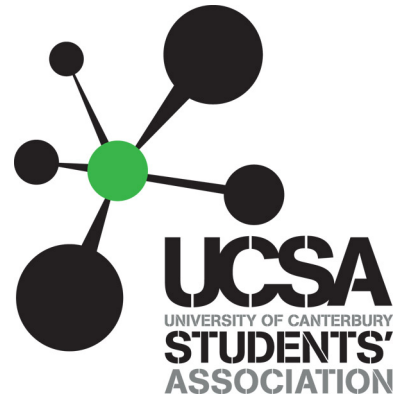
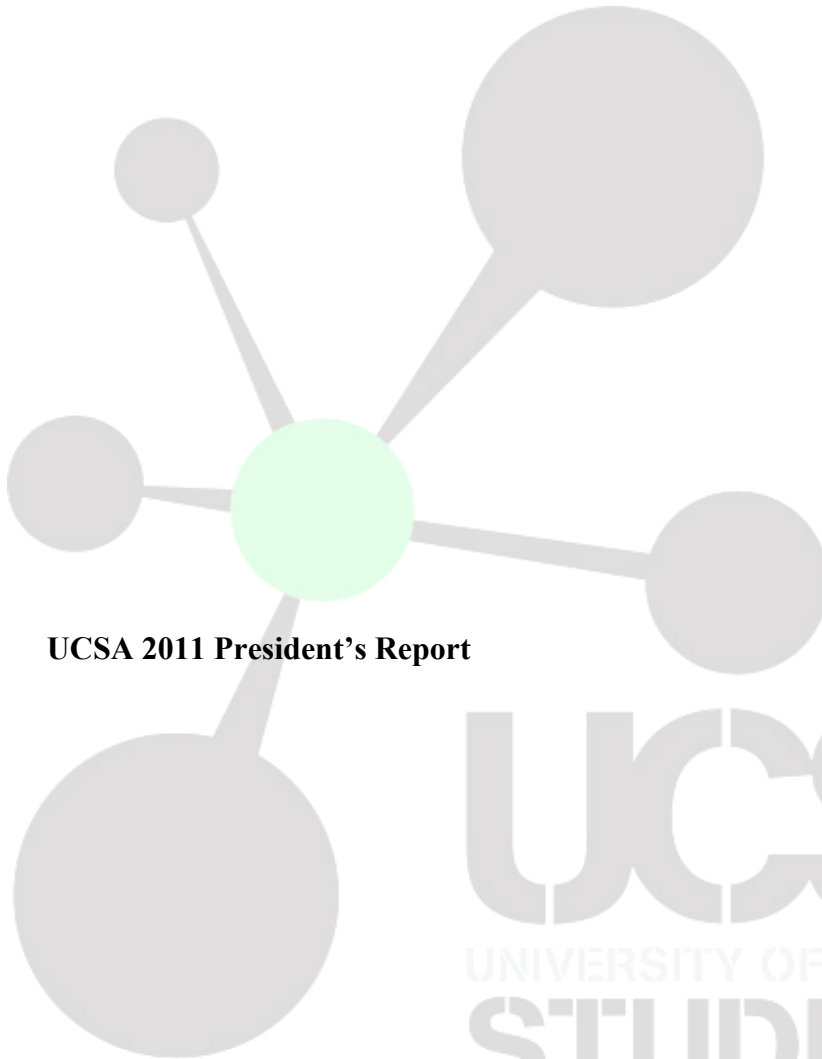


University of Canterbury Students'
Association



90 Ilam Road
Ilam
Christchurch, 8041
03 364 3934
Ucsa.org.nz



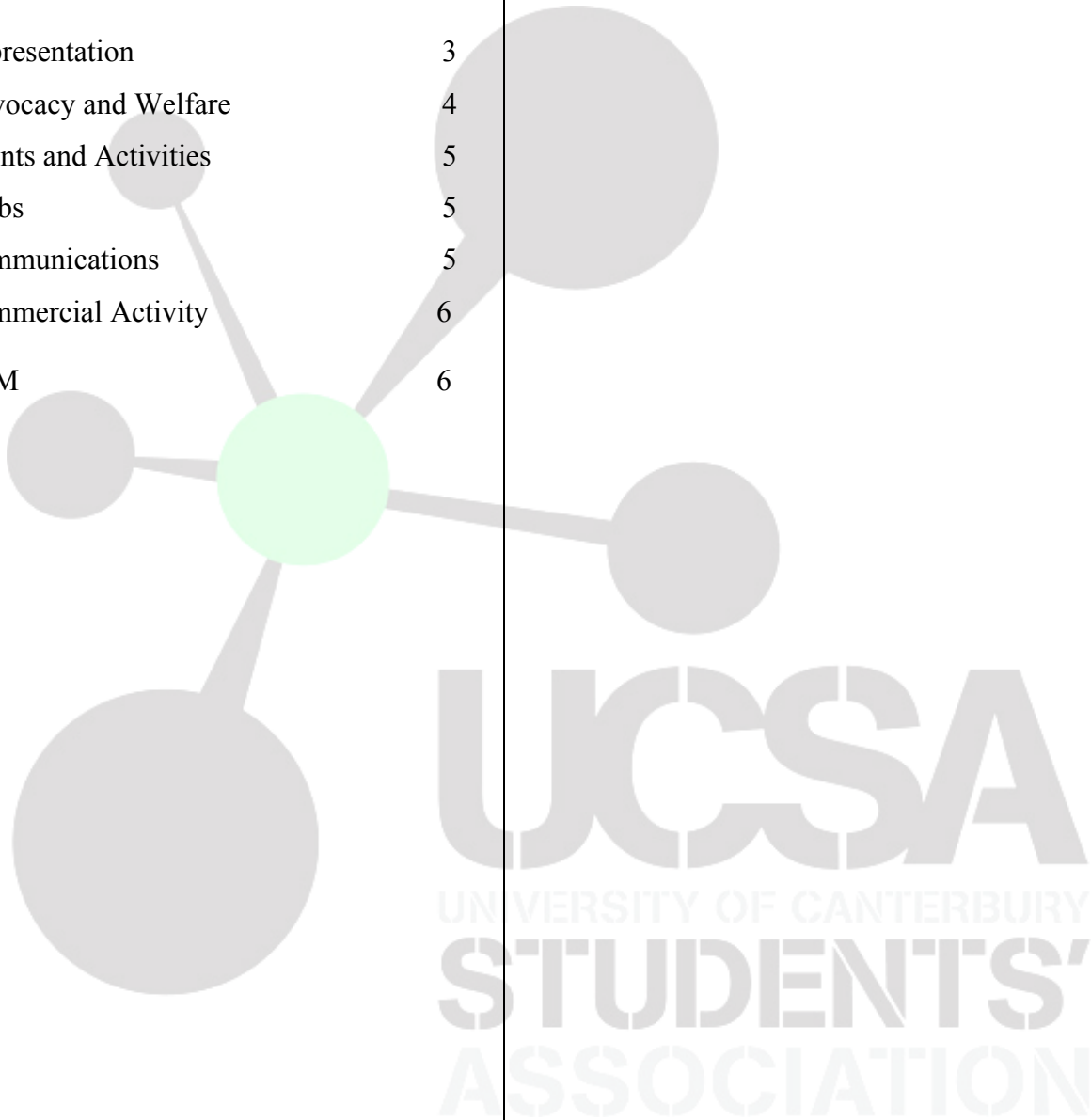
UCSA 2011 President's Report

UCSA
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Prepared by: Kohan McNab
UCSA President 2011

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1. Introduction

2011 was full of unusual challenges for the UCSA. However, the UCSA Executive and staff adapted extremely well, developing an organisation very different to the one that started the year, but one that is more suited to face the new challenges ahead. This report will give a rundown on the measures taken by the Association in order to continue to provide the best service possible to its members.

2. Earthquake recovery

The response of UC students in the wake of the February earthquake has become one of the most storied chapters in the history of UC. In fact, so much has been said about it that I'm not going to say anything more on it other than it was awesome.

Obviously, the most significant issue for the UCSA in terms of earthquake recovery was the closure of the UCSA Building. The building itself suffered damage in the February 22nd earthquake. Therefore, the decision was made to close the building until it could be strengthened. In conjunction with this action, engineers and quantity surveyors were commissioned to design and price the remediation and strengthening necessary to bring the building up to a higher standard of safety. As of the end of 2011, this work was underway.

3. Governance

The UCSA Executive continued to build on its reputation for having a strong system of governance. Although there were numerous difficult decisions that were put in front of this group, they continued to handle these professionally, and keep a continued focus on the best interests of UC students. Thanks and congratulations are due to all the Executive members.

They were guided admirably but the UCSA Chief Executive Martin Mongan, and the UCSA Advisory Board. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Martin, Bevan (the Advisory Board Chair), and all the members of the Advisory Board.

The majority of the Advisory Board members re-applied and in conjunction with the 2012 Executive, were reappointed to the Advisory Board by the 2011 Executive for another term. Exceptions to this were Amy Carter, and Joel Gabites who chose to not seek reappointed due to other commitments. I would like to formally thank them for their valued input. As of the end of 2011, the interviewing of candidates to fill the empty seats on the board was progressing well.

4. Representation

The Executive

As is the Constitutional norm, the Executive filled the portfolios of the five Colleges; Commerce (Diana Jeong), Science (Morgan Perry), Engineering (Michael Cook), Arts (Cara des Landes) and Education (Rachel Joho) and the one School; Law (Craig Whitnall), as well as Postgraduate (David Holliday), International (William William) and General/Student Welfare Representative (Nathan Ainsworth). These roles require the Executive members to sit on a number of committees at the University, Vice President Rachael Linehan co-ordinates these portfolios.

In 2011 the Exec sat on numerous committees to represent the student voice. At last count there were over 30 University committees that include at least one Exec rep.

Also for the first time ever, the Exec initiated their own projects to benefit students following the earthquake. Some of these ended up growing a life of their own, and made a significant impact to life on campus. Another new initiative for 2011 was that each Exec member was allocated an area within the UCSA that was their area of interest to monitor. Finance Officer Sam Mossman co-ordinated these portfolios which assisted in having a student Executive influence right throughout the organisation

The Executive also lent a helping hand to the Student Volunteer Army - one of the UCSA's affiliated clubs, after February's tragic earthquake, hooking them up with some of their home base, food, drinks, entertainment etc. etc. to support the students doing the hard yards.

5. Advocacy and Welfare

Our Welfare, Advocacy and Volunteer team, had to step up to help students in what was an unusually difficult year. They ran the Class Reps system with 664 student reps, provided hardship grants, food bank support, an emergency dental scheme, along with general help and advice. All in all, over \$3500 worth of food vouchers was granted to hungry students in need, and nearly \$3000 given for unforeseen hardship from the Hardship grant.

For the first time, the UCSA also administered an Emergency Dental Scheme for UC students who needed financial support here. This helped to the tune of \$96,000 in funding for students who would otherwise be racking up debt to get their emergency (non-cosmetic) dental issues fixed up.

This team also assisted the Exec in running the "Random Acts of Kindness raffles", which allowed students to make donations to deserving student causes, raising nearly \$10,000 in small donations and landing students with the chance of winning a prize for their good deed.

Our Welfare staff also act as advocates representing students who are in any sort of trouble with the University, as well as helping advocate and advise with external agencies like Studylink, IRD, KFC etc. etc. This advice can't be ascribed a dollar value, but I know it is very reassuring to have to have this team on your side should things turn pear-shaped.

2011 was a very busy year for the student advocacy and welfare team. I see this as one of the most crucial areas of the organisation that continues to improve and provide excellent service to students.

6. Events and Activities

With Orientation unfortunately interrupted this year we turned up the heat with the others events to make sure you didn't miss out, including an amazing Graduation Ball in one of New Zealand's biggest, flashiest marquees. We used the same venue to hold the Student Volunteer Army Thank You gig, pulling out all the stops and increasing capacity to 5200, making it the largest event we've ever held on campus.

We also held a revolution of on-campus events, with the weekly Winter Wonderland Market bringing life to the campus, followed by the mammoth inaugural Winterlude festival, with 30 events over 14 days featuring 26,740 students coming through the metaphorical gates, and generating 1.2 million facebook impressions, making it the biggest event period ever at UC.

This was all topped off by the legendary end of lectures Tea Party, held in a new venue for the first time, and featuring over 2900 UC students.

In between times, our events team either held or assisted UC students in a huge range of events, and played a key role in making our campus a better place to be.

7. Clubs

This team supported the 100 or so clubs on campus, a massive job, which has seen then helping a huge range of clubs to put on awesome services for their members and has seen over \$50,000 granted to Clubs and Societies to support the student based activities and events they put on, ranging from safety trainings, through to new kayaks, from Uniforms to overseas trips. This provides very important input in student life on campus.

8. Communications

Canta

Canta continued its strong form, winning 3 categories at the Aotearoa Student Press Awards (ASPA's), including "Best Small Publication" and was a delight in all-student content, with 3000 copies a week getting snapped up. On top of that, Canta won Best Website at the ASPA's and (with the help of student design feedback) won the Gold Medal at the Designers Institute of New Zealand's 2011 Best Design Awards.

Facebook

The UCSA Facebook page cracked 8000 fans this year, and over 18,500 likes or comments on our posts during the 2011 academic year. This peaked during study week in October this year, where we had nearly 1700 likes or comments in 7 days. Congratulations, that is some top class procrastination!

But on a serious note, Facebook has also proved hugely successful in running surveys to gauge student opinion on academic, service and social decisions we had to make this year, with over 6000 responses to our Survey Monkey surveys alone, so thanks for that, you having your say means we can make better decisions.

9. Commercial Operations

Obviously the bars and cafes were disrupted by our building being closed; however, all other cafes (360 in the central library, the Eng Café, Alibi in the law building and Collective at Education) have been running for most of the year. Our team also created "Intencity 6.3" and the Big Top café, as pop-ups to service students. These were a big hit with staff and students, and highlighted how resilient our commercial team was in a tough year. Significant work went in to ensure that there would be a venue to host a student bar on campus in 2012, as of the end of 2011 this was progressing well.

Further, as has been widely communicated to the student population, as of the end of 2011, the negotiations around contracting a commercial operations partner continued.

The UCSA can confirm audited annual financial accounts for 2011, as carried out by Polson Higgs. The results show that the organisation has performed well in a very difficult year.

The key points are:

- The UCSA recorded a net surplus of \$214,945 against budget of (\$81,377).
- Although all commercial activities were affected to some degree, the organisation's business interruption insurance provided necessary cover to maintain consistent earnings. Together with tight control over expenditure the result is satisfactory.
- The outlook for 2012 and onwards indicates that there are still tough times ahead. UCSA's business interruption insurance will continue to maintain a degree of consistency of earnings, e.g. tenancy rentals from our building, but ceases as of February 2013. Without such revenue streams we face the prospect of a significant drop in income. The emphasis will be to identify opportunities and at the same time continue to run as tight a ship as practical. Your Executive, Advisory Board and staff are well placed to undertake such activity in the still challenging post-earthquake environment we find ourselves in.
- Full detail of the 2011 Annual Report can be found on the UCSA website.

And to finish, some (estimated) cafe stats:

- ✓ A whopping 73,000 pies bought
- ✓ A calorie filled 20,000 Cookie Times purchased.
- ✓ 31,000 portions of sushi sold
- ✓ (My personal favourite) 38,000 energy drinks
- ✓ And not to forget our major scholastic fuel source, 99,000 cups of coffee consumed.

10. Voluntary Student Membership

Although this will not affect the UCSA in terms of revenue (as the UCSA does not charge a membership fee), it may mean that there needs to be a change in the way the organisation operates, or the organisations structure. As of the end of 2011, there had been significant discussions with the 2012 Executive as to the best path forward for the UCSA.

11. Thanks!

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Rach the VP and Moss the Finance Officer, and all the Exec, as well as the UCSA CE Martin Mongan, and his team of amazing staff for their efforts during 2011. Also thanks to UC students for voting me in and not trying to vote me out. I really enjoyed the job and had a great time.

I'm sure Erin and her team are doing an amazing job in 2012. Good luck!

Thanks,



Kohan

Kohan McNab
PRESIDENT 2011



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