

## Undergraduate Education President Report

### Siska-Lut Buelens

### May 2025

Item	Measure	Target	Actual
TUSA Meetings	Attendance	5	5
TUSA Committees	Attendance	0	0
UTAS Meetings	Attendance	1	1
UTAS Committees	Attendance	2	2
TUSA Events/Trainings	Attendance	1	1
Miscellaneous Meetings	Attendance	1	1
Media Communications	Participation	0	0
Conferences	Attendance	0	0
UTAS Events/Orientation	Participation	0	0
Community Events/Rallies	Participation	0	0

**Narrative update (FOR PUBLICATION):**

Hi all,

I hope everyone enjoyed a well-deserved mid-semester break and got to spend some time with friends and family. With only a couple weeks to go until the end of semester, study loads seem to have picked up for many of us.

**Academic Student Concerns**

An English expression I learnt recently is that “the devil is in the details”, which captures most academic complaints very well. Many frustrations coming from students relate back to the disorganisation of and between units, and in courses. Seemingly simple things like standard assessment deadline times, earlier exam timetable release, or even receiving PowerPoints before a lecture all constitute how we experience the overall quality of our degrees. Southern Campus President Ruby has done an amazing job running weekly Vent Tents, and her collected data is a great resource to inform what changes within the academic system I want to focus my advocacy on.

It has been a main goal of mine to further explore how to best follow up many of these avoidable student concerns. For example, at ULTC, Jack was able to share many of Ruby’s findings in a safety share, some of which Jack and I had earlier this month discussed with the DVC-E.

**UCUPC Update**

At UCUPC the main topics all concerned new courses (sometimes due to major changes to a course, causing it to be considered a new course replacing a previous one, rather than be considered a change to a course). For example, CoHM is replacing the Advanced Nursing Postgraduate Course Suite to better meet workforce demands, and in CoSE the Bachelor of Engineering (Specialisation) with Honours is moving to a program which embeds Climate Safe Engineering principles across all three specializations. They are also hoping to incorporate Virtually Integrated Projects (VIP), which involve teams of different undergraduate study levels to work together on long-term projects, as well as reduce the honours weighting from 50% to 25% in the final year. CoSE is also looking to introduce a fully new course – Graduate Certificate in Forestry, which will be offered in collaboration with Australian partner universities and financially supported and marketed by the Australian Forest Products Association.

**Academic Round Tables**

As getting Academic Round Tables of the ground incurred a delay in organization last month, I have made the decision to focus on the behind the scenes work and get them ready for a fabulous launch from the get-go in semester 2! This way, I can ensure that we get as much value out of them as possible and gives me some time for proper advertising.



## State Council Representative Report

As always, never hesitate to reach out to me with any thoughts/ideas/questions/concerns, I'm happy to chat!

Kind regards,  
Siska

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