

Equity and Wellbeing Advisory Group (EWAG) Charter

Category: Governance
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Approved By: Executive Committee
Contact Person: The President

Introduction

The purpose of this charter is to clarify the role and responsibilities of the UCSA Equity and Wellbeing Advisory Group (EWAG). The UCSA EWAG will help to ensure all students have a voice within the UCSA, will create a sense of belonging on campus for all student communities and specifically to further develop diversity and inclusivity in the UCSA's decision making.

Policy Statement

The UCSA EWAG is responsible for providing student feedback to the Executive Committee and Chief Executive regarding students' needs and any issues surrounding equity and diversity within the student population. The UCSA EWAG's aim is ensure that the UCSA hears all student voices and initiates actions and programs to create a stronger sense of belonging for all students on campus.

Procedures

Membership

The UCSA EWAG Committee will usually consist of 7-14 members but no less than 7, excluding the permanent seats allocated by the Vice President and Equity and Wellbeing Officer.

The UCSA EWAG Committee should comprise of members:

- a) with an appropriate range of skills and experience to best represent student voices; and
- b) who identify with or have an interest and proper understanding of, and competence to deal with the current and emerging concerns of various students on campus.

Members include:

UCSA President, Vice President or Finance Officer
UCSA Equity and Wellbeing Officer
Te Akatoki President or Delegate
Pasifika Community
Students with disabilities
Mature students

Women's rights
LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer, Intersex, Asexual +)
International fee paying students
Representatives from the general student body

Each member of the UCSA EWAG is able to suggest agenda items.

Nomination

Applications will be sought from a variety of student groups across the campus and will be open to the full UC student population. Applications will be advertised on UCSA media.

Selection

The selection panel will consist of the UCSA Executive President, the UCSA Vice President, the UCSA Chief Executive, and the UCSA Equity and Wellbeing Officer. If necessary, interviews will be carried out and successful candidates will be announced within one month of applications closing.

Rotation

Each member of the Committee must be a student of the University of Canterbury at all times and is appointed for one academic year term; at the end of which they are eligible to apply for reappointment.

Responsibilities

The UCSA EWAG is responsible for providing advice and making recommendations on issues of culture, diversity and inclusiveness to the Executive Committee.

Additionally, EWAG will provide advice to the student representatives on the UC Central Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee (CEDAC) to enable them to articulate student opinion on diversity and equity issues involving UC.

The UCSA EWAG may also function as a reference group on UCSA materials, policies, and events as well as for CEDAC when looking for student perspective.

Chairperson

The position of Chairperson of the UCSA EWAG Committee will be held by the Vice President of the UCSA Executive and/or the UCSA Equity and Wellbeing Officer. The chair of EWAG will provide a verbal update at the next Executive meeting.

Secretarial Support

Meetings will be minuted by the Personal Assistant of the UCSA President and will be circulated among the Executive Committee.

Meeting Regularity

The UCSA EWAG will meet twice a term. Up to ten meetings will be held throughout the year during term time, with an expectation of a meeting duration of up two hours. The committee shall have its first meeting by the end of term 1.

Attendance

Any student can attend a EWAG meeting and may bring an item to the agenda by giving one week's notice in writing to the co-chairs. The student will sit in attendance only and may have speaking rights.

As a member of this committee, the opportunity may arise to sit on CEDAC if chosen by the UCSA representative on CEDAC.

The programme will include the above functions but is not limited to.