

Tasmania University Union

SYDNEY STRATEGY 2019



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Sydney Strategy



In 2019, the Tasmania University Union is committed to helping to empower UTas students in Sydney to have a high quality and dynamic student experience.

We note that our organisation has undertaken a restructure and that there is now no longer a Sydney student representative. However, we are still committed to providing quality representation, independent advocacy, clubs and societies and events on the Sydney campuses.

What is the TUU?

The TUU is jointly governed by the Student Representative Council (SRC) and the Board of Management (BoM). The BoM oversees the basic operations of the TUU, controls its operating activities, is responsible for employing relevant staff, manages the budgets of the Union, and acts as the highest point of review for the entire Union, including the SRC. The SRC focuses more on the everyday aspects of student life, particularly educational and welfare advocacy and hosting various events and activities. The TUU provides a wide range of services to students. These services currently include:

- Providing student representation, protecting student rights, and participating in university governance.
- Offering independent student advocates.
- Hosting events and concerts.
- Facilitating the operation of TUU-affiliated student clubs and societies.
- Publishing student-produced media, such as the TUU student magazine, *Togatus*.

Student Representation

The Tasmania University Union believes that students deserve a transparent and accountable union that is responsive to the needs of UTas students. Therefore, in 2019, we will strive to utilise technological and human resources to ensure that we provide accountable and transparent representation of and communication with UTas students.

In 2018, the decision was made to remove the Sydney representative position. This decision was made on the basis that students studying on this campus have a range of competing interests, with being a student representative not being desirable. While this position has been removed, we are still committed to representing the views of Sydney based students, where required.

To bridge this gap, we have placed banners at both the Darlinghurst and Rozelle campuses which provide the contact details of each of the State Council members. Furthermore, we have also placed committee flowchart banners around each of the respective campuses so that students are aware of whom to contact for their concerns.



To ease communication and improve representation, we also intend to:

- Travel to Sydney four times throughout the year to run events and provide students with the opportunity to meet with State Council representatives to discuss their concerns.
- Launch a Sydney Students Facebook group through the Tasmania University Union page.
- Produce Sydney-centric marketing communications through our social media channels

Independent Advocacy

When students come to seek support from an advocate they are usually feeling distressed, lost, frustrated, scared, confused or unsupported. Something has happened to them that has affected their ability to study. It could be that they have received an allegation of academic misconduct, or they are experiencing financial hardship or a relationship breakdown with their lecturer or supervisor, or they are facing exclusion, or they feel the University has not fulfilled its responsibilities according to their policies or procedures and as a result they feel severely disadvantaged. Therefore, it is critical that students studying in Sydney have access to the TUU's advocacy services.

Student Advocate, Kerry Clough



**To ensure that
high-quality
advocacy services
are available
we will:**

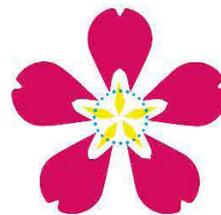
- Ensure that a TUU Advocate is present on the Sydney campuses twice per year, ideally once every semester to do a promotion about the Advocacy and Welfare services that are provided.
- To ensure that relevant pamphlets are made readily available.

Provision of Clubs & Societies

The TUU is committed to providing dynamic and high-quality clubs and societies at both the Rozelle and Darlinghurst UTas campuses. We note that Clubs and Societies not only assists students in making new friends and making their time studying at university more enjoyable, but it can also help to develop both life and vocational skills which can assist with their future employment.

Being a part of a Club or Society helps develop skills such as:

- Financial management – These assists students in mathematical skills and helps students to learn about financial procedures.
- Event management – This about providing for the students in a variety of ways such as; Running a ball, BBQ, camp or conference for many people. This helps student’s involvement and allows people to showcase their event management skills. Club members can gain these skills through participation in organising club events.
- Community service - Social welfare clubs provide students with direct opportunities to get involved in community service.



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- Leadership – Letting people be a voice for their hobby/passion; which promotes their autonomous skills.
- Communication – Communication is essential because it leads to environmental development and influences both the members and the society’s needs. It allows people to be able to create a communication channel and skills between the members and the public. Additionally, it creates a life skill for future employment.
- Networking – This specifically helps members engage with professional industry experts and allows students to develop networks for future employment. This can be achieved through guest speakers and events throughout the year.
- Public speaking – This allows students to have a voice at either conferences, club/society meetings, and events. This will enable students to improve their communication and confidence in a supportive environment.



Some of the Clubs & Societies the TUU supports

Provision of Clubs & Societies

All these key factors are an opportunity for people to be involved in a club or society. However, one of the major setbacks is starting a society. In enabling students at the Rozelle and Darlinghurst campuses to get involved, the TUU can propose some general and beneficial clubs and societies that people would be interested in joining. For example:

- Nursing
- Paramedic
- Social club; book club, breakfast club, fitness club. (could be a key society/club for students to meet new people)

Our plan for improving involvement in 2019 will require us to:

1. Pitch club/society ideas (from the list) and benefits of joining a society (do you want more social events? Are you satisfied with your student experience? – we need feedback)
 - a. Encourage the formation of a campus-wide society. This could be social as well as giving input into the campus management. If there was one on both campuses, then they maybe could have a games day, coordinated by University Sport.
2. Poll the interest of students (would you join this society? Would you play a role?)
3. Contact students who like to be involved; pitch how to affiliate a club/society
4. Help as much as possible in making the process smooth/easy for the students to affiliate
5. Promotional events for students to benefit on campus – through societies.

Furthermore, the provision of sports is also a fundamental aspect of the university experience. The TUU could explore the feasibility of inter-campus social sport. For example, friendly competition (ambos vs. nurses) and/or an annual charity game and we could explore ways we can raise money for a particular health-related cause, perhaps, or some prizes ... or a trophy for bragging rights... “UTAS Sydney Cup” to foster friendly competition.

To ensure that this is a success, we could conduct a survey to determine which sport interests the cohorts, to maximise participation and decide where to rent facilities.

For example, UTAS Rozelle is located at the Callan Park Precinct, which includes the Callan Park Oval. An Aussie rules footy game or soccer (football) match could be arranged there, with shuttle buses hired to send the Darlinghurst team over.

We will also be proactively promoting the “Run with Us” events in Sydney to boost participation.

- **7 April, Metcalfe Park, Pyrmont**
- **11 August, City2Surf**
- **15 September, Blackmores Bridge Run**

As a matter of fairness in terms of equity, perhaps, that we need to increase the financial incentives for the Sydney campuses in terms of grants to get things started. Look at ways we can cover registration fees for Team UTAS Sydney participation in local social/competitive sporting events.

- Communicate the rationale for this to our stakeholders more broadly ... between the equal vs. equitable distribution of resources to improve outcomes in Sydney.



Students enjoying freebies at a Find The Right Blend event

Events & Initiatives

This year, the Tasmania University Union is committed to creating an inclusive and vibrant university community which has student mental health, safety, and wellbeing at its core. We aim to create an exciting campus culture with original, creative and fresh events occurring throughout the year. Furthermore, we hope to provide engaging experiences that appeal to a broad range of students and foster a diverse and inclusive culture.

In achieving these objectives on the Sydney campuses we aim to:

- Have members of our team travel to Sydney at least four times this year to run events and introduce our services to them.
 - * Dates to be advised
- Ensure there is an equitable distribution of TUU collateral
- Offer a free coffee cart on the Rozelle and Darlinghurst campuses once a month which is in line with our ‘Find the Right Blend’ campaign (Appendix A)
 - * Geoff Rickards (NSW Operations Manager) has informed us that Tuesday and Wednesday between 10:30 am – 11:30 am are the most suitable days for events on the Rozelle and Darlinghurst campuses