

1. Introduction

2012 was a challenging year for the Association, as it was for many within Canterbury. A year on from the earthquakes, 2011 continues to shape both day-to-day operation and the long-term strategic decisions. The UCSA's fortunes are inextricably linked with the University of Canterbury, which has acknowledged 2012 as the year in which "tangible progress was made on the long journey to recovery"¹. However, it must be remembered that 2012 was one of a constrained environment, with particularly unique problems.

2. Representation and Governance

The UCSA Executive

The 2012 UCSA Executive consisted of twelve (12) elected students, who fulfilled the following portfolios²:

Name	Portfolio
Todd Rabbitt (Vice President)	Engineering
Tom Horrocks (Finance Officer)	
Nathan Ainsworth	Environment & Sustainability/ Food, Beverage & Capital Expenditure
Morgan Perry	Science/ Communications & Welfare
Chrislynn Soong	Arts/Communications & Welfare
Hannah Duder	Commerce/ Clubs & Events
Craig Whitnall	Law/ Food, Beverage & Capital Expenditure
Michael Mullins	Clubs/ Clubs & Events
Tom Nation	Sports/ Clubs & Events
Michaela Latimer	International/ Food, Beverage & Capital Expenditure
Ahmad Osama	Education/ Communications & Welfare

The Executive met fortnightly, and held 14 meetings across the year.

¹ Chancellor's Welcome, University of Canterbury Annual Report, p4. Accessible at http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/theuni/documents/annualreport12/Annual_Report_2012.pdf

² As required under Clause 4.2 of the UCSA Constitution

The Executive regularly attended over thirty (30) committee and faculty meetings within the University.

In addition to this, students were represented at the following:

- University Council
- University Council subcommittees;
 - Academic Board
 - Finance, Planning and Resources Committee
 - Audit and Risk Committee

Special Projects Fund

In 2011, the Special Projects Fund was initiated in order to benefit students (following the earthquakes). This has endured, and the policy was formalised in 2012. This year, four grants were awarded to members of the Executive that allowed projects to be initiated. Grants are approved by a subcommittee made up of the President, Finance Officer and the UCSA Welfare Team Coordinator, with a requirement of unanimous approval.

Governance

The UCSA Executive is supported by an Advisory Board that meets monthly. The Advisory Board are exactly that; they can only advise and make recommendations. However, it is an incredibly valuable resource for the Executive who are tasked with making decisions of a large magnitude.

The Advisory Board is comprised of up to six (6) independent members, and the President, Vice-President and Finance Officer. Members of the Executive and the Chief Executive are in attendance at meetings.

In 2012, the Advisory Board comprised of:

Name	Appointed
Nigel Watson	2006
Joanne Milne	2010
Pip Tschudin	2012
Jeremy Blake	2012

2012 also saw the resignation (due to workload commitments) of Bevan Killick, who had been acting as Chair of the Advisory Board since February 2011.

Following that, the practice of the President chairing the Advisory Board has been resumed.

3. Student Services Levy

As in previous years, the UCSA had substantial input into the 2013 allocation of the Student Services Levy (SSL).

"All New Zealand universities charge a student services levy to provide for the various student services on campus. The levy funds received are only used in the best interests and for the benefit of students with important feedback processes in place to ensure that understanding student needs are included in the funding allocation process.

In 2011 and 2012 a survey of student preferences has been carried out to inform the staff/student Joint Operations Advisory Board (JOAB) for making recommendations on the allocation of these funds to the Vice Chancellor."³

JOAB is co-chaired by the UCSA President and Director of Student Services and International (or equivalent) and meets fortnightly. It is made up of three other UCSA representatives and three UC representatives.

Funding by the SSL is driven and shaped by the Student Priorities Research Report, which is accessible here: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/enrol/documents/sslab_research2012.pdf

This report is prepared by Research First, and shapes the recommendations made to the Vice Chancellor.

In 2012, JOAB was committed to ensuring better communication surrounding the SSL. One of the results of that was [this video](#) to help explain the process.

³ University of Canterbury Student Services Levy webpage, accessible at <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/enrol/fees/levy.shtml>



4. Services

The funding that the UCSA receives from the SSL is distributed across four (4) areas. These services are available to all students at the university.

All of these services performed at an incredibly high level in 2012; making it one of the most successful years to date. These different areas were:

- a) Welfare and Advocacy
- b) Clubs and Events
- c) Media and Communications

Welfare and Advocacy

Intake	623
Foodbank Vouchers	88
Emergency Dental	131
Hardship Grants	28
Advocacy	189

Clubs and Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i># of events</i>
Orientation	30200	37
Grad Ball	1000	1
Winterlude	10210	23
Winter & Summer Sessions	7000	20
Sports Tourney	100	1
End of Lecture (Tea Party)	3000	1
Winter Wonderland Market	8000	4
Uni Games	51	1
Pride Week	150	1
Battle of the Bands	1400	3
Arts Week	15782	15
Snow Games	18	1
Showcase	100	1
Lecturer of the Year	300	1
MadCaps	200	1
Blues Awards	150	1
Supreme Clubs	240	1
Te wiki o te reo	600	1
Ed Woods	100	1
Matariki	500	1
Breakfasts	2178	24
Health & Wellbeing week (college of ed)	100	3
TOTAL:	81379	143

Special Events		
7 Days at the Foundry	700	1
Savage Concert (part 2)	800	1

Participation UCSA Events

TOTAL: 82879 145

CLUB EVENTS

of events

TOTAL: 150

Media and Communications

Editions of Canta published	25	
Awards (Aotearoa Student Press Awards)	11	
Visits to the UCSA website	135,165 times	62,409 visitors
Visits to the CANTA website	71,816 times	43,558 visitors
Facebook "likes"	Surpassed 10,000*	
Likes and comments on the Facebook page	51,020	
Began development of the UCSA App		

* Remained the second largest Student Association page in Australasia

5. Commercial Activity

5.1. Food and beverage

5.1.1. Cafes

In 2012, the UCSA managed the food and beverage operation through Compass Group.⁴ In conjunction with this, new food outlets were also opened in the Undercroft at the beginning of the year, meaning that the total number of cafes / food outlets (owned by the UCSA) included the following:

Pre-existing	Opened in 2012
Alibi Café	Café 1894
Engineering Café	Chilton's

⁴ See last year's Annual Report for more detail on this.

Collective Café	The Shed
	The Burg
	The Hot Wok
	Cut Lunch
	The Greek
	The Shilling Club

This ensured that we went further than ever before to achieving the right balance of quality, range and price. While there is still some way to go in working towards this aim, the UCSA has undoubtedly come closer than ever before.

The turnover from the above cafes and outlets in 2012 equated to \$3,464,416. This brought a return of \$268,416 to the Association.

5.1.2. The Foundry

The Foundry also reopened in 2012, much to the excitement of many students. The 26th April saw the first night of operation, and the Foundry continued to operate throughout the majority of the year, turning over \$773,510

In order to mitigate some of the risks occasionally experienced in “new Christchurch”, we have had to work very closely with the University and the police to ensure that management of the Foundry is at a consistently high level. After months of commitment to this, we have received feedback that our student bar is “among the best run in the city”.

Student feedback suggests that the Foundry is well-loved and utilised, but there are still tweaks that they would like to see. The sheer feat of getting the bar open remains 2012’s achievement, but the UCSA is hopeful that 2013 will see some of these improvements made.

The other event worth mentioning within this section is the impact of the closure of the Foundry for six weeks. This occurred following the giving-way of a portion of flooring, during the Perfect Storm

event on the 13th July 2012. We later were informed that the calculations involved the “static loading, not the dynamic”, which, when jumped on in time to the music, led the floor to sag.

Absolute credit in this event goes to the students and staff were who present that night; a full-scale evacuation occurred within seven minutes, and all of the emergency procedures required were enacted in a model way.

It was, however, a huge disappointment for a building that had only opened several months before. The rest of Term 3 saw repair and betterment work occur, allowing the Foundry to reopen in Term 4.

5.2. The Forestry Block

UCSA management, as directed by the Executive, maintained a watching brief on the Forestry Block asset in 2012.

At 238.2hectares, and worth \$450,000 but with limited future use for the Association, the Executive was conscious that the asset could be better leveraged in other hands.

It is currently being utilised Methven Mountain Bike Club there is potential that an option for them to purchase as a cooperative will arise. This will be a matter for the 2013 Executive.

5.3. UBS (50%)

The UCSA owns 50% of the University Bookshop, in conjunction with the Phillip King Family Trust.

UBS did not perform particularly well in 2012, which does raise concerns for the UCSA. The bookstore turned over \$2,783,471, making a profit of \$101,389

As technology and online shopping progresses, the question of the best focus of UBS may indeed be raised. The UCSA have been in conversations with the Board of UBS in regards to this, and have scheduled a Strategy Workshop, with an external consultant, for early 2013.

5.4. Early Learning Centres

The UCSA owns and operates two Early Learning Centres (ELCs); Montana and Ilam.

Montana:

In 2012, Montana had daily role of 30 children enrolled. 40% of these are the children of students, and the remaining children were from the community.

A discount of up to 13% is extended to UC students.

Ilam:

Ilam extended its number of children from 50 to 55 in 2012, in line with Ministry of Education . 80%of these are the children of students, 20% the children of staff from the community.

A discount of up to 13% is extended to UC students.

6. UCSA Building

As students will be able to see, the end of 2012 has not brought any resolution as to the state of the UCSA building. As owners of 65% of the building, this is a source of concern for the Association and for the Executive in particular.

The delay in this results largely from waiting on engineering assessments and costings. Once that information is garnered, a decision as to the best way to move forward (which includes considerations of insurance, finance, capital, and long-term strategic discussions) can progress.

While it is disappointing to not have more information as of this point, I am confident that the 2013 Executive will progress this issue, in conjunction with the student body.

7. Accolades

2012 also saw the Student Volunteer Army – students of the University of Canterbury – receive the ANZAC of the Year Award. Presented on the 24th April, the Governor-General spoke to the feats of the students who volunteered their time, energy and efforts, following the earthquakes.

This was particularly special as it was the first time that the Award had been presented to a) civilians and b) a group.

“Harry”, the (110 kg!) award, sat proudly in The Shilling Club for the duration of the year. The plaque (which is kept after the award returned), remains.

8. Looking forward

It has been a challenging, and yet special, year for the Association. While it was never going to be straight forward, the very act of any organisation, within an environment such as ours, of responding and developing after such an event presents both hurdles and opportunities.

For the UCSA Executive, 2012 was about working to bring everything that we, as an Association, do, within the student-driven ethos. While work remains to be done on this in 2013, I am confident that good in-roads were made.

At this point I would like to thank Martin Mongan, our Chief Executive, who has continued to dedicate his time, energy and enthusiasm to the UCSA. His determination and experience has been incredibly valuable, especially in what have been, trying times.

I would like also like to thank the UCSA Executive, who have governed the Association throughout 2012. While it is not a straightforward or simple task, each and every one of them has contributed significantly. I would also like to specially thank Todd Rabbitt and Tom Horrocks (Vice-President and Finance Officer respectively), for their commitment, patience and dedication.

Looking at past Annual Reports, it seems customary to wish the next year's Executive well. While I do (obviously!), it feels a bit contrived, given that I will be serving a second term as UCSA President.

Rather, I wish the very best to every student who is presently studying at the University of Canterbury; the contribution that you make to our institution is what enables organisations like the UCSA to continue to exist, so that we can seek to better your experience. That contribution, in the present climate, often also comes at a time when other options may seem more attractive, or easier. So, congratulations on making the choice to be at UC, and best of luck for your studies and the future.



Erin Jackson
2012 President
University of Canterbury Students' Association