

SENATE SNAPSHOT

The Guild and its Senate



What the Guild is

The ECU Student Guild is the not-for-profit organisation that represents students at ECU. It leads on issues that affect students, protects your rights, improves your education and campus life, runs services and events, supports clubs and departments, and speaks up to the University and the wider community on your behalf.

What the Senate does

The Guild Senate is the Guild's governing body. It manages the Guild's administrative, financial and strategic affairs, sets policy, approves the annual budget, and makes sure the Guild's departments and activities are working for students. Operational staff provide day-to-day management, continuity, and specialist expertise (e.g., finance, compliance, HR, events, communications, facilities). They help turn Senate goals and objectives into action and keep services running smoothly.

Who's on the Senate

16 elected student leaders, including the President, General Secretary, four Vice Presidents, and Departmental Officers (e.g., Social, Sports, Equity, International, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, First Nations, Environmental, South West).

Terms of Office

Senators serve for one year, from 1 December to 30 November.

Role of the Senate (what it means in practice)

Championing student priorities with the University

- Sets clear policy positions on issues affecting students and authorises representatives to meet with University executives (e.g., Vice-Chancellor and Senior Leadership).
- Raises systemic concerns (teaching quality, assessment, placements, timetabling, fees/charges, campus safety, facilities, equity and inclusion) and negotiates improvements.
- Coordinates student representation on University committees and bodies, ensuring consistent, evidence-based advocacy backed by student feedback.

Supporting clubs and affiliated bodies

- Establishes the policy and funding framework for club affiliation, grants and support, consistent with the Guild's purpose to "support and co-ordinate the activities of Affiliated Bodies".
- Allocates the annual clubs budget and sets fair, transparent criteria for grants, events and sponsorships; monitors outcomes through regular reporting.
- Approves club funding and Guild supported events relevant to the department.
- Delegates day-to-day administration (applications, payments, venue bookings, compliance, training) to operational staff, while retaining oversight and the ability to adjust policy/settings.

Driving departmental initiatives and events

- Sets the strategic priorities and budgets for Departments (e.g., Social, Sports, Equity, International, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, First Nations, Environmental, South West).
- Department Chairpersons (the Vice Presidents) plan programmes and campaigns with Departmental Officers; they report in writing to each scheduled Senate meeting on progress and impact.
- Approves major initiatives and ensures policies (risk, finance, equity, sustainability) are followed; Secretariat (President, General Secretary, and Vice Presidents) ensures implementation between meetings.

- Operational staff provide professional delivery—logistics, risk management, finance processing, contracts, marketing and on-the-day support—under delegated authority and within approved budgets.

How students shape the agenda

- Senators gather feedback from cohorts, Student Representatives, clubs and departments to inform priorities and policy.
- Students can formally direct the Senate via resolutions at General Meetings, keeping decision-making accountable and student-led.

How decisions are made

- The Senate meets at least 10 times a year, typically once a month.
 - Secretariat meets at least 20 times a year, typically once a fortnight.
 - Students can direct the Senate via resolutions passed at a General Meeting.
 - The Senate can delegate powers (by resolution) to Senators, committees/departments, or the Operational Executive (operational staff leadership). The Senate remains ultimately accountable.
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