



Equity President Report Mark Warrington - June July 2025

Item	Measure	Target	Actual
TUSA Meetings	Attendance	N/A	2
TUSA Committees	Attendance	N/A	1
UTAS Meetings	Attendance	N/A	2
UTAS Committees	Attendance	2	2
TUSA Events/Trainings	Attendance	N/A	2
Miscellaneous Meetings	Attendance	N/A	0
Media Communications	Participation	N/A	0
Conferences	Attendance	N/A	0
UTAS	Participation	N/A	2
Events/Orientation			
Community	Participation	N/A	2
Events/Rallies			







Equity Portfolio Narrative Update (Ethnocultural Officer Transition and Broader Work)

Over the past two months, a key focus within the Equity Committee has been supporting the smooth handover between outgoing Ethnocultural Officer Bari and the newly appointed officer, Kentaro Watts. Bari concluded his time in the position at the end of June following a strong year of contribution across cultural events, food security advocacy, and student-led campaigns.

Kentaro Watts has now stepped into the role with great enthusiasm and a strong interest in crossportfolio collaboration.

We are currently recruiting for a new LGBTQIA+ Officer and have been actively scouting potential candidates during recent TUSA events and orientation activities. In the meantime, I've ensured this portfolio remains visible through presence at IDAHOBIT events and related inclusion work.

In terms of broader portfolio activity, discussions are ongoing with Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr James Brann regarding student involvement in the co-design of the next Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP). While this is a positive early step toward embedding a Students as Partners model at UTAS, there's still more work to be done to ensure genuine and consistent student co-leadership in accessibility reform.

Work on the TUSA Reconciliation Action Plan continues, with current emphasis on the commissioning process for our RAP artwork. I've been guiding the art Expression of Interest process with input from student reps and staff, and will soon be progressing to the selection stage. I also released a public statement acknowledging NAIDOC Week and, more recently, marked International Non-Binary People's Day with a short message of recognition across our channels.

It was great to attend and support TUSA's IDAHOBIT comedy events and to welcome both new and returning students during Orientation Week. These moments continue to highlight the importance of presence, community, and making equity work visible to students in diverse ways.

On a personal note, I attended the Blind Citizens Australia National Convention in Melbourne during June. This was an excellent opportunity to stay connected with national-level advocacy and ensure that insights from the broader blindness and low vision community continue to inform my work as Equity President.

I've also been progressing discussions with Care2Serve about establishing a dedicated support group for students who have caring responsibilities. This initiative is still in the early planning stages but offers a promising alternative to appointing a specific Carers Officer and would create a valuable peer support space for a cohort of students often under-recognised in traditional representation structures.





State Council Representative Report

Looking ahead to Semester 2, I'm looking forward to building on this work with renewed focus—especially in delivering on our RAP milestones, supporting our newer Equity Officers, and continuing to advocate for meaningful, student-led change across UTAS. As always, thank you to my fellow Council members and Equity committee members and support staff (hello Chloe!) for your support and collaboration.

Equity Committee breakdown of initiatives and activities as reported to the UTAS Workplace IDE UET

Priority Focus Areas

1. Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Development

Progress continues on TUSA's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan. Key updates include:

- Finalised student-led design reflections following RAP Workshop #3.
- Oversaw Expression of Interest (EOI) process for commissioning artwork by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist.
- Preparing for Semester 2 delivery milestones, including internal approvals and engagement with RecTas and UTAS Aboriginal leadership.

This work remains a defining piece of our Equity strategy and exemplifies a Students as Partners approach.

2. LGBTQIA+ Portfolio Vacancy and Inclusion Work

We are actively recruiting for a new LGBTQIA+ Equity Officer following a mid-year vacancy. Interim coverage has included:

- Maintaining portfolio visibility at IDAHOBIT and International Non-Binary People's Day.
- Supporting event-based advocacy and visibility during Semester 1 and Orientation.

3. Student Carers and Peer Support

Early discussions with Care2Serve are exploring a student carers' support group model as an alternative to appointing a Carers Officer. This peer-led approach aims to address persistent gaps in recognition, visibility, and flexible learning options for students with caring responsibilities.

Portfolio Snapshots (June–July 2025)

Noting Semester 1 exams and the mid-year break have impacted overall activity levels. Several officer reports were not submitted due to academic workload and availability.

Disability Portfolio (Ranae Zollner)

Raised concern over course cuts, especially in Arts, and the potential negative impact on disabled students reliant on specific learning pathways. Early planning is underway for inclusive sports activities in partnership with New Horizons Tasmania.





State Council Representative Report

Distance/Online Portfolio (Pamela Mykytowych)

Continued advocacy for older students and SSAF transparency. Advanced discussion on expanding the Learning Abroad program to allow equitable access for distance students through virtual exchange partnerships. Participated in national research on part-time student success and local SASS prevention co-design initiatives.

International Portfolio (Miraj Poudel)

Launched a dedicated online peer-support channel for international students. Currently finalising a 2025 International Student Survey to capture key concerns including academic pressure, social connection, and service navigation.

Women's Portfolio (Vaness Yap)

Engaged nationally on efforts to rebuild CAPA and CISA structures. Budget constraints are limiting national conference participation. Planning for future on-campus events is ongoing.

Reflections and Opportunities

- DIAP Co-Design: I along with members from the Disability Students Collective (DiSCo) continue to meet with Pro Vice-Chancellor James Brann to ensure students are embedded in the co-design of the next UTAS Disability Inclusion Action Plan. A stronger commitment to authentic student leadership in this space remains needed.
- Equity Committee Capacity: As flagged in previous reports, a suggestion to establish a Mature-Aged Students Officer has emerged. While not yet actioned, this proposal reflects growing recognition of intersectional representation needs. Recently Kentaro Watts has joined the Equity Committee as our new Ethnocultural officer.
- Visibility and Inclusion: Mid-year orientation events provided valuable moments for TUSA's Equity Officers to reconnect with students and reaffirm the importance of belonging, particularly for those from marginalised cohorts.

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