



Student Senator Position Description

Term: December 1st 2009 – November 30th 2010 (ACUNSA)

January 1st 2010 – December 30th 2010 (Senate)

Appointment: Elected by panel convened by ACUNSA & the Office of Student Success

Summary:

The position of Student Senator is a dual-focused role. The Student Senator is the student member of the University Senate and is also the chair person and President of the Australian Catholic University National Student Association (ACUNSA).

Contents

About Australian Catholic University	2
Mission Statement	2
University Governance.....	3
University Structure	3
About ACUNSA and the Student Associations.....	4
The role of Student Senator on University Senate	5
The role of Student Senator on ACUNSA.....	5
Criteria	6

Endorsed:

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students, Learning & Teaching)
Student Senator, 2009

Date: September 11th, 2009

About Australian Catholic University

A public Catholic university, funded by the Australian Government, Australian Catholic University (ACU) is open to students and staff of all beliefs. Building on its origins of service to the Catholic and wider Australian communities over a period of 150 years, the University seeks to foster and promote teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement in accordance with the Catholic tradition.

Australian Catholic University is a national university with six campuses in Australia these include:

- Brisbane
- Sydney
 - North Sydney
 - Strathfield
- Canberra
- Melbourne and
- Ballarat

The University is dedicated to rigorous intellectual pursuits and champions the individual's journey of the exploration of truth and academic freedom. The University's ethos reflects Christian values and its core concerns are with ethics and morals in all fields of its endeavour.

The University has five Faculties

- Theology and Philosophy,
- Arts and Sciences
- Education
- Health Sciences and
- Business

Graduates consistently give a high rating of their educational experience at Australian Catholic University and it has a reputation for quality and innovative teaching in the context of a personalised learning environment and for highly qualified academic staff with a commitment to student-centred learning.

The University has one of the highest graduate employment rates in the country and its graduates are high achievers in

education, health, commerce, the humanities, science, technology and the creative arts.

Mission Statement

Australian Catholic University shares with universities world-wide a commitment to quality in teaching, research, and service. It aspires to be a community characterised by free inquiry and academic integrity.

The University's inspiration, within 2,000 years of Catholic intellectual tradition, summons it to attend to all that is of concern to human beings. It brings a distinctive spiritual perspective to the common tasks of higher education.

Through fostering and advancing knowledge in education, health, commerce, the humanities, the sciences and technologies, and the creative arts, Australian Catholic University seeks to make a specific contribution to its local, national and international communities.

The University explicitly engages the social, ethical and religious dimensions of the questions it faces in teaching and research, and service. In its endeavours, it is guided by a fundamental concern for justice and equity, and the dignity of all human beings.

Australian Catholic University has a primary responsibility to provide excellent higher education for its entire diversified and dispersed student body. Its ideal graduates will be highly competent in their chosen fields, ethical in their behaviour, with a developed critical habit of mind, an appreciation of the sacred in life, and a commitment to serving the common good.

University Governance

The governing body is the **Senate** which consists of:

- Two ex-officio members
Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
- The Pro-Chancellor
- Eight persons elected by the members of the Company having regard (among other things) to the need for broad community involvement
- Three persons elected by and from the academic staff of the University
- One person elected by and from the general staff of the University
- One student of the University

The **Academic Board** is established by the Senate to administer and implement academic policies.

The University has also established four **Chapters**. The Chapters represent their local communities and provide advice to the Senate on local needs and demands. University Chapters serve as important links to community interests.

University Structure

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University.

Pro-Vice-Chancellors have delegated responsibility for assigned areas of policy including:

- Academic Affairs
- Students, Learning & Teaching
- Research and
- Resources.

Associate Vice-Chancellors in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane are the Vice-Chancellor's representative in their local region, as are the Campus Deans at Ballarat and Canberra.

The Vice-Chancellor is also assisted by:

- Faculty Deans
- Director University Relations
- Director Identity and Mission and
- Directors with national portfolios.

Each faculty is headed by a Dean in:

- Arts & Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Education
- Business and
- Theology & Philosophy

The Deans are supported by an Associate Deans for:

- Teaching, Learning and International and
- Research, Research Training and Partnerships.

Each campus has a **Student Association** which is governed on a national level by the Australian Catholic University National Student Association (**ACUNSA**).

About ACUNSA and the Student Associations

ACUNSA is the peak student organisation at Australian Catholic University and is comprised:

- Student Senator and
- Six Presidents from each of the local Campus Student Associations.

Every campus has a dedicated Student Association (SA) and student association executive. The SA provides social and recreational activities, as well as having a representation and advocacy role for students at a local level.

Each campus is also represented by their SA president on a national level through membership of ACUNSA.

In 2009, ACUNSA has undertaken a considerable restructure that has seen a greater emphasis placed on ACUNSA as the governing body of Student Organisations at the university.

ACUNSA has adopted a Strategic Planning Framework delivering on strategic goals at an operational level at each local Campus.

ACUNSA continues to make headway in the development of policy that will improve the effectiveness of all Student Associations at the University.

In 2010 in partnership with the Office of Student Success, ACUNSA has committed to a review of Student Governance that will see a continued focus on change and development.

ACUNSA from year to year organises and actively supports National Events that aim to showcase the university's national character.

In the past these events have included:

- The Big Event 2004/2006
- ACU Alive 2007
- ACU Games 2007
- Australian University Games
- World Youth Day 2008 and
- ACU National to the Red Centre 2009

In 2010 the following National Events are scheduled:

- The Big Event (TBE) July 2nd – 5th, in Melbourne
- ACU Games April, Ballarat.

It is expected that ACUNSA will have heavy involvement in the organisation and fulfilment of these two significant events on the University calendar.

For more information on ACUNSA and the Student Associations, visit the ACUNSA website: www.acunsa.com.au/

The role of Student Senator on University Senate

The Student Senator works with both the university and ACUNSA and as such has two distinct areas of responsibility:

- a) The Senate and
- b) ACUNSA

The Student Senator does not represent Students on the Senate, but rather brings an independent perspective to Senate as a Student of the University.

As the governing body of the University, the Senate acts as Board of Directors and is responsible for the governance of the university.

The Senate is responsible for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, approving restructures and significant projects and in providing the University with support and advice on issues of relevance to the University and to the Higher Education Sector.

The Student Senator duties include:

- Being a Director of Australian Catholic University Ltd.
- Being an active and informed member of the university Senate
- Attend four face-to-face meetings of Senate
- Attend university functions as a Senator

The role of Student Senator on ACUNSA

The Student Senator is also the President and Chair of ACUNSA. In this role, the Student Senator also sits on Academic Board as the representative of Students on a national level.

On Academic Board, the Student Senator is expected to be:

- Active and informed with regards to all matters of concern to Students as they arise.

- Attend approximately 5 face-to-face meetings
- Be an active and informed member of various other committees
- Coordinate ACUNSA representation on national committees and boards.

As Chair and President of ACUNSA the Student Senator is expected to:

- Chair and convene regular ACUNSA meetings (four face-to-face meetings and fortnightly video/teleconferences)
- Sponsor the Student Association National Strategic Plan
- Formulate and implement the ACUNSA Operational Plan in consultation with ACUNSA members
- Drive forward Strategic Goals set by ACUNSA.
- Monitor progress and commit to review as part of Strategic Planning Framework adopted by ACUNSA
- Provide guidance and support to Student Association Presidents and Executives in their roles
- Ensure meeting procedures are appropriate
- Ensure minutes are recorded and circulated
- Ensure ACUNSA finances are managed responsibly and financial statements are available for inspection
- Ensure ACUNSA activities and services are publicised
- Consult and advise students
- Liaise with the Office of Student Success and Senior Management within the University.

The Student Senator is required to commit to a minimum of 20 hours per week.

As the role has a national focus, the Student Senator is required to travel to other campuses throughout the year. All airfares, transport and accommodation expenses are paid for by the university.

Criteria

The successful applicant will be:

- Receptive and understanding of the national identity of Australian Catholic University
- Organised
- Hardworking
- Enthusiastic
- Proactive
- Cooperative
- Able to effectively consult with students, staff and university stakeholders
- Able to make decisions for the good of the university at large
- Able to cope under pressure
- Able to demonstrate leadership ability and experience

Whilst not necessary, it would be desirable that candidates have a firm grasp of the structure of the Student Associations at Australian Catholic University and a sound understanding and appreciation for student organisations in the tertiary context.