

Position Description: Councillor, Campus Student Associations (CSA)

ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement: *Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.*

At ACU we pride ourselves on offering a welcoming environment for everyone. At the same time, we are a university committed to standing for something clear. We stand up for people in need and causes that matter. ACU's Mission is central to the University and informs every area – integrating the dignity of the human person, the common good, and ethical and social justice considerations into our core activities of student learning and teaching, research, and service.

We know that our people make us a university like no other. It's your values, action and passion that makes the difference. Whatever role you may play in our organisation: it's what you do that defines who we are.

In order to be agents of change in the world, we all need to see life through the eyes of others. We believe that our role as a university is to inspire and equip people to make a difference – and that means cultivating their ability to act and think empathetically.

Student engagement, leadership and service are integral to ACU's Mission and identity and student leaders play a crucial role in implementing the Mission of the University and promoting the social, intellectual, cultural, and spiritual welfare of their fellow students and informing University strategy and processes.

DEFINITIONS

Executive means the Campus Student Association President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary of a Campus Student Association; the Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Campus Student Association.

Council means the governing body of a Campus Student Association consists of the Executive positions plus a pre-determined number of Councillors, who do not have specific responsibility but from whom the Campus Student Association can draw to fill casual vacancies.

Association means a Campus Student Association as a body.

ABOUT ACU STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Each campus has a Campus Student Association (CSA) which is governed by [Statute 9](#) and a Constitution CSAs provide advocacy, support, and social activity for all students on their campus.

Coordination at a national level is achieved through the [Australian Catholic University National Student Association \(ACUNSA\)](#) comprising the President of ACUNSA, the Campus Student Association Presidents and an Indigenous, International, Postgraduate and Online student representative. ACUNSA is the premier student association at ACU.

ACUNSA and the Campus Student Associations are supported by the Student Life Unit of the Student Experience Directorate with training. Student Life oversees student associations' training and the financial and risk management of the associations' programs, events and activities.

ACUNSA and the Campus Student Associations work closely with the Student Life Unit and specifically the Student Life Coordinator and the Student Life Officers on each Campus.

POSITION PURPOSE

The CSA Council is the governing body of the Campus Student Association. It consists of a President (directly elected by the campus student body) and a number of councillors, elected at the same time as the President. Collectively the Council is responsible to the membership and to the university for the Association's good governance and works democratically to represent the student body in campus decision-making and organise ways for students to participate in campus life.

Councillors must canvass and promote the views of students and encourage students to become actively involved in their campus.

At its first meeting after the election, the Council elects from its membership three executive officers (Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and any number of other special officer roles, as determined by the membership of the Association.

In addition to these positions there are three other Special Officer roles: the First Peoples Officer, the Postgraduate Officer and the International Student Officer. These three positions are elected directly from and by the relevant cohorts on each campus. For example, the First Peoples Officer must identify and be recognised as Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander and be recorded as such in the University's administrative systems and only those students similarly identifying and recognised may vote for that position. Separate, specific position descriptions exist for the executive and special officer roles.

TRAVEL

This role some requires travel to other campuses approximately once per year.

EXPECTED HOURS OF COMMITMENT

Councillors can expect to devote at least 4-6 hours per week to the role. Students should consider this time commitment very carefully when nominating for election.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Councillors must:

1. Represent the Campus Student Association and the University in a manner that fosters and champions a culture of belonging, respect and collaboration between the CSA office holders and the CSA members by always acting in a manner that fosters and champions a culture of belonging, respect and collaboration and by consulting widely with the student body about student issues and activities.
2. Work with ACU student and staff stakeholders to achieve the objectives of ACUNSA and the Campus Student Association by:
 - I. Participating in the annual induction of new student leaders (usually held in North Sydney during the first week of December)
 - II. Reading and familiarizing yourself with Statute 9, the CSA Constitution, and any other relevant university statutes, rules, policies and guidelines
 - III. Attending and participating in all meetings of the Council and Association including the regular meetings with the Student Life Office and important promotional events (Orientations, Market Days, Town Halls, etc)
 - IV. Working collaboratively with other members of the Executive, Council and Association to achieve the Association's objectives
 - V. Consulting widely with the student body about student issues and activities

3. Ensure the internal management of the Association is cohesive and effective by being accountable and taking executive responsibility for:
 - I. Ensuring you have working knowledge of any contacts, committees, and administrative tools and responsibilities related to the position – especially if elected to an office holding role
 - II. Actively contributing to the planning, development, and implementation of the strategic and operational plans of the Association
 - III. Communicating events and information of the Association and of the University including the Student Life unit to students, where appropriate
 - IV. Attending major Campus functions as appropriate (e.g. Graduation, Opening and Closing Liturgies) or other significant University or Campus activities

4. Be accountable to the University and the Campus Student Association members for the sound financial management of the and good stewardship of resources, including presenting audited accounts annually to Campus Student Association members and all students via public meetings and traditional and social media.

5. At all times, act lawfully, with integrity and uphold the internal processes and vision of the Association and the Mission of the University.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Councillors must be enrolled ACU students at the time of nomination, election and during the term of office.

The following characteristics would contribute to success in the role of CSA Councillor:

- Clear understanding of, and engagement with, the University’s Mission
- Acts with integrity
- Organised and hardworking
- Enthusiastic and proactive
- Collaborative
- Able to consult effectively with students, staff, and University stakeholders
- Able to manage competing priorities
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Able to effectively coordinate a team of peers and achieve agreed outcomes
- Leadership ability and experience
- Willingness to work collaboratively with the Student Life Unit to achieve ACUNSA outcomes.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

University Officer	Role and Relationship	Student roles affected
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)	Responsible for the strategic and operational leadership of the University in partnership with the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor’s Advisory Committee. Provides guidance to ACUNSA to further the mission of the university. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) reports to the Vice- Chancellor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACUNSA President • ACUNSA Representatives • CSA Presidents
Director, Student Experience	Leads the professional support services and engagement activities for students which are delivered across the University, including Access and Disability, Advocacy Service, Careers and Employability, Counselling, Student Accommodation, Safeguarding and Student Safety, Transition, Medical Centres, and Student Life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACUNSA President • ACUNSA Representatives • CSA Presidents

	<p>Provides guidance to ACUNSA to further the mission of the university.</p> <p>The Director, Student Experience reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)</p>	
Associate Director, Student Experience	<p>Supports the Director, Student Experience in leading the professional support services and engagement activities for students which are delivered across the University.</p> <p>Leads the Student Life and Transition teams, including the programs associated with student leadership, orientation, students on committees and mentoring.</p> <p>Provides guidance to ACUNSA to further the mission of the university.</p> <p>The Associate Director, Student Experience reports to the Director, Student Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACUNSA President • ACUNSA Representatives • CSA Presidents • CSA Executives • Special Officers
National Manager Student Life	<p>Supports the Associate Director, Student Experience.</p> <p>Advises ACUNSA on strategies and the development of operational plans and to achieve their objectives.</p> <p>Supports ACUNSA's professional and personal development as leaders and representatives.</p> <p>Leads the team that aims to develop a rich, enjoyable, and diverse campus culture that engages students, staff, and the wider community in a vibrant and dynamic campus life.</p> <p>The National Manager Student Life reports to the Associate Director Student Experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACUNSA President • ACUNSA Representatives • CSA Presidents • CSA Executives • Special Officers
Student Life Coordinator	<p>Responsible for the development and training of community leaders, including ACUNSA and CSA leaders.</p> <p>Provides role-specific training and advice on strategic and administrative matters.</p> <p>The Student Life Coordinator reports to the National Manager, Student Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACUNSA President • ACUNSA Representatives • CSA Presidents • CSA Executives • Special Officers • Councillors
Student Life Officer	<p>Responsible for the delivery of campus-specific programs, events, activities, and services.</p> <p>Provides guidance, logistical advice and daily on-the-ground support.</p> <p>The Student Life Officer reports to the National Manager, Student Life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSA Presidents • CSA Executives • Campus Councils • Local membership