

# UNISC STUDENT SENATE

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST



# MESSAGE FROM YOUR SENATE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Fien Van den Steen



Emma Comer



2023 was a year of empowering the student voice at UniSC. We witnessed an unprecedented surge in student representation, with a remarkable 330 active student representatives spanning across all UniSC campuses and schools. We would like to extend a huge congratulations and thank-you to our Student Representatives for all they have achieved in 2024.

Student feedback guided our approach in 2023. After almost two years, we finally managed to have the 4-week content policy approved, which will be implemented in 2024. This policy guarantees that all UniSC courses will provide content four weeks in advance, affording students the opportunity to effectively plan their studies. Accessible learning materials are among the key items we've advocated for during our tenure, setting students up for success and enhancing wellbeing.

We are grateful to have been a voice for the student body, ensuring your feedback is distributed and actioned. And action we took! In collaboration with university executives, the Student Senate, and you, the student body, we have:

- Designed and implemented the Annual Student Services and Amenities Survey, with 668 student responses,
- Developed and launched the revised School of Health with 48 student representatives,
- Held 10 Meet and Eat Events for over 570 students,
- Delivered Speed Friending & Pot Planting at Orientation and Connect Week,
- Helped you run many events!
  - Postgraduate Lunch on the Lawn
  - R U OK? Day
  - Diversity Week
- Continued to improve the Student Representative Experience,
- Consulted on several plans and strategies, including:
  - UniSC Sunshine Coast Greenspace Masterplan
  - UniSC Campus Heart Masterplan
  - UniSC Student Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2023
- Presented at the 2023 Students as Partners Roundtable & Student Voice Australasia.

It was a pleasure to be your Student Senate Co-Chairs and Council Members for 2022 & 2023. We wish you all a great break and good luck in your future endeavours for those who graduated in 2023!



**330 Active  
Student  
Representatives**

**Delivered 9  
Representative  
Training Inductions**

**160 Students  
Attended**



**10 Meet and  
Eat Events**

**with over 570  
Students Attended**



**Presented  
nationally at the  
SaP Roundtable  
& Student Voice  
Australasia  
Symposium**



**668 SSAF  
responses**



**14 Postgraduate  
Lunch on the  
Lawn Events**

**90 Students Attended**



**Student Reps ran  
76 meetings across 18 groups**

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

## Meet and Eat Sunshine Coast & Moreton Bay



Pictured: Students and Reps having fun at the Meet n' Eat stall

In 2023 Student Representatives worked together with the Student Senate to host Meet and Eat in Weeks 1, 4, 8 & 10. The event was designed to raise awareness of Student Representation and promote a sense of belonging at UniSC. The events featured delicious food and fun activities, including lamingtons, doughnuts & popcorn. This leadership opportunity allowed representatives to support the development of a supportive culture on campus. In 2023, the event doubled in popularity with over 570 students attended the events, with up to 6 volunteers assisting each time.

## Student Leadership Symposium

The Student Senate together with the SaP team hosted the sixth annual Student Leadership Symposium in Semester 2. This year's theme was "From Inspiration to Empowerment". The symposium explored authentic leadership and partnership, empowering UniSC students to develop their professional and graduate attributes, with Michelle Lipner from Oz Harvest delivering an inspiring keynote. Almost 100 students attended the event at Sunshine Coast campus, engaging alumni, industry and student presenters.



Pictured: A group of students sitting together on a couch in front of a large screen

## RUOK Day Sunshine Coast



Pictured: A group of UniSC students, gathered wearing UniSC Volunteer shirts.

The Disability Inclusion Student Group (DISG) and Postgraduate Student Association (PSA) partnered with UniSC staff to run activities and provide food for Sunshine Coast students during this year's R U OK? Day. The event focused on wellbeing and community, in which the PSA asked students to draw their future, offering a place to sit and relax and DISG offered an opportunity for students to build Happy Boxes.

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

## SaP Round Table and Student Voice Australasia



Pictured: Students and staff members standing in front of a Uni Melbourne banner

Both students and staff represented UniSC and the Student Senate as panellists at the Students as Partners (SaP) Roundtable in Melbourne, and presenters and panellists at Student Voice Australasia (SVA) in Brisbane. Assisting UniSC Student Delegates in building their public speaking and networking skills. UniSC Students presented on the successful Green Ambassador Program and Meet and Eat series at SVA and spoke to student partnership in higher education at the SaP Roundtable.

## Postgraduate Lunch on the Lawn

The Postgrad Lunch on the Lawn is a relaxed networking event for HDR students to create meaningful connections in a relaxed environment hosted monthly by the Postgraduate Student Association (PSA). From these events, the PSA have seen students re-engage and connect through casual conversation. The PSA hosts 10 Lunch on the Lawn events each year from February to November, with over 80 students participating.



Pictured: A group of UniSC Students sitting on chairs and picnic blankets

## 2023 UniSC Student Volunteer, Club & Societies Awards



Pictured: A group of UniSC Students standing together

2023 saw the launch of the inaugural UniSC Student Volunteer, Club & Societies Awards Night, presented in collaboration with the Student Guild. This night acknowledged the significant contributions of UniSC Volunteers to the UniSC community. Both Students as Partners and Student Guild members came together to celebrate the nominees and winners in 13 unique categories.

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Student Senate coordinated the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Annual Survey and the Teaching and Learning survey with 668 student responses. Feedback was collated and presented to senior executive.
- Participated in Student Voice Australia (SVA) Network (national initiative for authentic student engagement in institutional decision-making and governance) through student network meetings.
- The Student Senate collaborated with UniSC Executives to consult on several important plans and strategies, including the UniSC Masterplan and Greenspace Masterplan and Student Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2023
- Alongside School of Health Executives, the Student Senate co-designed and launched the School of Health Student Representative Advisory Panel, inclusive of 48 Student Representatives across all areas of the School, embedded in all decision making areas.
- The Disability Inclusion Student Group held multiple successful events and actively participated with key stakeholders in the university community to raise awareness of accessibility and enhance the student voice around issues of diversity and inclusion across UniSC campuses.

