

Equity President Report

Mark Warrington

Submitted 1 September 2024 for activities in the month of August 2024

Item	Measure	Target	Actual
TUSA Meetings	Attendance	N/A	20
UTAS Meetings	Attendance	N/A	4
UTAS Committees	Attendance	2	4
TUSA Events/Trainings	Attendance	N/A	3
Miscellaneous Meetings	Attendance	N/A	6
Media Communications	Participation	N/A	
Conference	Attendance	N/A	

Narrative update:

Equity Committee Overview

The TUSA Equity Committee continues to serve as a vital platform for raising and addressing the diverse range of issues faced by our student body. This month, the committee has highlighted several critical concerns, including the need for safe spaces for women, support for online students experiencing a fragmented learning environment, and the ongoing challenges of accessibility across campus. Additionally, the committee raised mental health resources, supporting the cultural integration of international students, and improving the overall equity of experience for students from all backgrounds. Low engagement of the general student population with First Nations events is of concern and ways to encourage participation are to be explored. These efforts are driven by a commitment to ensure that every student feels supported, included, and empowered during their time at the university.

Equity President's Activities

Over the past month, I have been actively engaged in a range of meetings and events to further the equity agenda. I attended the TUSA Board of Management meeting, met with the Interim Disability Commissioner. I participated in events such as the TUSA SHAG Market day and continued my ongoing dialogue with the UTAS Accessibility Services Team, alongside numerous planning sessions with TUSA equity officers' Additionally, Outside of my Equity President remit I represented Disability Voices Tasmania at the Parliament House for the second reading of the Disability Inclusion (Rights) and Safeguards Bill, and appeared as a witness along with other members of Blind Citizens Australia at the Parliamentary Inquiry into discrimination and bullying in Tasmanian schools which demonstrates my commitment to advocacy both within and beyond the university.

Conclusion:

As I reflect on the past month, it is clear that being a university student has never been more challenging. From navigating the complexities of online learning to advocating for safe and inclusive spaces, the diverse student body at UTAS continues to face significant hurdles. Yet, it is through these challenges that our collective resilience and commitment to equity continue to shine. I remain dedicated to addressing these issues head-on, ensuring every student feels supported, heard, and empowered. Your voices are powerful, and your experiences matter— I'll do my part to keep pushing forward, in the pursuit of a better, more equitable university experience for all.