

Memorandum | Pukapuka



To:	Ki:	UCSA Members
From:	Nā:	UCSA Executive
Date:	Rā:	July 2021
Subject:	Kaupapa:	Proposal for UCSA to join the NZISA
Purpose:	Aronga:	For discussion/voting

This memo sets out the background to, and proposal for, the UCSA joining the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA).

Background

In 2020, the International Student Representative Derrick Edward, along with the (then) President Tori McNoe, Vice-President Katie Mills and Academic Coordinator Sarah Davidson, met with the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA), to be presented with information around the benefits of an NZISA membership for the UCSA.

This was followed by a formal proposal from the NZISA which included their organisational structure, a list of their achievements for the past four years, an outline of the expectations and a draft Memorandum of Understanding.

In 2021, the International Student Representative Matt Wong-Kam has continued this work and this has been an agenda item at several UCSA Executive meetings. With the cooperation of the 2021 NZISA President Afiqah Ramizi, Chief Executive Julia Innocente-Jones, President Kim Fowler, the rest of the UCSA Executive and the UCSA lawyers Duncan Cotterill, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been finalised and agreed upon.

On 19 July 2021, the UCSA Executive formally voted in favour of the motion to propose membership of NZISA to the student body.

Context

The NZISA is the primary organisation that represents international students in tertiary education at a national level. This includes students from universities, institutes of technology, polytechnics and private training establishments. Currently, all other New Zealand universities are represented on the NZISA, making UC the only university not to be a member. The Representative Council comprises

representatives from the seven universities along with three Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs).

The key ways the NZISA manifests this representation is through research, campaigns and lobbying, and support to institution-based students' associations.

Benefits

Full NZISA membership would give the UCSA the following benefits:

- One vote in the NZISA Representative Council
- Advocacy and representation at a national level and with government agencies
- Consultation regarding regional issues
- The formalisation of links between the UCSA International representative and other International student representatives
- Subsidised tickets to NZISA's National Conference
- Involvement in national campaigns.

Requirements of membership

As membership requires a united front, upholding and supporting decisions reached by the NZISA Executive and by a majority of the NZISA Representative Council on national policy decisions, there is a risk that the UCSA might find itself supporting something it does not agree with. However, this is a low risk, and as the UCSA International Representative will have a seat on this Council there is the ability to influence decisions. Moreover, the UCSA will be able to maintain its own position on regional policy issues.

The UCSA International Representative (or delegated UCSA Executive member if the representative is unavailable) needs to be present at all mandatory meetings of the NZISA Representative Council. These meetings are held at a minimum of 3 times per year, but can be attended by Zoom, with 1-2 opportunities of in-person if achievable.

A report has to be submitted to the NZISA Secretary within two weeks of the conclusion of both Semesters One and Two with content agreed upon between the UCSA International Representative and the NZISA Secretary. This report includes activities, events, statistical and survey data gathered, and an outline of any issues arising relating to international students that does not breach any privacy obligations.

There is also the imperative to inform the NZISA of any changes within the UCSA Executive which is an additional reporting responsibility.

MOU costs and other details

The cost associated with NZISA annual membership is: 0.45 cents per full cost international students. This is based on the number of international students that attended UC in the previous year and would be supplied by UC annually. Therefore, for the UCSA, based on 2020 international student EFTs of 1688, the fee would be \$759.60.

The fee is to be paid following the signing of the MoU and this renews automatically until terminated by either party. The annual membership fee is payable the month following renewal.

Twelve months written notice to the other party is required to terminate the MoU.

International Representative comments

I believe NZISA membership would be a valuable investment given the continuing growth in the UCSA International Representative's role, the wider UC focus on Internationalisation, and the challenges faced both locally and nationally by international students particularly in light of the pandemic and border controls. I see this as timely given the establishment in 2020 of the International Student Experience Working group, and its focus on not only issues impacting international students at UC, sharing ideas and initiatives from across the university and developing pan-university initiatives, but also a wider priority of identifying best practices from other institutions across NZ.