participated to represent Cradle Coast and contribute to strategic planning and decision-making.
- TUSA Team Meetings: Attended to stay updated on organizational developments and ensure alignment with TUSA goals.
- Cradle Coast Staff + Student Experience Committee: Actively participated in discussions to address campus-specific student needs.
- TUSA Grant Committee Meetings: Contributed to the evaluation and distribution of grant resources for student projects and initiatives.



Collaborations and Partnerships

- UTAS Sport Engagement: Met with representatives to discuss opportunities for increased student participation in sports and related activities.
- Relationship Building:
 - Strengthened ties with Pro-Vice Chancellor Cradle Coast, Sonya Stanford.
 - Developed connections with UTAS Sport to explore future collaborative projects.

Individual Stakeholder Meetings

- Met with Alec Lamont and Liam McLaren to discuss shared goals and opportunities for student-focused initiatives.

Student-Centric Activities

Community Engagement

- Held a Democracy Sausage Sizzle, fostering a sense of community while encouraging civic participation.
- Linked up with Unique Tassie Experiences (UTE) (TUSA) to begin planning potential excursions and activities for 2025, aiming to enhance campus vibrancy.

Cradle Coast President's Report

Student Advocacy

- Engaged with students directly to understand their concerns about the Cradle Coast campus experience. Feedback was gathered and relayed to appropriate stakeholders for action.

Milestones Achieved

1. Initiated dialogue and planning for future excursions and off-campus experiences to strengthen student involvement.
2. Established a strong rapport with key university leaders and organizations to secure long-term benefits for Cradle Coast students.
3. Laid the groundwork for increasing UTAS sport engagement and collaboration.

Next Steps

- Expand the scope of student engagement through more events and initiatives in early 2025.
- Continue strengthening partnerships with UTAS and external organizations to bring new opportunities to Cradle Coast.
- Implement strategies to address feedback gathered from students, ensuring their concerns are acted upon.

Conclusion

In the short time since assuming this role, significant progress has been made toward fostering a more inclusive and engaging environment for Cradle Coast students. With continued effort and collaboration, these initiatives will lay the foundation for sustained growth and student satisfaction in the coming year.



2024 TUSA Cradle Coast Campus President
Angus Bisset Stewart SRN

Rozelle President's Report

2024 has flown by and I am so lucky to have been surrounded by such a supportive team. At the start of the year, I set out to ensure Rozelle was represented well at a university level and that students at the Rozelle campus were not left behind. I am pleased to report to the State Council that I feel Rozelle is now more well-placed on the university map than when I started my term.



At a campus-specific level, I set out to ensure that students were receiving a high-quality education in a safe environment and in a way that facilitated ease of learning. I developed good professional working relationships with the Unit Coordinators, Course Coordinators and the HOS.

Most of my workload consisted of assisting students with academic issues and appeals. Students in the paramedicine degree are constrained by the fact that every unit is a core and only offered once per year. This gave me an appreciation for the magnitude of a failing grade on not only a student's progression through the course but also their future career timeline. This is an area I am proud of in that we were able to experience some large successes in assisting students to navigate the process and achieve an equitable outcome.

On campus, I raised the awareness and relevancy of TUSA in the everyday university life of my peers. Mr President, Mr Pres and Prez were all monikers that were given thrust upon me by my peers. Joking aside, these names did not mean I held a position of power or leadership but represented a role where I was trusted to provide sound and confidential advice.

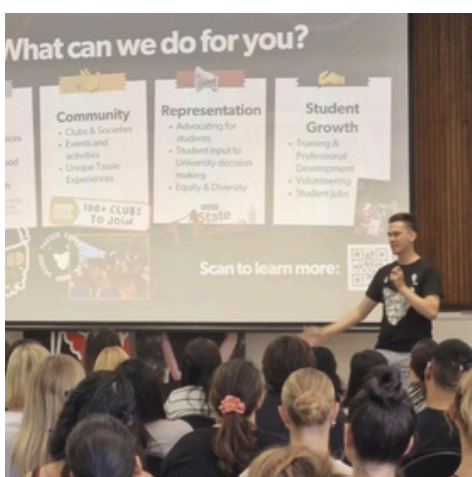
The close association between SPURS and TUSA continued this year despite the officeholders not being the same (I am looking at you, Lucy). The student association continues to be the bedrock of paramedicine social events and social life on campus, and while not as big as C and S Day in Hobart, SPURS well and truly holds its own. Our first-year BBQ was a success, and I enjoyed putting my cooking skills to the test and learning not to burn the sausages. SPURS is vital to students' enjoyment of what little time they have on campus, I am sure their successes will continue into 2025 and beyond. I did not achieve as much engagement with the nursing students as I had hoped when I began my term. Changes to their academic program, timetabling and a lack of visibility hampered my efforts. I hope in 2025, the Rozelle President can continue to bridge this gap.

Rozelle President's Report

My professional relationship with the on-campus staff has slowly but surely been forged throughout the year. The Rozelle Campus staff are a hard-working group of people, and we share a common goal of seeing students succeed. Communities/SPURS joint events were a feature in the second half of the year, and I am hopeful that this collaboration will continue into 2025 and beyond. Paramedicine course delivery was also another issue that I dealt with on a somewhat regular basis. While I did not always receive the response I was looking for on behalf of the cohort, I markedly increased transparency. Exam feedback, release of course content and clarification of assessment task rubrics were all features of this area of advocacy.

In TUSA terms I was lucky enough to take 3 trips to Hobart for induction, C&S Day and for the Christmas dinner. My time in Hobart was always enjoyable and I absolutely loved the team building that we were able to undertake during my time in the South. It was also incredible to see the TUSA team hard at work at increasing students experience on Campus and just how much dedication the TUSA Staff bring to their work. FRAC committee was an interesting foray into the governance and accountability side of the organisation and I am thankful for the State Council for entrusting me to make our views known and voices heard on the financial future of our organisation.

While I certainly did not achieve everything I set out to when I was first elected to this role, I am pleased and confident in saying, TUSA at Rozelle is in a better state than when I inherited it. Make no mistake, there is a long way to go, but I have every confidence Jack will rise to this challenge – I wish him every success in this exciting role.



For the last time as your TUSA Rozelle President,
With regards so warm they're approaching the
temperature of the sun,

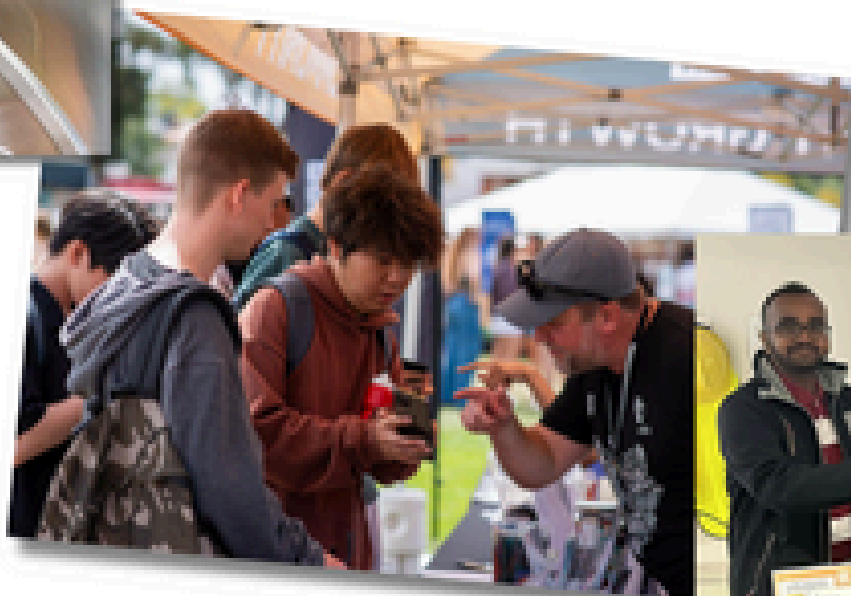
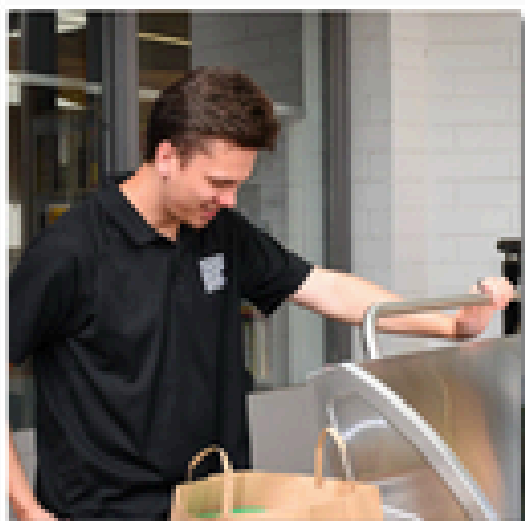
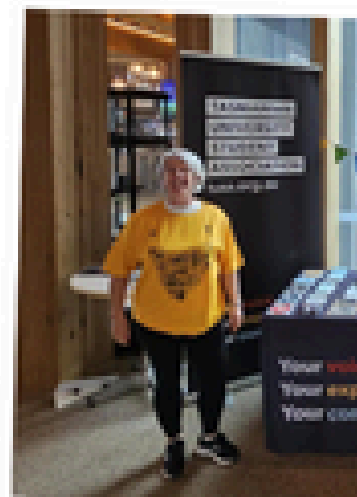
2024 TUSA Rozelle President,
Matthew Douglass

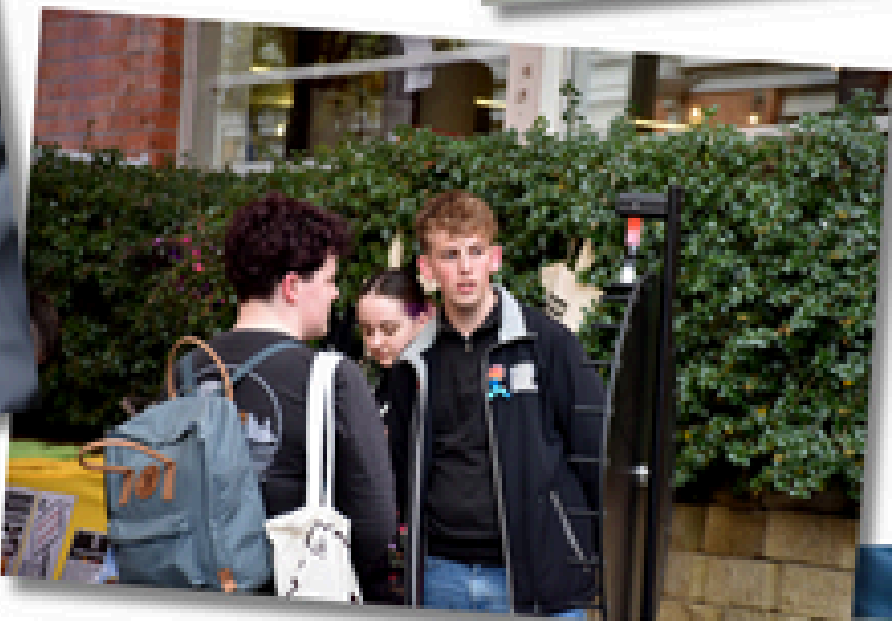
Rozelle President's Report

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2024	Actual Attendance
TUSA State Council	12	10
FRAC	4	2
Rozelle Staff Meetings	8	8
Open Days	4	4
Trips to Hobart	3	3

On the Job





Undergraduate Education President's Report

For once, I am at a loss for words. My term on the State Council has come and gone quickly as 12 months seem to have passed in the blink of an eye. I could have never imagined myself here representing the student perspective to the University management and advocating for improving our outcomes at the beginning of my student journey in 2018.



I had big shoes to fill as the Undergraduate Education President and entered the role during a period of great anticipation for the release of the final Australian Universities Accord. However, throughout my term, I remained steadfast and committed to ensuring that the University remained accountable and fulfilled its promise of delivering quality, accessible education to students from a holistic lens. This goal has resulted in my involvement with many committees and working groups, from the Academic Senate, Gender Based Violence Executive Oversight Committee, and the Reviews and Appeals Taskforce, to name a few. Additionally, I met regularly with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Education, Professor Mitch Parsell, to ideate and create projects and visions that will benefit students in the long term once approved via the official channels.

Aside from the committee meetings, I have had the great honour of meeting with concerned students whom the University has failed to support. The gift of their perspective has allowed me to effectively fight for necessary change within university policy and redirect operations-centric conversations to student-centric ones. I want to thank the students who made time to meet with me over the past year, and I hope I was able to support you in navigating the bureaucracy and actualising the changes that we had dreamed of together.

In my term, I also met regularly with student-facing academic and professional university staff, valued Tasmanian community leaders, and national advocacy groups to seek opportunities for collaboration. While there were a multitude of different perspectives, those meetings highlighted many shared goals and pathways for greater collaboration and resource sharing. Still, as always, there is more work to be done to flesh out projects further and deliver the planned projects.

The successes during my term are squarely within the University's governance space. The upcoming changes to the Academic Progress Review, Assessment and Results, Reviews and Appeals of Academic Decisions, Support for Students policies and procedures and the updated Graduate are the results of tireless effort from myself, the State Council,

Undergraduate Education President's Report

student representatives across the University, and, of course, the long line of Undergraduate Education Presidents that have come before me.

While there were many wins, much work still needs to be done. Now, more than ever, the safety of students on campus needs to be addressed, primarily due to the alarming incidents of gender-based violence in the university sector and on our campuses. The upcoming UTAS Gender-Based Violence Action Plan is only the first step in the very long journey of ending the cycle of violence perpetuated and achieving true gender equity.

To the 2024 State Council and our hardworking Executive Assistants, Eloise Knuckey and Chloe Harris, I would not have been able to achieve a fraction of the goals this year without your enduring support. Through the shared celebrations of our successes, commiserations of the setbacks and the many laughs along the way. I would like to personally thank our dear leader, State President Liam McLaren, for his leadership, friendship, and many hours of overtime, which enabled us as a team to flourish. Thank you to our TUSA staff as a whole, as they have been critical in supporting our efforts; without them, we would be drowning.

To the incoming 2025 State Council members, while the journey of progress may seem long and arduous, almost insurmountable at times, take heart as the sum of our small, incremental changes will continue to advance our shared goals of improved conditions for students by students.



My kindest regards,

2024 TUSA Undergraduate Education President
Kt Lertsinpakdee

Undergraduate Education President's Report

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2024	Actual Attendance
TUSA Meetings	20	20
TUSA Committees	4	4
UTAS Meetings	21	21
UTAS Committees	18	13
Events	11	11
Conferences	5	5
Training	3	3

Postgraduate Education President's Report

This year as TUSA Postgraduate Education President has been both the most challenging and the most rewarding time for myself. As a new international student in their first year of a master's degree, I had the challenge of addressing issues for students from master to PhD degrees, as well as broadening my own perceptions of their issues. I learned from a diverse number of students' opinions and experience to mitigate their issues and concerns, even if it means dedicating extra time to deeply understand problems and develop effective solutions or approaches.



One of the privileges of being the Postgraduate Education President is the opportunity to represent students across various committees and forums. I've worked hard to ensure that postgraduate voices are heard and improve the quality of their campus life. A highlight of this year has been the removal of mandatory working hours for HDR students, a change that benefitted both students and UTAS—a true win-win situation.

In addition, I also participated in the Library Management System Committee to provide ideas from a student perspective. We successfully collected students' thoughts and improved the library system to make it more user-friendly.

As a student representative, I've also focused on building relationships and fostering collaborations to support students. For example, the PG TEL and I co-organized academic writing and language workshops with the UTAS International School, attracting over 207 participants, including a few enthusiastic undergraduate students. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, which was encouraging not only to us but also the lecturers from the UTAS International School.

I also had the chance to connect with the president and vice-president of Migrant Talent Connector (MTC) during the Multicultural Council of Tasmania's Annual Women's Expo. This connection led to a partnership with TUBES' annual career fair, aimed at enhancing student employment visibility. Additionally, I facilitated a meeting between the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics (TSBE) and MTC, resulting in an agreement for MTC to deliver workshops next semester on employment skills and opportunities—a significant milestone in collaboration between TSBE and external organizations.

Wearing two hats as both the Postgraduate Education President and Food Hub Officer for TUSA has given me unique insights into the diverse needs of students. This dual role

Postgraduate Education President’s Report

allowed me to engage with a broader range of students and promote TUSA’s events and initiatives; from participating in events like Clubs & Societies Day, UTAS Open Day, the Election BBQ to co-hosting networking events with the Graduate Research Office, and being the host for TUBES’ careers events. I’ve been proud to represent TUSA and its mission to ensure students feel heard and supported.

I’d like to express my gratitude to my State Council members—Liam, Mark, KT, Jack, Libby, Matthew, and Angus. Your support and teamwork have made this year truly memorable and incredibly amazing. To the TUSA team, thank you for your encouragement and support! As a small organisation, we have achieved so much together.

Lastly, to the students—thank you for trusting me to represent you. It has been an honour to advocate for your needs and make your voices heard. As I step down from this role and prepare to graduate from UTAS, I want to leave you with one message: Believe in yourself, and you can achieve anything. While I may no longer be in a leadership position, I’ll continue to participate in activities and support our community as much as I can. Feel free to reach out—I’m always happy to catch up over a cup of coffee!



2024 TUSA Postgraduate Education President
Shan-Yu Yu

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2024	Actual Attendance
TUSA State Council	12	12
TUSA Meetings	21	21

Postgraduate Education President's Report

Attendance Actuals

Meeting	Total Sessions for 2024	Actual Attendance
TUSA Committees	18	18
TUSA Sessions	50	49
UTAS Committees	35	32
UTAS Meetings	22	22
Outside Uni	2	2

Meet your elected State Council Representatives for 2025



Jack Oates Pryor
President



Belle Smith
General Secretary



Mark Warrington
Equity President



Siska-Lut Buelens
Education President
(Undergraduate)



Namesh Kumar
Education President
(Postgraduate)



Ruby Fox
Southern Campus President



Hanna Shojaee Pour
Northern Campus President



Angus Bisset Stewart
Cradle Coast Campus President



Jack Bell
Rozelle Campus President

Send in your inquiries, feedback, and suggestions to
president@TUSA.utas.edu.au



National Union of Students (NUS) Delegates



Liam McLaren



Millie Meyers



Jack Oates Pryor



Vaness Yap



Belle Smith



Ranae Zollner



For more information:

State Council Key Focus Areas: <https://www.tusa.org.au/sc-focus-areas/>

State Council Projects: <https://www.tusa.org.au/state-council-projects/>

State Council Perspectives: <https://www.tusa.org.au/state-council-perspectives/>

For media statements, please contact the TUSA President at:

president@tusa.utas.edu.au