



Memorandum

To: Dr Laura-Anne Bull, Pro Vice Chancellor: Student Engagement and Equity
From: USASA Board
Date: 17th July 2015
Subject: SSAF Consultation

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Association to make a submission as a part of the 2015 SSAF consultation process.

USASA has sought feedback and recommendations from elected Student Representatives regarding the current and future allocation of SSAF monies.

We note that some of the identified items may already be funded either through the SSAF or through University General expenditure.

SSAF Feedback

In general terms USASA feel that the allocation of funds are consistent with the concerns of students. The following additional items have been collated from student feedback:

Food

There continues to be concern over economical food options being provided on campus. It is recommended that consideration be given to increasing food options after 4pm particularly during swot vac.

Noting the facilities available at the Jeffrey Smart building, it is felt that a proper student kitchen at each campus could help students save money and have access to more affordable and potentially healthier food.

Financial Advice

Financial literacy is a major issue for students on Centrelink and general budgeting would be extremely useful as would having a tax consultant at tax time.

International Students

There is a lack of interaction between international students and domestic students on campus. A strategy should be developed to promote a consistent interaction platform for students.

Employability

There is strong support for career services and an ongoing need for job placement

opportunities and other initiatives to increase the employability of students. There is an impression of inequity depending on the individual program your are enrolled in – for instance It is noted that the business school provide strong support for students in employability. Students would like to see these opportunities available for students in all programs.

Students at City West have specifically raised that they would be happy with unpaid placements as long as they get relevant experience and something to add into their CV. It is currently felt that work experience and internship placements are only available for the minority.

Regular networking nights would be welcome as would an expansion of the Perfect Pitch series however it is noted that the current focus of events on city campus is disadvantaging metro and regional students. Students would like to see the Perfect Pitch series expanded to metro and regional campuses.

Clubs

Increased support for professional development of club executive members and club committees. Increase in general support for non sporting clubs. It is felt that there is currently an imbalance in SSAF allocated to sporting v non sporting clubs and activities.

Childcare

It is suggested that the University could liaise with childcare centres that are in close proximity to campuses and try to subsidise childcare costs for students who have children. An alternative would be to provide a crèche or childcare service on campus. It is suggested that such services could also provide placements for students who are studying early childhood education.

Health and welfare

A clinic on each campus would be utilised by both domestic and international students alike. As a minimum students need access to on campus basic medical assistance such as band aids and Panadol.

Art On Campus

A number of campuses have a corporate run down feel to them which is not very inspiring. A general increase of Art in public spaces on campus would greatly improve the overall aesthetic. The opportunity should be explored to utilise Arts students at the University on projects.

Housing

Whilst the existing Unisa rental database is noted, unfortunately it is not currently functioning and there are a low number of landlords using it.

Other Areas for Attention

There are currently no identified programs within SSAF for mature age students. With the implementation of the digital learning strategy computer literacy will be increasingly relevant. These skills could also have a positive impact on employability.

Similarly there are no current identified programs within the SSAF for Postgraduate students. This is an area that needs to be addressed.