

NZUSA Governance and Management Structure

STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING OF NZUSA

NZUSA is structured as a federation of the nine constituent student associations who in 2003 are:

- Albany Students Association
- Auckland Student Movement at AUT
- Waikato Students Union
- Waikato Polytechnic Association of Students
- Massey University Students Association
- Victoria University of Wellington Students Association
- Lincoln University Students Association
- Otago University Students Association
- Otago Polytechnic Students Association

NZUSA is established to represent the common and collective concerns of these student associations through the objects set out in the NZUSA constitution.

In addition there is provision for associate membership of NZUSA. Currently the Massey University Extra-Mural Students Society (EXMSS) the University of Canterbury Students' Association Students Association (UCSA) Christchurch College of Education Students Association (CCESA) the Auckland College of Education Students' Association (ACESA), The Wellington Teacher Trainees' Association (WTTA) and the Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) are associate members. The rules of associate membership are set by the federation executive.

The association is controlled via three general meetings, held in February, June/July and August/September (conferences). The NZUSA general meeting sets all association policy, regulations, and is empowered to interpret and alter the constitution. The general meeting can also give directives to the Federation Officers (NZUSA Co-Presidents and National Women's Rights Officer) and elects the Federation Officers. All full NZUSA members vote at the general meeting. Each campus brings 7 votes into the voting pool. Each campus is given 3 base votes and the remaining votes are divided amongst the members based on an EFTS weighted calculation. This means that campuses will have a proportion on the total votes based on their size.

The constitution sets out the way in which the general meeting conducts its business. In addition to the three regular general meetings (one at each of the NZUSA conferences) the constitution also sets out provisions for Special General Meetings and how they can be called. Any business that is conducted at a General Meeting can also be put to a postal ballot. The details of postal ballots are set out in the constitution.

There are 59 votes available representing seven times the number of constituents. Every constituent is entitled to three votes with the rest being apportioned according to the number of member students in each association. Currently the votes are apportioned:

ASA:	4
AUSM	9
WSU:	8
SAWIT:	6
MUSA:	6
VUWSA:	9
LUSA:	4
OUSA:	11
OPSA:	5

ACESA, AUSA, UCSA, WTTA and CCESA each have 1 vote as associate members.

All NZUSA policy is contained in the constitution. In order to add, delete or change it there must be at least 2/3rds of the votes exercisable in favour. The same majority is required for electing people to the positions of Federation Officers.

For action motions there is only a simple majority of votes required.

Finance Commission

At each general meeting there is a finance commission (in effect a sub committee) which monitors, recommends and reviews the Association's budget. It also examines the the associations financial management. Any motions arising from workshops held at conferences are referred to the finance commission. To be voted on at the Closing Plenary of the general meeting a motion containing expenditure must be approved by the Finance Commission. The finance commission consists of the Co-Presidents and one or two delegates of each constituent. The voting rights are the same as for a general meeting

Conferences

Around each of the 3 general meetings, conferences are organised. These take the form of a series of workshops (usually two or three at a time) which are decided upon by the federation executive. The workshops are aimed at furthering the objects of the association, and usually involve speakers (often from outside the Federation). Some are simply for information purposes and others to discuss policy before it is sent to the general meeting. The workshops usually last for 1 hour.

Motions arising from these workshops are taken to the Closing Plenary (the formal voting session of the conference and also the general meeting). They must be moved and seconded by a constituent association. Associations can vote in any way on the motions.

An Open Plenary session will be held prior to the formal voting to allow all attendees at the Conference to speak to motions. In Closing Plenary only the Chief Delegates (2) from each constituent have speaking rights. Most discussion outside of the workshops takes place in constituent caucusing where campuses make up their mind how to vote on issues.

On the day prior to the conference a women's conference is held. This brings together women delegates to the conference that are part of the Tertiary Women's Focus Group. It has been practice although not formally recognised that women's conference can bring motions to the general meeting as long as they are in the name of a constituent member.

Federation Executive

Between the general meetings the Federation is managed by the Federation Executive which is made up of the Presidents of each constituent member and the three elected Federation Officers (Co Presidents and National Women's Rights Officer). The Federation Executive normally meets at least 5 times a year, including immediately prior to the three conferences. The other meetings are usually held in Wellington, and often coincided with other meetings that Presidents have to be in town for (such as University Sport New Zealand).

The federation officers are elected each year at the August/September general meeting for the succeeding calendar year. It is their job to run the Federation office.

The Federation Executive has all the powers of the Association but it is bound by the direction and policies of the general meeting, and may not exercise powers reserved for the general meeting, or incur expenditure in excess of budgetary provision approved by the general meeting. Federation executive receives monthly financial reports