



NZUSA

77th Annual Report 2006





NEW ZEALAND UNION OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS (INC.)

TE RŌPŪ ĀKONGA O NGĀ WHARE WĀNANGA O AOTEAROA

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Federation Officers

Joseph Randall
Co-President

Conor Roberts
Co-President

Jennifer Jones
National Women's Rights Officer

NZUSA Federation Office Permanent Staff

Kane O'Connell
Research Officer

Lisa Woods
Representative Groups & Campaigns Coordinator

Trisha Hehir
Office Administrator

2006 Constituent Members

Albany Students' Association (ASA)
Students' Association at the Waikato Institute of Technology (SAWIT)
Waikato Student Union (WSU)
Massey University Students' Association (MUSA)
Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA)
Weltec Students' Association (WSA)
Independent Students' Association at Whitireia (ISAW)
Christchurch College of Education Students' Association (CCESA)
Lincoln University Students' Association (LUSA)
Otago Polytechnic Students' Association (OPSA)
Otago University Students' Association (OUSA)

2006 Associate Members

Dunedin College of Education Students' Association (DCESA)
Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA)
Massey Extramural Students' Society (ExMSS)
Massey At Wellington Students' Association (MAWSA)

Accountants

Curtis Mclean

Lawyers

Kensington Swan

Auditors

Horwath Wellington

Bank

Bank of New Zealand

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Introduction

2006 was a year for reflection and prioritisation in the face the 2005 election where students were significant winners. This focus was coupled with a large commitment from Federation Office many different committees that NZUSA represented students on, most notably Student Job Search and the Tertiary Education Commission Board.

The major activity during this period was the creation of a strategic planning and prioritisation exercise that started with a full day strategic day at January conference and carried on with the adoption of the NZUSA 2007-2009 strategic plan at the September Conference and the 2007 operational plan. A reflection of this was the defining of the place of Polytechnic members within NZUSA and notably the adoption of a new name, from the New Zealand University Students' Association to the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Te Mana Ākonga and NZUSA ran successfully through its second full year in 2006. Federation Office enjoyed sharing premises with Veronica, TMA Kaituhono. NZUSA were involved in joint lobbying with Te Mana Ākonga specifically around the new Tertiary Education Strategy, Manaaki Taurira grants and the Tertiary Reforms programme.

2006 was also significant for the student movement because it was the first year that TMA and NZUSA were the only national student political organisations due to the demise of the Aotearoa Tertiary Students Association (ATSA) who had traditionally represented polytechnic students.

The Annual Report will look at the activities which best characterised NZUSA in 2006. It will look at the tertiary sector of 2006 and how that fitted into the wider political context.

NZUSA Activity Federation Office

This year Federation Office brought a new computer to update some aging models and all of the computers were protected with Symantec Antivirus.

NZUSA was again fortunate to have a competent National Women's Rights Officer based in Wellington with the election of Jennifer Jones as NWRO.

Kane O'Connell continued his work as Research Officer in 2006 starting work on student support campaign resource pack and significant amounts of submissions and policy work with the introduction of the Government's Tertiary Reforms programme.

Trisha Hehir continued as the Office Administrator in 2006 in a part-time capacity working 20 hours a week, additional administration work was carried out by Federation Officers and the Campaigns and Representative Groups Co-ordinator.

Lisa Woods continued as the part-time Representative Groups and Campaigns Co-ordinator.

Membership

At January Conference the Independent Students' Association of Whireia (ISAW) were accepted as full constituent members.

During 2006 NZUSA prioritised the relationship with non-member associations. To this end seven non-member associations attended January conference and Federation Officers presented to eleven during and after campus tour. This formed the basis of ongoing conversations around membership and at the end of the year the Massey At Wellington Students' Association (MAWSA) joined.

Due to the collapse of the Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association a key priority was representation for Institutes of Technology and Polytechnic Students' Associations and their members. This included changing the name of the association from the New Zealand University Students' Association to the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations to reflect that NZUSA was no longer just a body for University members. NZUSA also adopted new internal structures for sub sector specific discussions. As part of this a three day Institute of Technology and Polytechnic conference was held in Wellington in August with over 45 delegates representing twelve Associations

Non-members also attended fee setting training, June/July and September Conferences.

NZUSA looks forward to having close relationships with all students associations in the future.

Te Mana Ākonga

Veronica Tawhai continued as the TMĀ Kaituhono for 2006. Federation Office has been lucky to have such wonderful Kaituhono to work with.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between NZUSA and TMĀ paved the way for a special, close and continuing relationship between NZUSA and TMĀ and we were happy to serve under its principled guidelines in 2006. At the end of the year NZUSA agreed to review the MOU in 2007 with an aim to continually support and renew our relationship with TMĀ.

Research & Publications

The School leaver's survey was undertaken with the Post Primary Teachers' Association with over 1400 responses from over 120 high schools in New Zealand. This is due to be published in mid 2007.

Submissions written and completed in 2006 included:

- The Tertiary Reforms – initial Cabinet papers and subsequent papers
- Developing the Tertiary Education Strategy
- The Minimum Wage (Abolition of Age Discrimination) Amendment Bill

- The Residential Tenancies (Insurance Damages) Amendment Bill
- The Employment Relations (Probationary Employment) Amendment Bill.
- The Student Loan Amendment Bill
- The Accommodation Supplement Review

Activism & Campaigns

Although a key focus of 2006 were the internal structures of NZUSA, strategic planning and political lobbying campaigns associated with the Tertiary Reforms programmes there were some national campaigns. A key focus was fee setting and links with this to a wider focus on the tertiary sector funding. This resulted in discussions with key groups within the sector around institutional funding.

Local Associations ran significant campaigns on campus including marches.

NZUSA was also involved in wider social campaigns during this period, specifically around supporting the abolishment of the Youth Minimum Wage and opposing the 90 Day Probationary Employment period, both of which were under the wider Super Size My Pay Campaign.

As part of the strategic planning process was the creation of a campaign plan focus for 2007 and the build up to the next election in 2008.

Conferences

NZUSA held its three main conferences as well as an International Conference, a Polytechnic conference, the UniQ conference and Pasifika Fono.

The January conference was hosted by the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association. This conference focussed on training and networking for new executive members. Women's conference was hosted by the Wellington Institution of Technology Students' Association. The Independent Students' Whitireia Association hosted a one day strategic planning day as part of the main conference.

The second NZUSA main conference was held at the Waikato Students' Union and consisted of a focus on the Tertiary Reforms programme and included a keynote address from Kaye Turner, Deputy Chair of the Tertiary Education Commission and the Chair of the Learner Advisory Committee. It was also the first scheduled Māori caucus within NZUSA conferences.

The third conference was held in September at the Otago University Students' Association and included an address by Professor Jim Flynn. It was the first stand alone Māori caucus. At this conference, the Federation Officer elections were held with four candidates for Co-President and one for national Women's Rights Officer. Joey Randall re-elected Co-President for 2007. The elections were hosted by the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association.

Natalie Absalom, 2006 Otago Polytechnic Students' Association Co-President, was elected as National Women's Rights Officer in September. Josh Clark, 2006 Albany Students' Association, was elected as NZUSA Co-President in December 2006.

The International Students' Conference was held at the Massey University Students' Association in Palmerston North. At this conference delegates discussed a myriad of issues important to international students and came up with many strategies and recommendations on these issues.

In addition to the main NZUSA Conferences, Federation Office assisted in the organisations of an NZUSA resourced Pasifika Students Fono and a UniQ Conference. The PI Fono was hosted by the Waikato Student Union, the UniQ Conference by the Massey University Students' Association in Palmerston North. NZUSA also organised Council representative training early in the year for the lead up to fees setting hosted by the WelTec Students' Association.

NZUSA was also invited to attend conferences of other groups including the Association of University Staff, Association of Staff in Tertiary Education, Quality Public Education Coalition, Te Huinga Tauira, the Student Engagement Symposium and the Study Link National Managers Conference.

The Tertiary Education Sector

The OECD Thematic Review of Tertiary Education

Joey Randall and Conor Roberts were both on the Sector Reference Group and presented to the OECD review panel on the state of our tertiary education sector. The resulting report in 2007 highlighted the lack of student support particularly for access.

Tertiary Education Commission Board

Joey Randall was appointed as the Non-Voting Learner Participant on the TEC Board. He was able to attend all of the TEC Board meetings in 2006 and also their strategic planning session. He received monthly papers and was able to provide feedback. 2006 was a busy year for the TEC board with significant changes to the tertiary sector. As part of this role Joey organised a national hui on the Tertiary reforms and the development of the new Tertiary Education Strategy for learners from the wider sector with representatives from 29 associations attending.

Pathways and Staircasing

Conor Roberts and Joey Randall participated in the finalisation of the Pathways and Staircasing review.

Study Link Sector Group

Conor Roberts and Joey Randall represented NZUSA on this committee that brought members of the tertiary sector together for briefings on Study Link projects.

TEC LAC

Joey Randall along with Liz Hawes, Natalie Absalom and Josh Clark, represented NZUSA on the Tertiary Education Commission's Learner Advisory Committee. The Committee was the first official committee and took over from the interim Learners Advisory Committee.

Quality

NZUSA continued to be represented on the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZAAU) and the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP). Co-President Conor Roberts represented NZUSA on CUAP with Co-President Joey Randall sitting on the NZUAAU.

SJS

Last year Student Job Search underwent significant changes, Regional Management Committees became Regional Councils and National Council took on overall responsibility for the performable and operations within all regions. National Council was very active during this period undertaking the bedding in of the structural changes.

USNZ

The organisation developed on previous success with its new General Manager, Jim Ellis and new staff appointments made within Campus Liaison. The main focus within USNZ was a wider strategic discussion including membership. This resulted with an in principled decision at the November general meeting to allow membership to be widened.

Lambton House

Co-President, Conor Roberts served as Chair of Lambton House. The Body Corporate continued to discuss how rates are paid between members and considered getting legal advice about this.

Thanks

NZUSA would like to thank all our member associations for their commitment to campaigning and advocating for the rights of students in 2006, especially all those who ably participated in Fedex and thus the management of NZUSA.

We would also like to thank all of the people we have had the pleasure of working with in the tertiary sector this year. During this year we were also unfailing supported by the union movement and would especially like to thank AUS and ASTE for their support of interest free student loans, their opposition to fee increases and, most crucially, their support of our staff. We would like to thank our lawyer, Hayden Wilson for his endless help and our accountants Stephen Brokenshire and Nick Krivan from Curtis McLean.

2006 was a challenging year for NZUSA and, as the leaders of the student movement in 2006; we would most significantly like to thank the students of New Zealand for allowing us and having faith in us to fulfil this important role. It has been a deeply satisfying and humbling experience.

Conor Roberts
NZUSA Co-Presidents 2006

Joey Randall