

## Student Senate Overview 2019

The exceptional work of the 2019 Senate was recently celebrated at morning teas for incoming and outgoing representatives, attended by the Vice-Chancellor and DVC SSS. As well as at the FedAwards night on Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>, with our twenty outgoing representatives awarded for their significant contribution to improving the student experience.

In 2019 Senate representatives crafted ten detailed and thoughtful proposals for consideration by the University. This included proposing:

- An international student buddy system, currently in pilot phase in Berwick.
- Further expansion of Work Integrated Learning program, which is being undertaken.
- Several changes to Assessment Procedure Policy, of which some were adopted.
- The completion and release the Student Code of Conduct and alignment of TAFE & VET Assessment Policy timeframes with Higher Education.
- A system of automatic SMS alerts to inform students of classes cancelled at short notice, under consideration by ITS.
- Facilities upgrades on Camp St, including provision of showers and additional lockers, under consideration by Facilities Services.
- An online appeals application process, which will occur in 2020 as part of a wider upgrade of complaint and feedback procedures.

Additionally 2019 Student Senate representatives have:

- Run student forums on all campuses gathering crucial feedback on University operations and services which has then been fed back into high-level University decision making processes.
- Contributed to the planning for an upgrade of Berwick and Mt Helen student lounges.
- Run an arts market on SMB campus during Open Day showcasing student work and providing opportunity for art and design students to develop essential marketing and sales skills.
- Successfully sought additional support staff for TAFE students.
- Prompted a review of process around video file format provided online to improve compatibility across all devices.
- Created a new Senate representative role for Brisbane campus, open for election in March.
- Ratified a transition to two-year terms to improve organisational memory and experience.

In September, seventeen new student representatives were elected for the 2020 – 2021 Student Senate. An additional round of elections will be held in March 2020 to fill the remaining vacancies. We congratulate these students and are excited to see what their time in the Senate will bring.

*I am very thankful for the opportunity to fulfil this position throughout the year and it has provided a great learning experience and has definitely boosted my confidence and interpersonal skills particularly through approaching students on campus.*

Christian Vasquez, 2019 Berwick Campus Student Senate Representative:

*The diversity of the Senate's work is a testament to the ability of the 2019 representatives, their innovative ideas, their abilities as advocates of the wider student body, their hard-work, and their passion. I am very fortunate to work with such talented students and to have the privilege of seeing them grow in their abilities and confidence in their roles; valuable experiences I am sure they will carry into their futures.*

Tom Hodgson, Student Senate Executive Officer