

1. Introduction

1.1. 2013 was an eventful year for the University of Canterbury Students' Association (UCSA)! Across the spectrum of roles that the UCSA plays, there were an extensive number of successes, changes and challenges. As the city, and the university, continues to rebuild, the UCSA worked hard to contribute to the success of our students and to help make campus a more positive place to be.

2. Representation and Governance

The Executive

2.1. The 2013 UCSA Executive comprised of twelve (12) elected students. Nine (9) of these were general members, who were tasked with both faculty representation and an internal portfolio, relevant to services or the role of the UCSA. This is in accordance with the UCSA Constitution.

2.2. The respective names and roles are set out below:

Name	Faculty Portfolio	Internal Portfolio
Sarah Platt	Science	Clubs & Events
Jared van de Geest	Commerce	CapEx
Lisa Reynolds	Education	Welfare
Hugh Mack	Arts	Welfare
Mitchell Croft	<i>Clubs*</i>	Clubs & Events
Tyrone Elkington	<i>Sports*</i>	Clubs & Events
Michael Kensington	Law	CapEx
Shane Soulsby	Engineering	Clubs & Events
Bjorn Arndt	Postgraduate	CapEx

*Not a designated faculty, due to numbers

2.3. The UCSA Executive were members of over thirty (30) committee, faculty and representative meetings within the University. In addition to this, students were actively represented at University Council, its subcommittees (Finance, Planning and Resources Committee and Audit and Risk, Honorary Doctorates Committee, Academic Board and Council Appeals).

The Advisory Board

2.4. The UCSA has retained the Advisory Board. This is a Board, appointed and ratified by the UCSA Executive, which makes recommendations as to the UCSA's activity (particularly within the commercial area). The Board is

comprised of up to six (6) professionals, and the President, Vice-President and Finance Officer.

2.5. The Board met once a month during 2013, and the President chairs the Advisory Board meetings. The Chief Executive sits in attendance.

2.6. In 2013, the Advisory Board (external) members were:

Name	Year Appointed
Nigel Watson	2006
Joanne Milne	2010
Pip Tschudin	2012
Jeremy Blake	2012
Paul Munro	2013

2.7. The Advisory Board were a valuable resource to the Executive over the course of the year, and it is appropriate to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued dedication to the UCSA and the student experience.

University Council

2.8. Over the course of the year, we became aware of the proposed change in legislation regarding the makeup and constitutions of University Councils around the country.

2.9. As it currently stands, the University of Canterbury Council has taken active steps to engage with the Minister on this issue. A part of that has included the academics' and students' representatives consciously stepping back to one representative, in order to attempt to retain a place (for more background on this, see the discussion at the 2013 Half AGM).

2.10. As of the end of 2013, we are waiting to see what the Minister's next step is. The aim of the UCSA is of course to ensure student representation at the University Council table and all preparatory work that can be undertaken at this stage has been completed. This will likely be an issue for 2014.

3. Student Services Levy

3.1. As is established at the University of Canterbury, the UCSA played a leading role in advocating on behalf of students during the allocation of the 2014 Student Services Levy.

3.2. This occurred through the Joint Operations Advisory Board (JOAB), of which the President was a co-chair (along with the Director, Student Services and Communications).

- 3.3. Funding and allocations are driven by the annual surveys, undertaken by Research First. These surveys are available online (<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/enrol/fees/levy.shtml>) and show research taken from students on campus.
- 3.4. In 2013, a key focus was the improvement of *spaces* on campus. Noting the extensive amount of rebuild work and ongoing decanting/moving, all members of JOAB were conscious about the need to create more student space (for example, like the Undercroft). This was a key driver in the discussions and should serve to benefit the campus in future years.

4. Services

- 4.1. The UCSA services have been split across three key areas in 2013:
 - 4.1.1. Welfare & Advocacy
 - 4.1.2. Clubs & Events
 - 4.1.3. Media & Communications
- 4.2. In 2013, all services operated exceedingly well. Highlights for the UCSA included bringing three international acts to play for UC students as well as launching the UCSA Subsidised Dental Scheme; an absolute first at NZ universities! We also ran the first ANZAC Day Memorial Service on campus (in living memory), which was an honour and a privilege to undertake.
- 4.3. But, we'll let the stats do the talking. The usage of these services (up until December 2013) has been included below.

University of Canterbury Students' Association
2013 Annual Report

Advocacy & Welfare	2013		
	Actual	Target	Var %
Student Intake/UCSA Help	1,002	740	35.4%
Foodbank Granted	169	200	-15.5%
Emergency Dental	76	145	-47.6%
Subsidised Dental	1,602	1,623	-1.3%
Hardship	54	55	-1.8%
Advocacy	174	169	3.0%
Class Reps	725	750	-3.3%
Total	3,802	3,682	3.3%
Total (excl class reps)	3,077	3,152	-2.4%

Media & Comms	YTD		
	Actual	Target	Var %
Facebook Followers	20,098	17,500	14.8%
Webhits (New)	603,706	505,000	19.5%

Activities & Events	YTD		
	Actual	Target	Var %
Club Affiliations	121	100	21.0%
Student activities & events	433	220	96.8%
Student attendees (cume)	113,000	80,500	40.4%

5. Commercial Activity

Food & Beverage

- 5.1. In 2013, the UCSA Executive undertook to exit the Compass Group Agreement for food and beverage on campus, and to bring the operation back in house.
- 5.2. This was a major decision for the UCSA, and one that was not taken lightly. The original decision to outsource the provision of food and beverage was done to try and increase the offering, flexibility and pricing range to students on campus; while utilizing opportunities that came with a high-performer in the market. However, the UCSA Executive decided that, in order to best deliver on this promise to students, we would be best to operate food and beverage ourselves.
- 5.3. This decision occupied a substantial amount of time and effort of both the Executive and Management over the course of the year. However, in August, all of the UCSA-run outlets were transferred back to us.
- 5.4. We employed an Interim Food and Beverage Manager, to assist us through the transition (managing the 60+ employees, stock levels, software, etc) and, as of the end of the year, we are pleased with the progress.
- 5.5. While there is still undoubtedly work to be done in 2014 to help realize the full potential of the decision, the Executive remain optimistic about the decision undertaken.

UBS

- 5.6. We have continued to manage our 50% shareholding in UBS throughout the year. Conversations surrounding technology and online shopping have been ongoing, and we have been pleased with the progress of the UBS website.
- 5.7. However, the question of turnover of UBS, in a changing environment, is a pressing one. This is something that will require attention in 2014.

Early Learning Centres

- 5.8. The UCSA owns and operates two Early Learning Centres (ELCs). These are Montana (on the corner of Montana Ave, opposite the Whare) and Ilam (opposite the Health Centre).
- 5.9. In 2013, Montana ELC had a daily role of 30 children enrolled. 30% of these children are the children of students, and the remaining number are children

of University Staff or from the community. A discount of \$.90c per hour for under 3s and \$.60c per hour for over 3s is extended to UC students.

- 5.10. In 2013, Ilam ELC had a daily role of 88 children enrolled. 56% of these children are the children of current students, and the remaining number are children of ex-students and from the community. A discount of \$.90c per hour is extended to UC students.

Forestry Block

- 5.11. After significant due diligence both as to the current market and the liabilities that the UCSA could have faced regarding the forestry block, the decision was made by the Executive to accept the offer of purchase, from Methven Mountain Bike Club for \$450,000.
- 5.12. Given the lack of use, cost of maintenance and state of disrepair of the land (having accrued over the past number of years), the Executive was advised by both the Advisory Board and the Chief Executive that this was the most practical option. The Executive was comfortable with this recommendation and the purchase was completed on the 25 July 2013.

6. UCSA Building

- 6.1. The lack of significant inroads to the issue of the UCSA Building is, without a doubt, the biggest regret of the 2013 UCSA Executive. Extensive effort and commitment was put in to meetings, planning, and discussions; without noteworthy progress.
- 6.2. While we are conscious that the UCSA Building is a part of the "UC Campus puzzle" that requires millions of dollars of investment over the next ten to twenty years, this has been a source of deep frustration for the Executive. Progress has been made over the year in regards to an understanding of what space we previously had available for students, what we currently are operating on, and what we might be able to utilize in the future. All of this work, along with compiled knowledge and information, has been passed through for the 2014 Executive.
- 6.3. In addition to that, we have tasked the UCSA Chief Executive with this being one of his key tasks for the short-term future of the UCSA. While we appreciate that there isn't a "quick-fix", having an individual who will be remaining with the UCSA (longer than the Executive's appointed year) is an important step.
- 6.4. In addition to this, we have recently been advised that testing will be carried out this month (December), so that will be a matter for update in 2014.

7. Chief Executive

- 7.1. Another piece of work for the 2013 Executive was the appointment of a new Chief Executive (CE). The CE of the UCSA is an integrally important role; not only does s/he provide the continuity from Executive to Executive, but it is also his/her job to manage the UCSA Staff. With the change in food and beverage, this now numbers over 100 individuals employed by the Association.
- 7.2. We recruited through EQI Recruitment, and ran an extensive application / interview process. Members of the Executive interviewed three prospective candidates, and appointed Dave Hawkey as the successful individual.
- 7.3. Dave came to the UCSA with a significant amount of experience; in addition to setting up the Antarctic Centre, being Chair of Christchurch Canterbury Tourism and having been seconded to CERA, he has also worked at Lincoln University with student services before. He is strongly committed to Canterbury, to the University, and to the student experience – and the 2013 Executive were very pleased to welcome him to the role. Best of luck Dave!

8. Moving forward

- 8.1. It has been a phenomenal year for the UCSA, with a lot of hard work undertaken and results achieved. I wrote in my 2012 AGM Report that we had spent that year trying to bring everything we do within the student-driven ethos. We worked on that in 2012, and I think that in 2013, we got even closer to that goal. As UC continues to strengthen and grow, it is more important than ever that the UCSA develops and enhances the student experience over future years – and I'm confident that we've laid some good groundwork for that.
- 8.2. Thanks must go the UCSA Executive of 2013, who were an incredibly dedicated, enthusiastic and committed team of governors. Their questioning on behalf of, advice in respect of and representation of UC students has been unwavering throughout the year. I think that it's fair to say that, thanks to their commitment, the UCSA is equipped better for the future than when they arrived.
- 8.3. In particular, I'd like to thank Andrew (Vice-President) and Tom (Finance Officer) for their stellar effort throughout the year. The energy, coffee supplies and steadfast leadership that they provided was pretty damn exceptional. Thanks guys.
- 8.4. I would also like to thank all of the staff who work for the UCSA. Sometimes students are surprised at how many people we have working for the Association; but, after a full-on and challenging year, it has never been clearer that they all come to work for exactly the right reasons – to make students' lives a bit better, in their respective ways. Thank you!
- 8.5. And, finally, I'd like to wish the 2014 UCSA Executive and the team the very best of luck. To serve on the Executive is an absolute privilege – and when I surveyed the 2013 members, every single one of them commented on how the role had been harder, more challenging, more work and – ultimately – more rewarding than they initially expected. I have no doubt that Sarah will do an outstanding job in 2014, and I look forward to seeing great successes from the UCSA across the course of 2014 and beyond!

Thank you, for all of the ongoing support. It's been a pretty incredible two years!



Erin Jackson
UCSA President 2013