

Student Senate Annual Report 2025

10 October 2025



Message from the Chair, Jase Squires

Well, just where did that 12 months go?

This time last year I had just ended my first term as Deputy Chair of the Student Senate. Now 12 months on, a whole bunch of proposals later and I've been so fortunate and quite humbled to lead a team of awesome, highly committed and dedicated Senate members thought another successful year on Student Senate as your Chair.

What your senate has achieved for you:

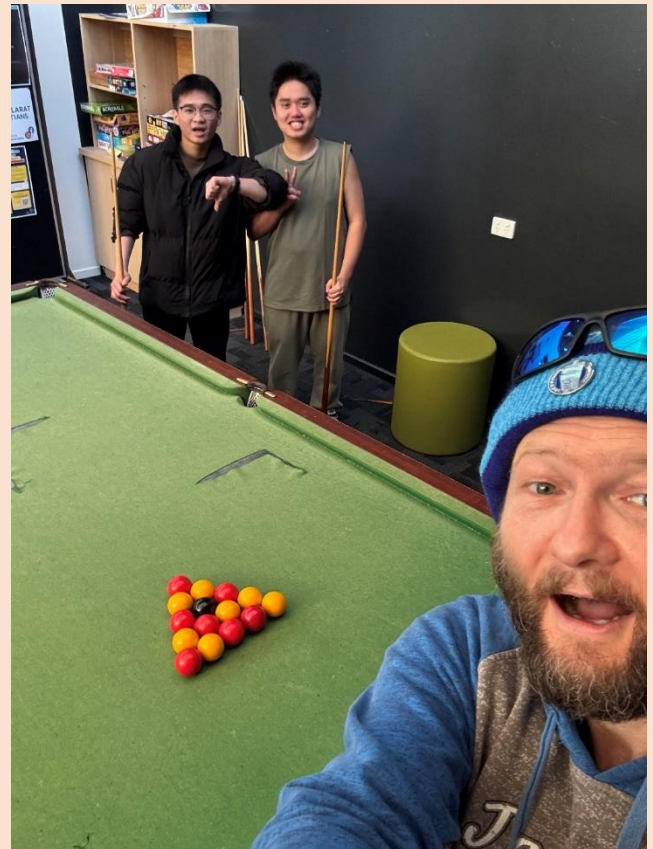
- Assessment Due Dates Times now universally consistent across the board
- Personal hygiene availability improvements on campus
- Extension to operating hours on campus to better support students studying outside normal business hours
- Better outcomes for international students in a variety of forms, including academic, general student support and study options
- Pool Table to undergo repairs/replacement in student lounge

My confidence has grown and solidified, as has my ability to make decisions, lead from the front and maintain appropriate time management with the responsibility of Senate, my own study habits and professional networking that is part of the Senate role.

I want to extend sincere and special thanks to the Senate Deputy Chair Karuna Pandey – whose support, encouragement, and backing as made life a whole lot easier, being able to bounce ideation off, discuss confidential matters and make decisions on directions the Senate needs to go, as we listen, support and advocate for our student peers on a range of simple to very delicate matters (and everything in between) affecting our hard working studying peers who rely on the student senate to be the vocal support service to Senior University Exec Leadership.

A sincere, warm and genuine token of thanks and appreciation to all my fellow Senate Members! You left me so humbled when you elected me as your Chair and it wasn't a responsibility I took lightly. I am indebted to you all for this ultimate privilege. I can not thank you enough for being an awesome team helping in advocating for our fellow student peers.

To the Student Senate Exec Officers team of Thomas Burningham-Glover, Max Ryan, Zoe Blair-Holt, Luke Jongebloed, Leon Kerr and Cindy Cash. We have tackled some very delicate and confronting issues in 2025 from Academic awareness, financial pressures, to issues that saw us put in play our strong governance and decision making. I thank you sincerely for your support, encouragement, backing and dedication to allowing me to find my feet as Chair and lead the Senate to what has been a very successful 2025.



I will never cease working to improve the academic experience and journey for my fellow student peers, it's what you're paying for, it's what you're entitled too, it's what you deserve. Count me in to be in your corner, always! I plan to keep making professional noise in the VCs boardroom so he can work with his team to resolve the issues that matter to you.

While we've achieved a lot, our work in this domain is far from done. Next year, I am more excited than ever to continue working with the university leaderships team(s) and the professionals within, to continuously work towards achieving visions and goals and the best outcomes and experiences for our student peers.

Here's looking forward to 2026.

Title page: Jason Squires, Karuna Pandey with Prof Duncan Bently and the VCST at a VCST Meeting.

Above right: Jason Squires with two students raising concerns about the Mt Helen Pool Table

Message from the Deputy-Chair, Karuna Pandey



Being someone who has always been vocal and passionate about helping and guiding others, joining the Student Senate has been one of the best decisions I have made.

Every day has been a chance to learn, engaging with students from different streams, hearing their challenges, and presenting them to the team. The past eight months have felt like a year of growth. From raising student voices at executive meetings to leading forums and driving proposals, it has been an incredible journey. Working alongside an inspiring leader like Jason Squires with the continued support of Thomas Burningham Glover has made this experience even more meaningful.

We have achieved important proposals this year, and I look forward to working even harder to deliver the best outcomes for students. Here is to 2026!

Left: Karuna Pandey

Working closely with Senior Leadership

Jase, Chair and Karuna, Deputy-Chair have worked closely with Professor Duncan Bentley, Vice Chancellor and his senior leadership team (VCST) throughout 2025. This has ranged from a series of informal catch-ups with individual members of the VCST to being invited to attend formal VCST meetings. Some of the work conducted during these meetings includes discussions around Learning and Teaching areas of improvement and continuing discussions from 2024 around frameworks for generative artificial intelligence in higher education.

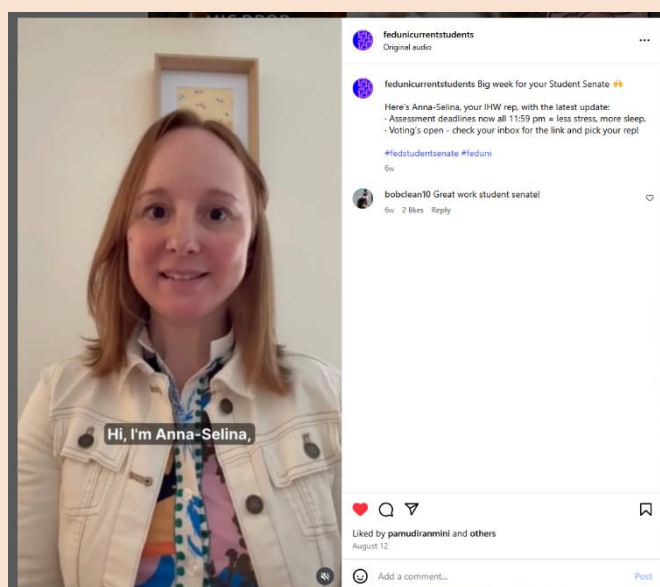


Left: Karuna Pandey and Kevin Alexandra at Mid-Year Orientation

Student Senate social media posts

Throughout 2025, the Student Senate, in conjunction with the Student Communications team, began posting regular content to the Current Students Instagram and Facebook Pages. This ranged from promotions of elections to monthly post-meeting updates. With some posts ranking in the best performing on the pages. In total the Student Senate posts received 10,907 impressions, 414 engagements and achieved an average engagement rate of 3.8% which is classed as strong engagement.

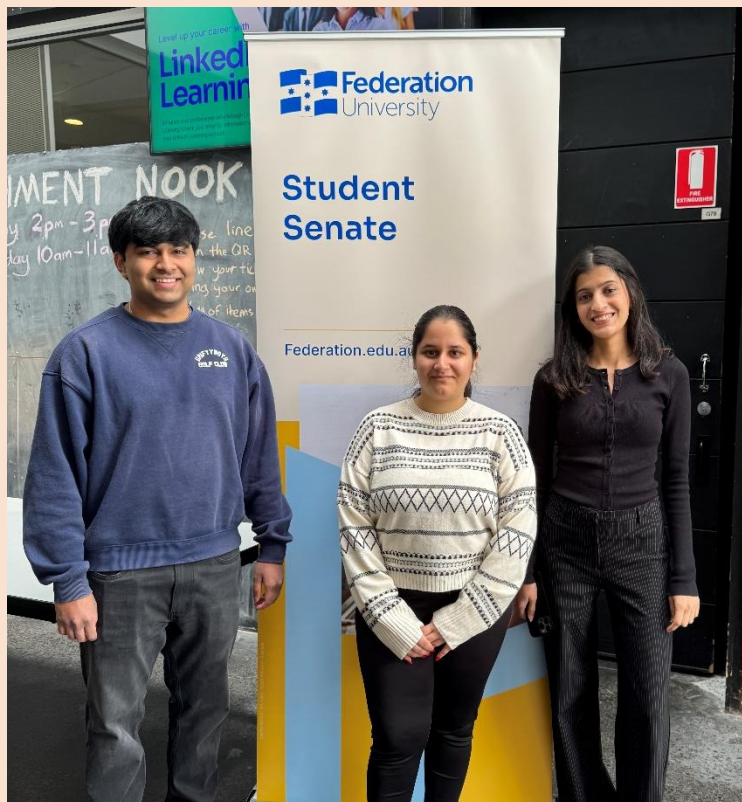
Right: Anna-Selina Young on the Current Students Social Media Page



Building connections with Students

Throughout the year, Student Senate members have held important meetings with their fellow students. One of the standout efforts came from IISS Student Representative Zac, who reached out to several of his lecturers to host information sessions at the end of classes. Sessions like these and the on going effort of all Senate Members has elevated the profile of the Student Senate in the minds of the wider student body.

Right: Zachary Tan with a class of students



Student Senate Forums

As part of the ongoing effort to rise awareness of the Student Senate, the Student Senate Members hosted a variety of forums throughout the year both online and across campuses. These forums touched topics such as students use of AI to access to health and well-being services. A total of 6 forums have been held in 2025. Moving in the 2026 the Student Senate will continue to focus on hosting forums to make the student voice heard.

Left: Kevin Alexandra, Janvi Abrol and Karuna Pandey at Student Placements Forum - Berwick

Standard assessment return times

The Student Senate played a key role in prompting a change to assessment deadline times across the University. After raising concerns about inconsistent submission times—ranging from morning to late evening—the Senate highlighted how this confusion was negatively impacting students, especially those balancing work or caregiving responsibilities. In response, the University has standardised the deadline for nearly all assessments to 11:59 PM on the due date, aiming to reduce stress and improve fairness without altering the actual due dates.

Right: FedNews Article

National media appearances

As part of their roles in the Federation University Student Senate, have continued to be vocal in advocating for the needs and concerns of international students, particularly in light of the Federal elections and the Coalition announcements around changes to migration and education policies. These articles have played into a wider campaign to have the challenges imposed by the International Student Caps on regional universities, including Federation University, more closely considered by the Federal Government. Their involvement in national media interviews highlights the growing impact of their advocacy work and the Student Senate as a whole.

Right: Janvi Abrol on ABC News

We're standardising assessment deadlines across the University

11 August 2025 • 2 min read

Share 

We've made a small, but important, change to assessment deadlines thanks to a suggestion made by our student representative body, the Student Senate.



Foreign student cap Coalition plan to boost housing 'misleading', union says

By Tamara Clark

ABC Mildura-Swan Hill

Higher Education

Wed 23 Apr



Janvi Abrol is concerned about the student visa policy the Coalition has promised if elected. (ABC Mildura-Swan Hill: Tamara Clark)

Representative proposals

Student Senate representatives developed 25 proposals, of which all 24 proposals were submitted to Federation University. For a highlight summary of the motions and Federation University's responses, please refer to the next pages.

Below: Group Picture of the Student Senate and support staff at the final meeting of the 2025



Meeting dates for 2025

SS1	Tuesday 11/03/2025
SS2	Tuesday 15/04/2025
SS3	Tuesday 13/05/2025
SS4	Tuesday 10/06/2025
SS5	Tuesday 08/07/2025
SS6	Tuesday 05/08/2025
SS7	Tuesday 09/09/2025
SS8	Tuesday 07/10/2025
Sub Date	Tuesday 12/11/2025

Student Senate proposal highlights:

The Student Senate recommended that:	Federation University response/actions:
Create an Alumni Board for past Senate representatives	Digital honour roll created on the Student Senate Website for the best visibility.
Address accessibility concerns at Gippsland campus	Long-term compliant pathways planned; interim support includes transport assistance and handrail investigation.
Review enrolment cut-off date	Current cut-off aligns with sector norms; support services provided for late starters.
Create fund for high-level athletes	Expand promotion of the Elite Athlete Program and scholarships already offered by the university.
Extend library hours	Project initiated to enable after-hours access at Berwick.
Review internet bandwidth at Mt Helen residences	No infrastructure issues found; improvements planned for IoT device access and power-related outages.
Performing Arts students required to pay for photography	Discussions held with VCST and Student Senate on how best to address this concern.
Standardise assignment due times to 11:59 PM	University agrees; 11:59 PM standard adopted except for timed assessments.
Review induction for Mt Helen residential students	Multiple improvements planned including mid-year messaging, quiet unit options, and reinforced expectations.
Ensure access to completed assessment rubrics	Meeting held between Student Senate and Associate Deans to address consistency and access.
Repair/replace pool table in Albert Coates lounge	Quotes being gathered; work planned for semester break to avoid disruption.
Promote Senate awareness in residences	University supports collaboration; posters welcome, events in communal spaces encouraged.
Add Single Sign On fdIMarks link to Moodle	Phase 1 underway, adding Single Sign On to fdIMarks; Phase 2 will fully integrate marks into Moodle for simplified access.

Representatives for 2025

Position Name and Number of Position	Representative
Ballarat and surrounds area student representative (2 positions):	Kim Curwood Vaibhav
Berwick area student representative (1 position):	Kevin Alexander
Distance education/off campus student representative (1 position):	Jase Squires
Equity, diversity and social inclusion advocate (1 position):	Janvi Abrol
Federation TAFE student representative (1 position):	Dusty Robins
First nations representative (1 position):	Samuel Crane
Gippsland area student representative (1 position):	Vacant
International student representative (1 position):	Thien Thanh Tran
Postgraduate student representative (1 position):	Saleha Nadeem
Student representative from the Institute of Health and Wellbeing (2 positions):	Anna-Selina Young Vacant
Student representative from the Institute of Education, Arts and Community (2 positions):	Yakun Pei Charlotte Walsh
Student representative from the Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability (2 positions):	Prapti Bista Zachary Tan
Ex-Officio Members	
Learning and Teaching Quality Committee HE Student Representative	Karuna Pandey
Academic Board HE Student Representative	Danielle Sinadinovic