

THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT



Honoraria \$4,056.19 per month

Purpose

You are the lead student voice. You set the tone and agenda for student representation, turn student feedback into clear positions, and make sure those positions are heard by University leadership, external bodies and the wider community. You work within the Constitution, Rules and Policies, and you're accountable to the Senate and, ultimately, students.

What the key duties involve day to day

Chief spokesperson to the University and wider community

- Front media enquiries and prepare statements on student issues (e.g., cost of living, placements, safety, facilities).

Speak at University forums and orientation events.

Represent (or coordinate representation on) University committees and working groups

- Sit on high-level committees (e.g., ECU Council, Academic Board, student experience, equity and inclusion).

Read papers in advance, consult relevant Departments for input, and provide evidence-based student positions.

Lead submissions, negotiations and advocacy with University executives and external bodies

Meet regularly with the Vice-Chancellor's team to raise systemic issues (academic misconduct, assessment load, timetabling, facilities, fees/charges) and negotiate fixes.

Ensure Departments meet goals and follow Guild Policies

- Agree annual priorities and budgets with each Department (Social, Sports, Equity, International, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, First Nations, Environmental, South West).
- Review written updates at each scheduled Senate meeting; escalate decisions to Senate where needed.
- Ensure policies are followed for all initiatives and events.

Chair and attend Guild Senate meetings; attend and preside at General Meetings

- Work with the General Secretary and Operational Executive to set agendas, ensure papers are circulated on time, and that decisions are clear and minuted.
- As Chair, keep debate fair and on track; in a tie, you may exercise a casting vote.
- At General Meetings, present reports, respond to questions, and implement any resolutions passed by students.

Coordinate the Senate's work with Vice Presidents, Departmental Officers and the General Secretary

- Hold regular check-ins to align on priorities and deadlines.
- Allocate portfolios and delegate tasks appropriately, while ensuring accountability.
- Facilitate collaboration across Departments for cross-cutting projects (e.g., mental health campaigns, sustainability initiatives).

Liaise regularly with the Operations Manager to deliver strategy

- Monitor progress through finance and other reports; adjust scope to stay within budget and risk settings.
- Contribute to quarterly and annual reporting.

Engage students, gather feedback, and act on systemic issues

- Run surveys, forums and drop-ins; visit campuses (including South West) to understand diverse needs.
- Use feedback to set priorities, shape submissions, and refine services (e.g., study spaces, food prices, club support).
- Close the loop: communicate what changed because students spoke up.

Manage external relations: NUS liaison, media, submissions and lobbying

- Represent ECU students in national forums; build alliances with other Guilds.
- Draft and sign media releases when appropriate; prepare spokespeople and manage media risks.
- Meet MPs and stakeholders on issues like student housing, transport and cost of living; table student evidence and asks.

Provide an annual report and take on additional portfolios as directed by Senate

- Produce a clear, data-driven annual report for the President's Summit (achievements, challenges, metrics, learnings).

What a typical week can look like (varies by period)

- 1–2 meetings with University executives or committees; 1 Secretariat meeting; prep for Senate (papers, briefings).
- 2–3 Department or project check-ins; approvals on events, comms, or budgets within policy.
- Multiple Student Appeal Committee panels.
- Student engagement activities (drop-ins, club meetings, campus visits).
- Drafting or approving a submission/media statement; liaising with the Operations Manager.
- Reading and responding to correspondence; tracking actions and risks.

Time commitment and expectations

- Peak periods (orientation, budget setting, campaigns, elections) are busy.
- Expect a part-time workload across the week with some evenings/weekends for events.
- Plan ahead for assessments: time-management is essential.

What success looks like

- Tangible wins for students (policy changes, improved services, resolved systemic issues).
- Delivery against approved priorities, budgets and timelines.
- Strong departmental outputs (events, campaigns, representation) with good risk and WHS compliance.
- Constructive relationships with University leaders and external bodies.
- Clear, timely communication with students and transparent reporting to Senate.

Support and training you'll receive

- Professional operational team (finance, events, marketing & Communications, HR, compliance, facilities) to handle day-to-day delivery under delegated authority.
- Governance, WHS and finance training; handover and guidance from the Operations Manager.
- Established processes for submissions, media, risk assessments and event approvals.

Boundaries and good practice

- Work within the Constitution, Standing Orders and Policies; respect financial delegations and approval thresholds.
- Declare and manage conflicts of interest; maintain confidentiality where required.
- Coordinate messaging with the Secretariat/Operations Manager to manage reputational and legal risk.
- The Senate can direct the President by Special Majority; you remain accountable to the Senate and members.