

# President's Annual Report 2019

Sam Brosnahan

## 1. Introduction

2019 was a landmark year for the UCSA. In a year that we marked our 125th anniversary as an association, we also celebrated the opening of our long-awaited Students' Association building, Haere-roa. It was also a year marked by changes, challenges and opportunities, as the post-earthquake rebuilding era under former Vice Chancellor Dr. Rod Carr came to an end and a new era under new VC Cheryl de la Rey began. The year was also marked by a number of significant events that all affected our university community in different ways.



Perhaps one of the most significant events that 2019 will be remembered for was the grief and shock of the March 15th terror attacks on our local community. In amongst the sadness and confusion however, we observed the most beautiful expression of aroha and support for our Muslim whānau at UC. Through one of the most distressing moments of our time, it also showed us that the whanau-spirit of our community was alive and well.

## 2. Governance & Representation

### Executive

The Executive (made up of 12-elected students and one ex-officio member [the Te Akatoki Representative]) make up the governing body of the Association and is the equivalent of a Board of Directors. The Executive are also the elected student representatives at UC. The Executive sit on over 40 boards and committees across the University. They are the voice of UC students at UC, as well at regional and national levels. The President, as the official student representative is also a member of UC Council, the university's governing body.





The Executive meet formally at least three times per term, as well as hold workshops when required on specific issues that require attention. Through their external portfolios, the Executive have regular meetings depending on the university calendar (some once a month, twice, others more regularly). The Executive are also present at different UCSA events throughout the year in order for students to directly interact with their elected representatives.

### **Academic Coordinator**

This year the UCSA created a new staff role to support the student Executive with their academic representation. The role of the Academic Coordinator, which has been excellently filled by Sarah Davidson and has enhanced the student voice on a variety of academic committees. Through the Academic Coordinator's support, in 2019, we have been able to submit on:

- 35 new course proposals,
- 12 course/programme reviews,
- 16 new UC proposals, and
- 10 policy reviews on UC students' behalf.

Since the beginning of the year, Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey had gathered input from the UC Community to feed into her UC-wide strategy designed to guide UC into the next 5-10 years. Direct consultation with students took place with the Vice-Chancellor meeting with the UCSA Executive and our student advisory groups. Wider, more qualitative data was obtained via an all-student survey where over 1000 students took part where a recommended focus on student success and wellbeing was a prominent feature.

### **Finance & Engagement Officer**

This year saw the student body (at the Half AGM) vote to alter the position of the Finance Officer to the Finance & Engagement Officer. Over time, the Finance Officer's position had shifted from a primarily finance-related role to a more hybrid position combining external engagement and leadership of the executive. 2020 will see the first year of the new position's implementation which will focus on engagement with stakeholders both internally and externally.

### **Elections**

This year's election saw the UCSA retain its high voter turnout with **38.5%** of students voting. Although this is still the highest voter turnout rate of any students' association in Australasia, this year's rate (**38.5%**) did see a decline in



turnout down from **41.4%** in 2018 and **45.2%** in 2017 (UCSA's highest recorded turnout), despite strong efforts from UCSA staff and executive members to drive voter turnout. While it's hard to pinpoint what exactly is contributing to these decreases, it's clear further innovative initiatives are needed to increase this in 2020 and in the future.

## Resignations

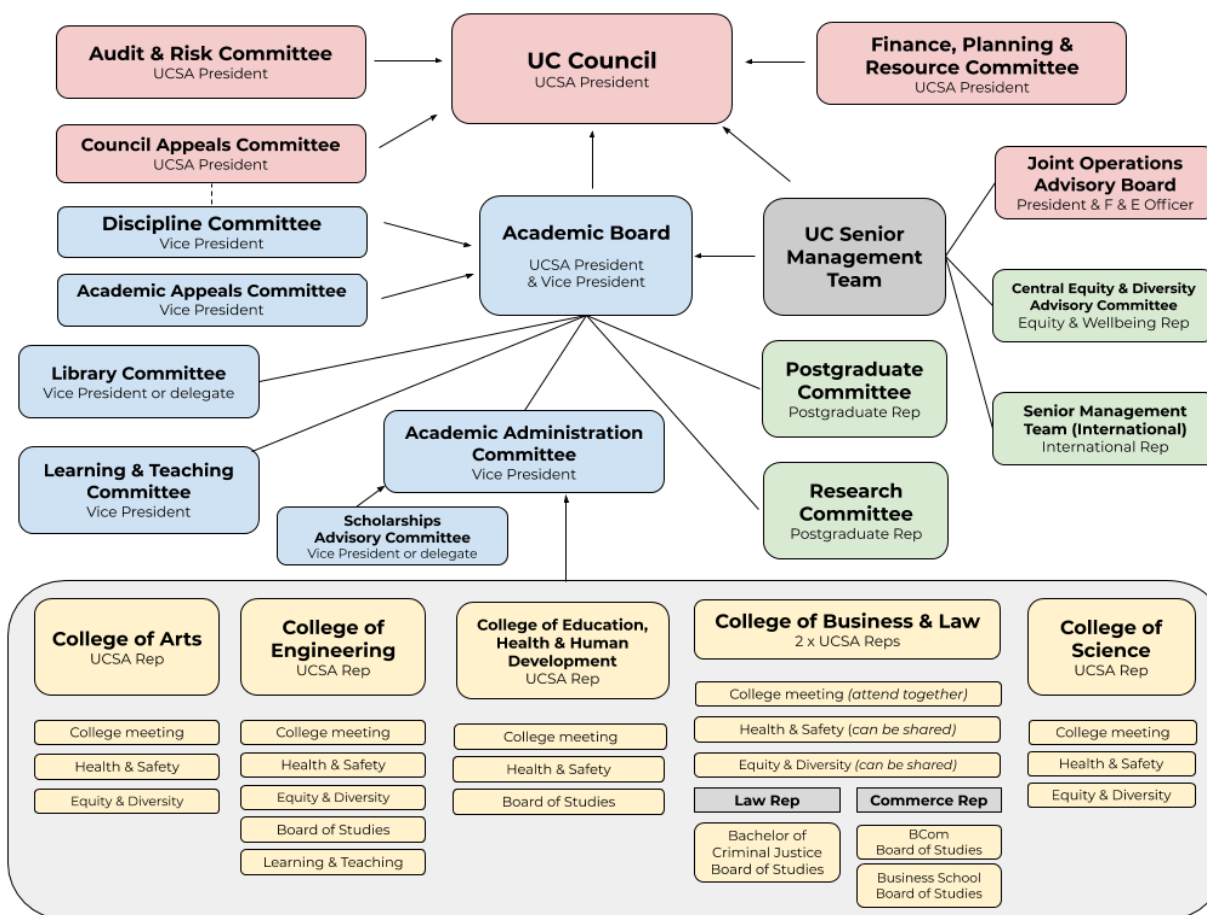
This year the Executive received two resignations, one from College of Arts Representative Raymond Ellwood in April due to commitment challenges and another from College of Science Representative Christal Leung in August, who took up a new study opportunity at another tertiary institution. Both positions were capably filled by Vice President Tori McNoe and Finance & Engagement Officer Millie Morgan, with assistance from Academic Coordinator Sarah Davidson.

## 2019 Executive Committee

Sam Brosnahan	President
Tori McNoe	Vice President
Millie Morgan	Finance Officer
Katie Mills	Postgraduate Rep
Jack Whittam	Equity & Wellbeing Rep
Kevin Fernando	International Rep
Laken Wairau	Te Akatoki Rep
Elise Wilson	College of Business & Law (Law Rep)
Elric Clarke-Beatson	College of Business & Law (Commerce Rep)
Olly Ng	College of Engineering
Charlotte Merrall	College of Education, Health & Human Development
Raymond Ellwood <i>(resigned April)</i>	College of Arts
Christal Leung <i>(resigned August)</i>	College of Science



In 2019, the Executive represented students on over 40 committees, faculty and representative forums.



## Chief Executive

Dave Hawkey joined the UCSA as the Chief Executive in 2013 and is responsible for achieving the objectives of the Association through leadership and management of its activities and affairs.

Dave is responsible for all day-to-day management decisions within the UCSA as well as being the direct link between the governance board (student executive) and the management (staff) of the UCSA. The Chief Executive acts as the employer of all UCSA staff, and is employed by and reports to the Chief Executive Employment Sub Committee. The Chief Executive provides reports to the Advisory Board and Executive Committee on a monthly basis.



## Advisory Board

UCSA has an Advisory Board that advises the Executive and Chief Executive on UCSA activities and operations, particularly on strategic governance and commercial decisions. The Board comprises of up to six (6) external professionals, as well as the President, Vice President and Finance & Engagement Officer. The Board meets once a month and the President chairs the meetings, while the Chief Executive sits in attendance.

The end of 2019 marked the end of Jo Milne’s tenure on the UCSA Advisory Board, having served since 2010. Jo has contributed immensely over her time, having provided critical advice during a period of key strategic decision-making following the 2011 earthquakes involving insurance claims, demolition and the construction of Haere-roa.

At the conclusion of 2019, Murray Harrington was appointed to the Advisory Board beginning in 2020, filling the position vacated by Jo. Murray had been a Partner at PwC, having worked at the company for over a decade. Now turning his focus to a number of professional directorships, Murray brings great experience in the areas of risk and financial management. He’s also had experience in working with UC in the post-earthquake era, through his former role at PwC and knows our university environment well.

The Advisory Board (external) members are:

Name	Year appointed
Nigel Watson	2006
Fiona James	2018
Jo De Joux	2018
Anna Galvan	2018
Murray Harrington	2020

## Student Advisory Groups

UCSA runs three advisory groups - which provide valuable feedback on UC and UCSA issues and activities. The International, Postgraduate and Equity & Wellbeing advisory groups are chaired by the respective executive member of the same position and meet twice termly. They continue to be an effective mechanism for obtaining a diverse range of student feedback.



## **Class Reps System**

Class Reps are student representatives who act as liaisons between classes and lecturers. Each class should have its own elected or volunteer class rep, whose task is to be the first point of contact for students in order to help resolve class issues, and thereby help to avoid challenges at a later stage.

In 2019, UCSA began holding workshops between class representatives within each College and the corresponding UCSA Executive College Rep, after a trial was launched in 2018. Although attendance of these workshops has been varied between the different colleges, this has provided the UCSA with highly valuable feedback that has been able to be channeled back to UC. The Academic Coordinator has played an integral role in helping to administer these workshops.

## **Our Bicultural Journey**

2019 saw the continued commitment of the UCSA towards upholding the values of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi). In 2019, UCSA made strides in this area through a closer relationship with Te Akatoki Māori Students' Association. There was noticeably greater interaction between the Te Akatoki and UCSA execs, which in September, culminated in UCSA and Te Akatoki collaborating for events to celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week). This is in addition to the ongoing work through promoting the Week through selected UCSA Food & Beverage outlets.

The UCSA Executive continues to participate in Ākonga Tū Ākonga Ora bicultural competency courses on an annual basis and as of 2019, this course is planned to be taken up by our largest student clubs.

## **Our Environmental Sustainability Journey**

In 2019, the effects of human activity on the natural environment were highlighted globally, with heightened social media attention as well as protests taking place throughout the world demanding climate action from leaders. In September 2019, UCSA supported and participated in the March for Climate which was hosted at Haere-roa. Hundreds of UC students took part in the march to the Christchurch CBD and it was clear that climate change was an issue that gained increased awareness on campus.

The opening of Haere-roa signalled a milestone achievement in this area, marking the first building on campus to be completely heated through ground-source heating (renewable energy) compared to the rest of campus, which is yet to transition from coal heating to renewable energy. In addition,

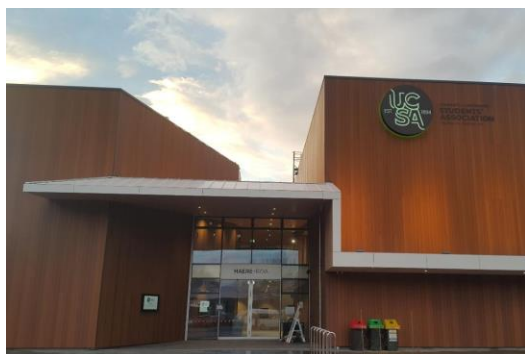


the building's carpet is made from recycled fishing nets and the exterior cladding consists of composite recycled plastic and wood. UCSA continues to support and advocate for the remainder of UC buildings to transition away from coal-heating to more renewable solutions.

On the Food & Beverage front, UCSA has also transitioned away from plastic straws and introduced financial incentives to BYO cup and dishes. By 2021, UCSA will aim to have completely transitioned from disposable coffee cups.

### 3. Haere-roa

#### Opening



The 2011 earthquakes caused substantial damage to the existing UCSA Building, which for many students was their on-campus home since it opened in 1967 when the University relocated from the CBD to the Ilam campus. In 2016, the decision was made to demolish the badly-damaged building and build a new fit-for-purpose replacement, which was constructed between July 2017 and July 2019.

The new building's name, Haere-roa, was gifted by mana whenua, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, and translates to the longest stream or the long wanderer. It recognises the UCSA as a space that hosts and welcomes people. For many UC students, the UCSA will be an important part of their journey. It's a place where they will receive support, access resources, learn new things and meet new people, preparing them for the next part of their journey.

The building opened for use in July 2019 with Re-Orientation marking the first run of major events in the complex. BBQs, Market Days and Winter Wellness took place in the amphitheatre and Tī Kōuka Function Room. Meanwhile, sold-out gigs were held in the newly-built Ngaio Marsh Theatre, with the likes of Mitch James, Sachi and Skegss each hosting 1000 attendees per gig.



The official opening of Haere-roa took place on 2 Aug 2019 and it was a great celebration of the building and the people that had contributed to it. Mayor Lianne Dalziel, Chancellor Sue McCormack and Fundraising



Committee Chair and former UCSA President David Caygill addressed the crowd. Also, in a nod to the building's legacy, the ribbon was cut by all Presidents (or their delegates) from the 2011 earthquakes until the present.

Since the building's opening in July, UCSA hosted over 430 unique events in the building throughout that time. The majority of these have been student club meetings, functions and events, while other bookings have included UC events, community functions as well as private bookings such as 21sts and industry functions.

## **Challenges in 2019**

One of the most immediate issues users experienced with Haere-roa were long queues for toilets at capacity events in the Ngaio Marsh Theatre including Re-Ori events and the weekly MONO Nights. During Haere-roa's design phase back in 2015, the decision was made by the Executive at the time to install gender-neutrals in the building, underscoring the UCSA's efforts to promote a more inclusive campus for all students. This arrangement is sufficient 90% of the time, however urinals will be installed in the theatre toilets to increase capacity for large events which is hoped to alleviate the issue moving forward.

Feedback from both online comments and student surveys suggested that UCSA had work to do in order to make the space look and feel more student friendly, with a number of students stating the building felt 'corporate' and 'sterile'. As a result, there are a number of initiatives to attempt to bring more of a student feel to the building in 2020.

## **4. 2019 In Review**

### **Changing UC Leadership**

In 2019, UC welcomed new Vice Chancellor Prof. Cheryl de la Rey, the former VC of the University of Pretoria. Cheryl took over from former VC Dr. Rod Carr. Under Cheryl's leadership in 2019, UC transitioned out of its now-complete post-earthquake capital construction programme and into an era aspiring to boost its research and teaching capabilities and engagement with the city. Much of Cheryl's focus in 2019 was forming the UC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, mentioned on page 2 of this report.

In 2019, UC also welcomed new Chancellor Sue McCormack to the role, who took over from previous Chancellor Dr John Wood. Sue is a strong supporter of the UCSA and has reaffirmed the UCSA's value to the UC community at various UC Council forums,



in particular, in relation to the emerging financial position concerning Haere-roa (detailed under section 7).

### **March 15 Terror Attacks**



Although fortunate to not have any staff or students killed in the March 15 mosque attacks, the UC community was still deeply affected by the tragic events that took place. The UCSA response in the aftermath of the attack involved the Advocacy and Welfare team assisting the UC Student Support team over the weekend, while UCSA worked with a number of its clubs in the immediate aftermath. With

input from the Muslim community, the Student Volunteer Army (SVA) promptly mobilised the UC van fleet to offer transport services for students that needed transport to and from campus, to the airport, city or to funerals and burials. This service that they ran for a whole week following the attack was widely utilised.

Over the immediate weekend, the UC and UCSA events teams together began organising a large on-campus vigil for the Monday directly following the attacks. It was incredible seeing between 5000-6000 of the UC community turning out for the event named, Band Together, which was the largest single on-campus gathering of our community in living memory. One of our clubs that UCSA has to offer its immense thanks to is our Muslim Students' Association, who continued to extend support and care to their student community in the months following the attacks.



### **CANTA Editorial Independence**

In 2019, a groundswell of student support was garnered pushing for CANTA to become editorially independent. After 2000 people signed an online petition as well as online polling indicating this was what students wanted, the Executive moved a motion to put in place the necessary measures in order to achieve this. Subsequent steps that were taken included:

- That the UCSA (CANTA Magazine) become a member of the New Zealand Media Council (NZMC) (\$100 per annum).
- The development of a CANTA Policy (which will be signed off in early 2020).
- That as part of the CANTA Policy a clear comprehensive editorial policy for CANTA is developed which makes specific reference to the NZMC Statement of Principles, the Journalistic Code of Ethics, and NZME's Editorial Code of Ethics and any other relevant standards or Codes that are relevant.

## 5. Services

### Advocacy & Welfare

The Advocacy & Welfare team continues to be a critical and valuable resource to students. The Subsidized Dental Scheme is one of the most widely used services the UCSA provides with 2853 appointments seen in 2019. Two new services were developed during the year – an Optometry Service in conjunction with Spec Savers and a new Hardship Medical Prescription Policy were implemented.

#### Measures

<b>Advocacy &amp; Welfare</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Targets</b>	<b>2019 Actuals</b>
General Intake	116	137	104
Advocacy	213	122	248
Foodbank granted	56	92	55
Food Support	11	20	22
Hardship Grant Inquiries	34	30	32
Hardship Grant Applications	14	-	17
Mickle Fund Inquiries	22	27	25
Mickle Fund Applications	10	-	11
Subsidised Dental	2724	2550	2853
Class Reps	515		524
Course/Programmes with a Class Rep	440		441

<b>Satisfaction Levels</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual 2019</b>	<b>Actual 2018</b>
Dental	80% are satisfied or very satisfied	98%	96%
Advocacy & Welfare	80% of students feel they were satisfied or very satisfied	90%	100%
Class Reps	80% of class reps were satisfied or very satisfied with the training	91%	97%



## Events & Clubs

The UCSA continues to provide a wide range of events throughout the year, aimed at enhancing the student experience. In 2019 a key focus was on broadening our offerings with the aim to have a more diverse range of events to be more inclusive.

### Events

Orientation 2019			
Event	Ticketed	Estimated	Actual Attendees
Post Grad Welcome	No	100	200
International Lunch	No	300	400
Kia Ora Bro	No	200	300
Toga Party	Yes	1000	1000
UC Ori Day	No	3000+	3000+
Summer Stein	Yes	2000	1400
Lunch on the Lawn	No	1250	1250+
Musical Bingo (R17)	Yes	250	100
Clubs Day	No	4000	4000+
Outdoor Movie Night	No	250	300
Mardi Gras	Yes	3000	3000
Summer Starter Expo	No	2000	2000+
Electric Avenue	Yes	1000	1000



UCSA Re-ori 2019			
Event	Ticketed	Estimated	Actual Attendees
UC Open Day	No	3000	3000+
Baynk	Yes	700	450
Lunch on the Lawn	No	1000	1000
Clubs Day	No	2000	2000+
Winter Market	No	1500	1500+
Sachi	Yes	1000	1000
Skegss	Yes	1000	1000
Mitch James	Yes	1000	1000
The Big Doof	Yes	1000	1150
Winter Wellness Expo	No	1500	1500
Other Events			
Event	Ticketed	Estimated	Actual Attendees
Band Together	No	???	4000
Grad Ball	Yes	350	220
ANZAC Day	No	500	200 (Due to March 15 <sup>th</sup> )
Autumn Arrival	No	1000	2000
The Foundry Finale	Yes	1000	1000
Staff of the Year	Yes	100	120
Blues	Yes	120	170
Supreme Clubs	Yes	300	300
Coffee Party	No	1500	2,000 +
Tea Party	Yes	3,500	3,750
Exam Breakfasts	No	4000	4,500 Serves



Measurables

Student Engagements	2019 Target	Result
Provide a range of events that cater or both majority and minority groups on campus.	Record at least 40 events and activities with at least 150 student participants	Orientation – x13 events Band Together Re-ori – x10 events Mono Nights – x25 events Grad Ball Anzac Day Supreme Clubs Coffee Party Tea Party Exam Breakfasts
	Record at least 70% attendance capacity across all events.	Achieved
	Establish a unit cost measure for total UCSA events / participating students.	We appear to have missed this...
	Indicate that at least 80% of students identify that UCSA events and activities as “Essential” or “Nice to have” on the annual Student Satisfaction Survey.	
Events and Activities do not have a negative impact on the local community.	A set of policies and procedures are established in consultation with key agencies. All policies are reviewed following each event and amended where required.	Tri Agencies meetings took place before and after key events; Orientation, Winterlude and Tea Party.
Clubs provide an opportunity for students to meet like-minded people, and thus feel a sense of belonging	Record at least 145 clubs	Total of 162 affiliated clubs for 2019
A range of club activities and events that lead to	300 or more club lead events and activities	259 club events held in Haere Roa 1500 Meeting Type Room Bookings



a vibrant student body		1000 Training / Rehearsal Bookings 300 Seminar Style Bookings 50 Performance Bookings
	40 club activities aimed at international students	200 rooms booked by international clubs 8 cultural events in Haere Roa
	200 Club events held on campus	259 in Haere Roa 2850 rooms booked on campus for clubs (these do include club meetings)
	Minimum of 30 events booked per space within Haere Roa utilised by clubs	4 events Amphitheatre 42 events Bentley's bar 38 Ngaio Marsh theatre 31 Ti Kouka 36 Room of Requirement
	A variation in types of events held in Haere Roa	4 Awards ceremony 7 Ball 77 General event/social evening etc. 90 Meeting 13 Quiz night 24 Rehearsals 13 Theatre event 23 Presentation/seminar



## Media & Communications

The Media and Communications team continues to provide relevant content and entertainment for students. Social media platforms continue to be the focus of our communication to students.

	Target	Actual 2018	2019
Key communication channels are well utilised to increase potential reach.	Record at least 25,000 Facebook likes across all pages.	41,622	47,179  (Total number across six Facebook pages: UCSA, The Foundry, MONO, Haere-roa, Shilling Club, and OnCampus)
	Record at least 200,000 web hits on ucsa.org.nz	317,403 views	416,420 page views
	Indicate that at least 80% of students identify that UCSA media and communication services as "Essential" or "Nice to have" on the annual Student Satisfaction Survey.	Not measured	Not measured



## 6. Commercial activity

### **Food & Beverage**

Food and Beverage continues to provide convenient and competitively priced food across campus. The new Foundry Bar in Haere-roa has proven to be popular both during the day and in the evenings. Despite initial teething problems, MONO has continued to be successful and well attended on a Thursday night.

Food and Beverage produced a surplus of \$488,745 which includes income from external catering, gigs and events.

### **Early Learning Centres**

The UCSA owns and operates two Early Learning Centres (ELCs) – Montana ELC which is located on the corner of Montana Ave and Ilam Road, and Ilam ELC which is located on Dovedale campus. Both are kept busy and continue to provide a great service for UC students, University staff and our community.

### **University Bookshop (UBS)**

The UCSA is a 50% shareholder in the University Book Shop. Dave Hawkey, the UCSA Chief Executive sits on the UBS Board and the UCSA plays an active role in driving sales and ensuring it is a student oriented store. For the year ending September 2019, UBS made a net surplus of \$18,196.70. The Chief Executive continues to work with other Board members to drive new ideas for ensuring UBS serves students' needs but also remains profitable.





## 7. Financial update

The UCSA has reported a surplus of \$624,095 for the 2019 financial year. This figure includes interest income from the funds UC are holding and investing on our behalf as a result of our insurance claim. Revenue for the year was \$9,997,032 while operating expenses were \$10,007,136. Underlying operating surplus was (\$10,104) including depreciation of \$719,717.

### Haere-roa Financial Challenges

The most critical challenge facing UCSA is the financial sustainability of the building's operations as well as servicing the Haere-roa building loan. Like the former UCSA Building, Haere-roa is majority-owned by the UCSA, where in the current arrangement, UC owns 49%, while UCSA retains a 51% majority share. UCSA owns 100% of the fitout, while UC retains ownership of the land on which Haere-roa is situated. As a result of the University-wide earthquake insurance settlement, the former UCSA building received \$9.6m, of which UCSA was allocated 65% or \$6.254m of this (as per the UCSA's share of the former UCSA building). As of Nov 2019, this had grown to \$8.2m, compounded at 5.5% annually. In 2017, UCSA received a separate insurance payout of around \$3m, covering the UCSA-owned assets that were damaged.

In 2016, a fundraising campaign was initiated in partnership with the UC Foundation to raise the additional \$5m that was needed to bridge the funding gap between total UCSA insurance proceeds and what it needed to pay in order to retain majority ownership of the new building. Over the last 3 years, hundreds of generous individuals donors as well as a number of companies have cumulatively gifted \$2.831m to the UCSA's share of Haere-roa. However, greater-than-expected fundraising challenges in an already saturated philanthropic post-earthquake Christchurch environment meant the fundraising campaign ended up over \$2m short of its original \$5m goal. Additionally, around \$1.4m of the total raised to date are pledges meaning the benefit of these funds for UCSA can only be realised at an unknown future date.

Further to this, while the original business case of Haere-roa had construction costs estimated at \$26.37m, at the time of Haere-roa's practical completion in Dec 2019, this cost had ballooned to \$32.39m, a 29% increase. While UCSA has had partial governance oversight throughout the construction process and were aware of incremental cost increases as they arose throughout that time, the project was ultimately a UC-managed project. UC have explained to UCSA that the main factors affecting this were performance issues around the design coordination of the building being greater than expected. The culmination of these challenges have left UCSA with



a total loan of \$6.772m to pay back to UC, which translates to a \$315,238 annual loan repayment, which assumes a borrowing rate of the Official Cash rate + 3%.

It is important to note that while the building has been built primarily for the use of students and clubs (which is free of charge for them to use), the UCSA has been intentional in making the most of the commercial opportunities Haere-roa presents to the wider community, particularly when the majority of students are off campus. While making the most of these commercial opportunities, the annual loan repayment UCSA is required to service will be for a loan length of 50 years. This commitment is unsustainable moving into the future, however there are a number of potential solutions that may aid in easing the financial burden on the UCSA's future. These could range from readdressing the terms of the loan agreement to exploring the potential for a portion of Students Services Levy funding to be allocated to Haere-roa. This will need to be further explored in 2020.