

STUDENT PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Question 1

What governance positions do students have in your university? (e.g. members of Council, Senate/Academic Board, Faculty Boards, Schools and Departments, Appeal Committees, Student Discipline Committees)

Australian Catholic University

Each year a student is elected nationally as a member of the University Senate and of the Academic Board. This student is also *ex officio* a member of a number of other committees, e.g. Academic Regulations Committee, Ceremonial and Protocols Committee and Goals Committee. Two students are members of the local Discipline Committee in each State/Territory. Students are members of each Faculty Board and School Committees. There is also student membership of the Assessment Review Committee, Library Committee, management committee in each of Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, and this month student membership was add to the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Australian National University

All of these groups.

Charles Sturt University

Students are members of the University Council, Academic Senate, Academic Appeals Committee (hearing procedural appeals in relation to exclusion arising from academic progress), Faculty Exclusion Appeals Committees (appeals against exclusion arising from academic progress), Learning & Teaching Committee, Academic Senate Audit Committee, Board of Graduate Studies, Faculty Boards, some committees of the Faculty Boards, School Boards & appeal committees dealing with appeals arising from academic misconduct matters or general student misconduct.

Southern Cross University

Academic Board – 3 undergraduate (1 from each campus) and 1 postgraduate
 Programs Committee – 1 undergraduate student
 Appeals Committee – 1 undergraduate and 1 postgraduate
 Faculty Boards – varies – 2 Fac of the 3 Faculties have student membership

Question 1 (cont'd)

What governance positions do students have in your university? (e.g. members of Council, Senate/Academic Board, Faculty Boards, Schools and Departments, Appeal Committees, Student Discipline Committees)

University of New South Wales

One undergraduate and one postgraduate on University Council, who are ex officio members of Council's Student Affairs Committee.

Two undergraduates and two postgraduates on Academic Board, two student members each on the Academic Board's Committees on Academic Services, Education, Postgraduate Coursework, Research, and Undergraduate Studies, and one each on Academic Board's Committees on Pre-University Education and UNSW Asia Liaison.

Positions on Faculty Boards, varying in number with The Faculty.

Student involvement in governance at the School level is at the discretion of the School or Faculty.

University of Newcastle

All of the above except Student Progress and Appeals (where a student may be a support person for another person but not a member). Also Campus Master Planning Advisory Committee, Research and Learning and Teaching Committees of Senate, International Student Advisory Committee.

University of Sydney

- Senate: 1 undergraduate and 1 postgraduate elected fellow;
- Academic Board: 6 undergraduate, 3 postgraduate (coursework) and 3 postgraduate (research) elected positions – there are also student members on all the major standing committees (except Academic Staffing Committee);
- Faculty Boards: students are represented but numbers vary from faculty to faculty;
- Schools and Departments: some student representation (a faculty decision);
- Student Appeals Panel: 4 undergraduate and 4 postgraduate students;
- Student Proctorial Panel (which hears misconduct matters): 9 students (mix of undergraduate and postgraduate)

N.B.: with the Student Appeals Panel and Student Proctorial Panel, any appeal or misconduct matter is generally heard by a smaller body formed from the panel members. There would generally be 1 student member on any such body.

Question 1 (cont'd)

What governance positions do students have in your university? (e.g. members of Council, Senate/Academic Board, Faculty Boards, Schools and Departments, Appeal Committees, Student Discipline Committees)

University of Technology, Sydney

There are student positions on all these committees.

University of Western Sydney

Our governing body, the Board of Trustees, Academic Senate, College Boards of Studies, Appeal Committees, and Academic Misconduct committees have student members.

Question 2

How are students recruited to these positions? (e.g. expressions of interest, nomination, election)

Australian Catholic University

For the student member of Senate, notices are displayed on all campuses advising students of the vacancy and the call for nominations. Nominees have to provide a full Curriculum Vitae to ACUNSA (Australian Catholic University National Student Association, comprising the six presidents of the campus student associations plus the current student senator). ACUNSA interviews the nominees and makes a selection by secret ballot and informs the Executive Director, University Services of its decision. This student is also the member of the Academic Board and several other committees, as noted above.

For Discipline Committees, the local student associations nominate the members who do not have to be members of the association or its management committee, but usually are.

For other committees, expressions of interest are generally sought from students by either students themselves, staff members of the relevant committee or the Dean of Students to fill a vacancy. A broadcast e-mail to the student list may also be utilised.

Australian National University

Council – Election

Academic Board – Appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with presidents of undergraduate and postgraduate student associations.

Education/Research/Information Strategy Policy Committees – appointed by chair in consultation with presidents of undergraduate and postgraduate student associations

ANU college Advisory Boards – chosen by convener and dean in consultation with Presidents of undergraduate and postgraduate student associations

Research School/Faculty/Departmental Committee – normally appointed by head after expressions of interest

Student Discipline Appeals Panel – appointed by council after consultation with presidents of undergraduate and postgraduate student associations

Question 2 (cont'd)

How are students recruited to these positions? (e.g. expressions of interest, nomination, election)

Charles Sturt University

Students on University Council are elected. Students on other committees are nominated or appointed by the students' association.

(Note: with the diverse range of students at CSU who are mainly studying by distance education, elections are very expensive. Hence, the University has tended to seek student representation from the students' association)

Southern Cross University

Academic Board – president of relevant student association or nominee

Programs Committee – election from st. on Academic Board

Appeals Committee – elected from st. on Academic Board

Faculty Boards – elected from students in Faculty

University of New South Wales

Generally by election; positions on Academic Board committees may be filled by nomination by student organisations or by the Board itself.

University of Newcastle

For Council, Senate/Academic Board and committees, Faculty Boards: call for nominations and election.

For Schools: each School now has its own Governance and Management Protocol, with the principle that students must be included in School governance bodies, but each School differs in details according to structure, size and location(s).

Student members of the Student Discipline Committee are appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

University of Sydney

Students are currently elected to these positions, but we are examining using expressions of interest instead due to the low response to elections.

Question 2 (cont'd)

How are students recruited to these positions? (e.g. expressions of interest, nomination, election)

University of Technology, Sydney

Elections

University of Western Sydney

For the Board of Trustees, student positions are filled by elections. For positions on Academic Senate and other governance committees/boards, positions are filled by nominees of the student associations.

Question 3

What roles do student associations have, if any in the VSU environment?

Australian Catholic University

In relation to committee membership, the six local student associations carry the responsibility for informing the student body of committee vacancies. They nominate students to various committees if asked by Faculties, local management committees, Schools or the Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Rector in the case of Discipline Committees.

Australian National University

Presentation of student issues to relevant university committees and provision of some student services which are not provided by the university.

Charles Sturt University

One of the roles that the University has identified as being important for the students' association to undertake in the VSU environment is to coordinate student involvement in University committees in terms of nominating and appointing students to committees as required.

Southern Cross University

Apart from membership of the committees I am involved in, I am not sure at this stage.

University of New South Wales

Formal objects of student organisations are defined in their constitutions, which are approved by University Council, but otherwise their roles are self-defined.

University of Newcastle

They used to be the source of nominations for the Student Discipline Committee (through the respective Presidents) but this has changed because of VSU and National Governance Protocols.

Question 3 (cont'd)

What roles do student associations have, if any in the VSU environment?

University of Sydney

The Presidents of the two student organisations (Students' Representative Council [SRC – undergraduates] and Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association [SUPRA]) are ex-officio members of the Academic Board and the major standing committees (except for the Academic Staffing Committee). Presidents of discipline-specific student bodies are also members of their relevant Faculty boards.

University of Technology, Sydney

The Student Association is still alive, but with diminished funding has had to put off a couple of staff.

University of Western Sydney

At UWS all students are members of the student association (though not all will pay to be members) so in VSU has not yet made any difference to governance arrangements yet.

Question 4

What level is the level of interest/participation in nomination and election processes by students?

Australian Catholic University

This varies with each campus and each year. It ranges from a number of students keen to be members to the situation last year at two campuses where there were no nominations for the position of president of the local student association; the University had to tap two people on the shoulder and ask if they would take on the job.

Australian National University

There is still a high level of interest/participation

Charles Sturt University

I don't have any specific data in relation to this. Anecdotal evidence from talking to the students' association indicates that the level of interest changes. The Academic Secretariat's experience of student participation on academic committees is that it can be patchy (depending on the Faculty and even the time of year) and there are times that we can carry vacancies in student positions for periods of time because the students' association are unable to find any students interested in undertaking the positions. Having said that, we do find that seeking student representatives through the students' association is most effective way for us to get students onto committees because the association is able to target & liaise with students that are genuinely interested in being on committees.

Southern Cross University

Very little interest, which is why we moved from elections to Academic Board etc to student association reps.

University of New South Wales

There is significant fluctuation over time, but typically there is some competition for positions of University Council and Academic Board, while positions on Academic Board Standing Committees and on Faculty Boards often go unfilled.

Question 4 (cont'd)

What level is the level of interest/participation in nomination and election processes by students?

University of Newcastle

Mixed. Usually there is an election for Council positions (one u/grad and one p/grad), and sometimes for Senate/Academic Board (2 u/grads and 1 p/grad). Some Faculty Boards have difficulty in getting nominations (an u/grad student from each School of the Faculty, a p/grad c/work student of the Faculty, and a research student of the Faculty).

University of Sydney

There is a higher level of interest and participation in the Senate elections than in the Faculty Board and Academic Board elections, but the level is disappointingly low in general.

University of Technology, Sydney

Not high. Faculty Board and Academic Board positions often remain vacant after elections and can be difficult to fill. The proportion of students involved in voting in 2006 was in the range 8% to 10% for various elections.

University of Western Sydney

Generally, there is a low level of interest/participation though there are a number of individuals who are committed and make a large contribution to governance.

Question 5

How are elections conducted?

Australian Catholic University

Papers indicating names of nominees are distributed by a returning officer – usually the local Manager, Campus Operations. There are variations, but some electioneering, speeches on campus, date set for election with voters casting their ballot, their *bone fides* checked by the returning officer, etc. The returning officer informs the Executive Director, University Services of the result.

Australian National University

Undergraduate – as part of the student association elections facilitated by ACT elections

Postgraduate – through the annual general meeting

Charles Sturt University

The procedures for the conduct of elections for student representatives on the University Council are currently under review by the Office of the VC.

Southern Cross University

Not applicable

University of New South Wales

By the University's Elections Office, by postal ballot for Council and Academic Board and online for Faculty Boards.

University of Newcastle

Paper elections – booths open for a few sessions at various locations on main campuses -library, student union.

University of Sydney

Postal ballot.

Question 5 (cont'd)

How are elections conducted?

University of Technology, Sydney

For staff, by internal mail.

For students, conducted by on-campus polling stations.

University of Western Sydney

It varies. An election for a postgraduate student on the Board of Trustees Elections is currently in progress as a postal ballot. We are moving towards electronic elections and our By-Law is being looked at.

Question 6

What forms of induction take place?

Australian Catholic University

Senate and Academic Board have formal induction of the student member at the same time as any other new member(s) is being inducted. The induction process for the Faculty and School committees, discipline committees, etc. varies according to local needs and practices.

Australian National University

Council members meet with The Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Council Secretary and are given a handbook for council members. Members of other university committees do not normally receive any formal induction, although there is usually a “handover” process whereby both the retiring student member and the student member elect attend the same meeting.

Charles Sturt University

There is a formal induction process conducted by the Office of the VC for members of the University Council (including the student members). Student members on academic committees are briefed on their role by the students’ association and the Academic Secretariat provides information to student members if it is requested or deemed necessary.

Southern Cross University

Send them a folder of information, which is the same for all members.

University of New South Wales

Formal induction is offered to all new members of University Council in addition to printed handbooks. Printed handbooks are available to student members of Academic Board and Faculty Boards.

Question 6 (cont'd)

What forms of induction take place?

University of Newcastle

Council and Senate have inductions for all new members. Faculty Boards do not have formal inductions but some support is given by secretary and chair to new student members. President of Academic Senate has an induction session for all student members of academic governance bodies.

University of Sydney

Senate has a formal induction process for all new Fellows, but it isn't necessarily tailored specifically for the students. Academic Board has a handbook for members but currently doesn't have a formal induction process.

University of Technology, Sydney

Induction tends to be a feature of the higher level committees, such as Council and Academic Board. Other committees hold 'planning days' which in effect become induction opportunities for new members.

University of Western Sydney

Information supplied about the web-site, and the terms of reference and standing orders. The Chair of Senate arranges a meeting with new student members. There is an induction session for all new members of Senate (including student members) soon after a new Senate is elected.

Question 7

What support, formal or informal, is given to student members of governance bodies to facilitate their participation?

Australian Catholic University

The Dean of Students supports the members as does the Chair of the relevant committee. In particular, the Dean of Students organises and runs a two-day induction for all student association presidents and the student senator. The Mission Engagement Team on each campus also supports the local association members.

Australian National University

A session on aspects of governance normally forms part of the professional development program of council members. Student members are also invited to meet with the Chief Finance Officer or delegate to go through financial statements presented to council.

Charles Sturt University

Travel & accommodation arrangements for student members to attend meetings of the University Council and Academic Senate are provided by the relevant office (with the costs being met by the office). Student members are able to discuss any issues of concern to them with the committee secretary or Presiding Officer of the Committee.

Southern Cross University

At this stage no particular support.

University of New South Wales

Student members may request advice and information from the Secretariat Services Department in the same way as other members, and receive the same meeting papers. Academic Board and Faculty Board meeting papers are available electronically to all members. Student members of Academic Board and Faculty Boards have access to an electronic mailing list for discussion among themselves.

Question 7 (cont'd)

What support, formal or informal, is given to student members of governance bodies to facilitate their participation?

University of Newcastle

This is currently being discussed – some suggestions include formal letter of appreciation from Chair at end of term, assistance with expenses, notation on testamur, better ways of communicating with students about elections and governance processes on-line eg. Blackboard site, on-line elections.

University of Sydney

Informal support is provided, essentially on the basis of responding to students' requests for such.

University of Technology, Sydney

Support tends to be informal and upon request. It can take the form of assistance with the procedures in getting an item listed on an agenda or an issue raised at a meeting.

University of Western Sydney

Generally, support is informal – the Chair of Senate and the secretary to Senate are available to help with any issues/queries.