

Under section 5.11 I present to you the President's Report. This document is an extract of the *PARSA 2014-15 Annual Report* which will be available on the PARSA website containing details of the PARSA portfolios and activities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BENJAMIN NILES

The approach taken to this report is to touch briefly on each of the spheres in which PARSA operates starting at the broadest sphere of the Australian Higher Education sector and narrowing finally to the collaborations that PARSA engages in with stakeholders of the ANU.

The Higher Education Sector

Proposed Higher Education Reforms Package

Undoubtedly the greatest talking point in the higher education sector over the past year has been the Government's proposed Higher Education Reforms Package. Over the past year the bill has twice been voted down in the Senate. However, these reforms remain an agenda item for the current Government and so continue to be an ongoing concern to university students. In addition to direct communication with the Vice Chancellor, PARSA has partnered with our undergraduate counterpart, ANUSA, to engage with students of ANU and advocate on their behalf. Further, PARSA has looked to our national body, the Council for Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) for continued support in advocating directly to Parliament, appearing at the Senate review on the bill and speaking with Ministers on our behalf.

Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)

In order to seek greater engagement with the national body, PARSA hosted the 2014 CAPA Conference here at the Australian National University over a one week period in November. During this time PARSA was able to establish

valuable links not only with the CAPA team for 2015 but with other postgraduate association leaders from across the country. The President of CAPA, Harry Rolf, has already visited the University twice since the conference and our colleagues in other universities continue to provide a network of support in advocating against the Higher Education Reforms Package.

The University

The Australian National University is approaching a potentially significant period of change and PARSA has sought to ensure students are included at every level of the decision making process. Three major considerations include the selection of a new Vice-Chancellor to commence in 2016, possible redevelopment of union court and the strategic direction of the ANU.

Vice-Chancellor Appointment

First, commencing February 2015 I was appointed to the committee to appoint the new Vice-Chancellor, expressing the characteristics students wish their next Vice-Chancellor to display.

A new Union Court?

Secondly, regarding the revitalization of Union Court, PARSA has been in constant communication with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) (Academic), Strategic Communications and Public Affairs (SCAPA) as well as various other. Though this project is still in it's formative stages and requires University Council approval before moving forward, PARSA has sought to engage students on the issue promoting focus groups and activities in Union Court to receive feedback. Such activities will continue as students should have a clear voice in whether such a project should go ahead and what it should look like.

The future of ANU

Finally, with a new Vice-Chancellor, proposed Higher Education Reforms and the heart of the University all potentially in a state of change, PARSA has co-created forums for students to have their say in both the day-to-day as well as strategic operations of the University through our Ed Talks initiative. Arising from a need to engage with the University Executive on serious matters, PARSA, ANUSA and SCAPA came together and created this series of round table discussions where students may speak directly with the Vice-Chancellor on pressing matters. Ed Talks has now become a continuing project with more scheduled throughout 2015. Though the University finds itself changing and entering a new stage of its evolution, PARSA continues to ensure that students are part of the journey.

Education, Student Experience, Research and Services.

Education

Over the course of the past year PARSA has continued to represent postgraduate students at education committees, working groups and consultations all over the university. This includes representation at:

- Academic Board
- University Education Committee and it's Subcommittees:
 - Coursework Admissions and Awards
 - Education Standards and Quality
- College Education Committees
- University Research Committee, HDR Committee and HDR Student Consultative Committee
- Education Standards and Qualifications Committee

Additionally in my capacity as President I have had regular meetings with the DVC (Academic), DVC (Research) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) (Research and Research Training).

Research

