

**Adelaide University
Law Students' Society**



**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING
REPORT
2023**





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www.aulss.org

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Acknowledgement of Country

The AULSS would like to acknowledge that the land we meet on today is the traditional lands for the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.



President's Report

Director: Bryan Lau
Representatives: NA

Summary

As per self-proclaimed tradition (which I started last year), I have decided to start off my report with another wise quote from Confucius.

“世上本无事，庸人自扰之。”

“Life is simple, we just make it complicated”
- Confucius

The quote by Confucius reminds us that we do not need to make our jobs more difficult and complicated than it needs to be. Complex messages result in confusion, and that in turn, delays progress. Simplicity in what you stand for, and how you communicate, will send clear messages to propel your organization forward.

My goals for the AULSS at the beginning of the year were as follows:

1. Increasing our collaborative events by broadening and strengthening the AULSS' relationships with interstate and Law Student Societies overseas.
2. Continuing to deliver and improve as many events as we can to enhance the Law School experience.
3. Strengthening the staff-student relationship through increased consultation sessions with the Adelaide Law School.
4. Continuing to give back to our students.

In other words, “Bigger and Better”.

This year, the AULSS Committee members have generously volunteered their time to organize a record number of 130 events and initiatives. This includes 12 from the Activities Portfolio, 15 from the Careers Portfolio, 53 rounds (15 Competitions) from the Competitions Portfolio, 18 from the Education Portfolio, 22 (12 advocacy, 8 well-being, 2 fundraisers) from the Social Justice & Equity Portfolio, 6 from the President and Vice-President, and The Hilarian worked on 4 Magazine Issues. In addition to our events and initiatives, we have also made significant changes to the Constitution and internal governance of the AULSS through the introduction of new roles and policies. It is safe to say that my goals for the year were met, as we had bigger events (shout out to Law Ball), fundraisers, and more collaborations than I have seen throughout my



time on the AULSS. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication from our AULSS Committee members. The AULSS Committee is made up entirely of volunteers – students who have dedicated and sacrificed a large portion of their time and energy to help the AULSS run as smoothly as possible despite their busy schedules. I am very grateful for having such a wonderful group of people on the AULSS Committee this year. As such, I would like to congratulate and sincerely thank my fellow Committee members for all their contributions throughout the year to bettering the Law School and helping your fellow peers.

The AULSS has been a significant part of my life for the past 4 years, and it has been an absolute honour to continue the legacy of the hard-working Committees I have worked with throughout my degree. I started my journey with the AULSS as a First-Year Representative in 2020. Despite Covid being a massive barrier to the operations of the AULSS, running for a position on the AULSS was the best decision I ever made (as the previous Presidents will testify). My time as a First-Year Representative opened me up to more networks, friendships, experiences, and skills than I could have imagined. I was then elected as an Education Representative in 2021, and then elected as the Director of Education in 2022, and finally, President in 2023. After committing a large portion of my time to the Committee and representing the students at the Adelaide Law School, I have become extremely passionate and proud of the work that the AULSS does.

I would like to thank the past presidents who helped me throughout the current year, Chelsea Chieng and Peter Tantalos. I am also incredibly grateful to my Executive Committee for their continuing support and commitment, especially to our Vice-President, Felix Eldridge, without whom I would not be able to run this society. I would also like to thank the Dean of Law, Professor Judith McNamara, for her continued support and genuine interest in getting involved with the student community and bridging the gap between students and staff. It has been an honour to work with her, and I hope the next president continues to build this ongoing relationship with the Dean. While these people are no longer here, I would also like to thank Alex Jones from the ABLE Faculty administration. Throughout my 4 years in the AULSS, Alex Jones has helped me with anything administrative related and was always up for a good chat. He made my job so much easier, and his resignation has been a massive blow to the ABLE Faculty team and the Law Student Community.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the students at the Adelaide Law School for trusting me to be their President. It has been an honour serving and representing the students as the President, and I am forever grateful for the memories, friendships, and skills I have gained along the way.



Co-options and Resignations

This year, I initiated a record-breaking total of 7 rounds of co-options, with the majority of these rounds taking place during the first few months of Semester 1. Upon careful examination, it becomes evident that the reason behind this surge in co-option rounds can be attributed to a combination of factors, including 9 resignations, an expansion in committee size, primarily within the Competitions Portfolio, and students departing for exchange programs. Despite the numerous departures from the Committee throughout the year, it is heartening to note the strong interest in joining the AULSS Committee, as we received a remarkable 69 applications for co-options this year.

Suggestions

The Executive Committee should exercise diligence in reviewing and selecting co-opted applications to ensure that co-opted Committee members remain committed to their roles and perform their duties effectively until the end of their term. The incoming Executive Committee may also want to contemplate revising the questions in the application forms to obtain a more accurate assessment of the applicants' qualifications and suitability.

Furthermore, in the event that there are still vacant positions after the initial co-option round, the respective Directors should evaluate whether it is essential to fill the remaining positions within their portfolio. It is important to note that having a complete portfolio, while ideal, may not always be necessary.

O'Week (YouX and ABLE Faculty)

This year, the AULSS organized our annual O'Week Clubsland stall during both Semester 1 and Semester 2 to warmly welcome first-year students to the University. This served as an excellent opportunity to familiarise them with the campus, introduce them to the Committee, provide information about our upcoming events, promote our social media presence, and even offer AULSS merchandise for sale. Additionally, we delivered an AULSS presentation during the induction lectures, offering an overview of the AULSS Committee and the events and initiatives we coordinate. In Semester 1, we also hosted an informal meet-and-greet session in the Liggy courtyard following the induction lecture, complete with complimentary coffee from a coffee cart provided by Grind and Press. This event also facilitated the distribution of the First-Year Guide, a valuable resource authored and published by the Education Portfolio. I extend my appreciation to Tony Tu, the previous Director of Education in Semester 1, and the entire Education Team for producing such an informative and impressive guide. In Semester 2, we similarly organized a smaller presentation and informal meet-and-greet for mid-year intake students.



Additionally, the ABLE Faculty extended invitations to us for their ABLE Society Showcase in Semester 1 and Open Day in Semester 2. This is essentially the same as O'Week, except the focus was on ABLE-related societies.



Suggestions

Commence preparations for O'Week well in advance. This year, I collaborated closely with the Education Portfolio and the Law School Staff to ensure the successful execution of this event. I highly recommend that the incoming President adopt a similar approach next year, as distributing the workload between the AULSS and the Law School Staff significantly alleviated the burden on my shoulders for this event.

Additionally, I'd like to suggest that the incoming President emphasise the importance of having First-Year students follow ALL of our social media accounts during the presentation. This practice ensures that the majority of First-Year students gain access to our social media platforms, thereby increasing their awareness of the AULSS's upcoming events.



Collaborations

As previously mentioned, one of my goals for the year was to “increase our collaborative events by broadening and strengthening the AULSS’ relationship with interstate and Law Student Societies overseas”. At the outset of the year, I initiated contact with representatives from various societies and institutions to engage in brainstorming sessions aimed at devising initiatives for the benefit of Adelaide Law Students. The individuals listed below are noteworthy contributors who have played a substantial role in our collaborative endeavours.

Dean of the Law School

During the summer break, Judith and I had multiple meetings to discuss the issues around the Law School and how the AULSS and the Law School can tackle these issues together. She wanted to increase her involvement with the AULSS and to a greater extent, the Law Student Community. Once the academic term started, Judith and I had semi-regular catch ups and keep and keep an open communication via email. This year, Judith has started the Respectful Ligertwood Committee, helped me with the amendments to the AULSS Grievance Policy, assisted with O’Week, been involved with discussions to revamp the Law School amenities, and attended a couple of Committee Meetings to answer questions from the AULSS Committee (especially about the merger).

John Bray Alumni Network

The John Bray law alumni network (**JBAN**) was established with the key objective of fostering ongoing professional development of law graduates through the provision of activities and services and to encourage and promote the Law School as a source of relevant and challenging graduate and postgraduate legal education. The President of the AULSS automatically sits on the JBAN Committee as a student representative. The JBAN is an excellent network to collaborate with, especially on initiatives that give students the opportunity to learn more about the legal industry. This year, the JBAN Mentorship Program finally commenced and despite the delays, the feedback we have received from both lawyers and law students in the program have been largely positive.

Tri-varsity (Flinders Law Students’ Association & UniSA Law Students’ Association)

This year, we continued to work together with the other two Law Students’ Associations, FLSA and USALSA, to host our annual Tri-Varsity Careers Fair, Tri-Varsity Pub Crawl, and Uniform Clerkship Scheme. In addition, we have also introduced a new Tri-Varsity event, the Tri-Varsity Marathon Competition (AULSS and FLSA taking the reins).



Tri-society

At the beginning of the year, the presidents from Adelaide Medical Students' Society (**AMSS**) and Adelaide University Engineering Society (**AUES**) and I met up to discuss our goals for the year in terms of collaborative events. Due to the strong relationships the three society has with each other, we wanted to run more collaborative events and just generally help each other out in terms of promotional content. This year, in addition to running our annual Tri-Society Blood Drive and Suits, Scrubs and Spanners, the AULSS has helped both AUES and AMSS promote their events such as Skullduggery and AUES BBQ, contributed to seminars hosted by 180 Degrees Consulting, and hosted an Inter-Society Soccer event.

180 Degrees Consulting (180DC)

Isaac Tenant, the President of the 180DC, reached out to the presidents of the AULSS, AMSS and AUES. He wanted to form a relationship with the three societies to work on collaborative events. One of the notable initiatives included a Leadership Training seminar for the AULSS, AUES, and AMSS executive committee members. This seminar was hosted and ran by the President of 180DC himself, and I found the program to be particularly useful. In addition, we have also ran collaborative seminars with 180DC such as the "Internship Night" and the "Social Impact Careers Night".

College of Law

This year, I had multiple meetings with Sarah Wood, the Administration Officer for College of Law in South Australia. Sarah joined the College of Law earlier this year and as soon as she took on her new role, she contacted me and the other Law Students' Association's presidents to find ways in which the College of Law can get involved with the Law Students in Adelaide. Since then, I have had multiple meetings with Sarah and she has been so generous and willing to collaborate with the AULSS. This year, College of Law has offered to let us use their office space to run one of our Education events, and they hosted a networking night for the AULSS, FLSA and USALSA executive committee to learn more about the College of Law. Throughout my 4 years working with the College of Law, they have been the most active GDLP Provider to be involved with the AULSS. I would highly recommend the next Executive Committee to continue this relationship with the College of Law.

Suggestions

Our collaborative initiatives and events are always in high demand and has the best engagement with the students, which is why I would highly recommend the incoming Committee to continue expanding the collaborative relationships we have with other Societies, Faculties, Universities and external organisations.



Respectful Ligertwood Committee

The Respectful Ligertwood Committee was formally established in 2023 by the Judith McNamara. The aim of the Committee is to promote a culture of respect and inclusion, student well-being, and provide a forum for communication, consultation and cooperation between the students and staff in the Adelaide Law School. The committee has adopted a co-design approach, involving representatives from both the student body and the law school staff, to engage deeply in the processes and outcomes of the law school. The President of the AULSS holds a seat on the Committee and has the authority to extend invitations to other members of the AULSS Executive Committee to attend meetings when the agenda items are pertinent to their respective portfolios. As of the writing of this report, the Respectful Ligertwood Committee has convened for a total of three meetings. While the committee is still in its nascent stages, there have been discussions regarding the refurbishment of Law School amenities, the implementation of a virtual feedback box, and strategies to reinvigorate the campus culture within the Law School.



Suggestions

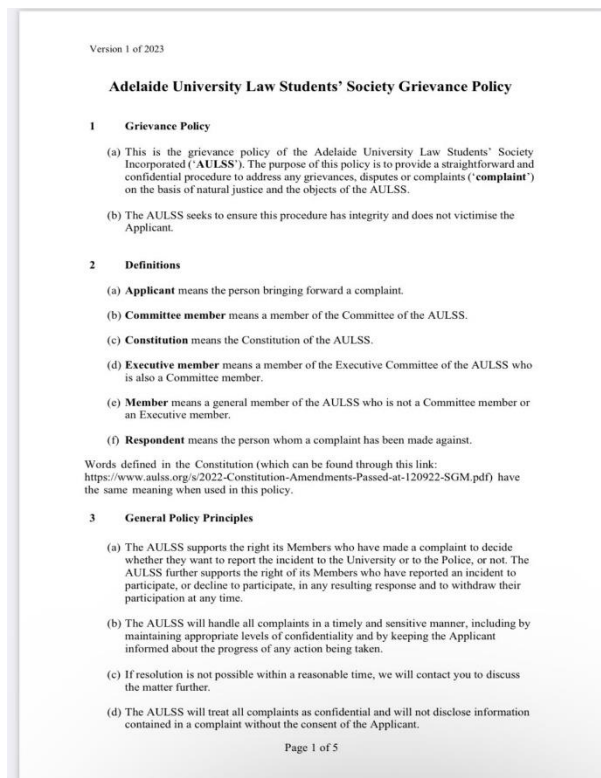
I believe this Committee has the potential to run fantastic initiatives that will benefit the law students, especially if it's focussed towards student well-being. The incoming President and AULSS Committee should continue to work with the Respectful Ligertwood Committee in the following years.



Updated Grievance Policy

The Grievance Policy was originally published in October 2020 with the primary objective of providing a straightforward and confidential procedure for addressing grievances, disputes, or complaints, in alignment with the principles of natural justice and the objectives of the AULSS. However, at the beginning of the year, I conducted a thorough review of the policy and identified certain processes that were outdated and did not adequately address specific situations involving grievances against Committee and Executive Members of the AULSS, particularly the President. Therefore, in consultation with the Dean of the Law School, I undertook a revision of the

Grievance Policy to clearly delineate the distinct processes for filing complaints against student members of the AULSS versus complaints against Committee/Executive members of the AULSS. Additionally, I incorporated a reference to the University's Integrity Unit as a recommended authority for making anonymous reports. The updated Grievance Policy, reflecting these changes, was officially published in April 2023 and is accessible on the AULSS website.



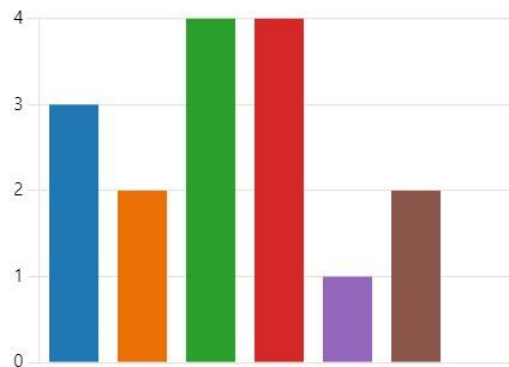
AULSS Internal Survey/Feedback

Towards the end of Semester 1, I created an internal survey/feedback form and distributed it to the entire AULSS Committee. The aim of the internal survey was for Felix and I to get a better idea on how the Committee members were feeling about the way the AULSS was operating and whether they had any feedback for the Executive Committee. I received a total of 16 responses, which was a little disappointing considering that there are about 50 members on the Committee. However, based on the responses, the overall feedback has been largely positive, with a 4.38 average rating for the member's experience with their Portfolio, and a 4.31 average rating for the member's experience with the AULSS Committee as a whole. The survey also gave Felix and I an idea on areas where we can improve the operations of the AULSS. An example would be the number of Committee meetings, which Committee members have noted that there are too many and they go on for too long. We have listened to the feedback and made changes to the Constitution to lower the minimum number of Committee meetings required.



1. Which Portfolio are you in?

[More Details](#)

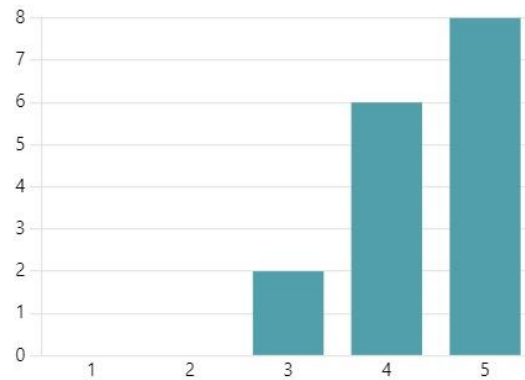


2. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your overall experience with your Portfolio?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

4.38
Average Rating

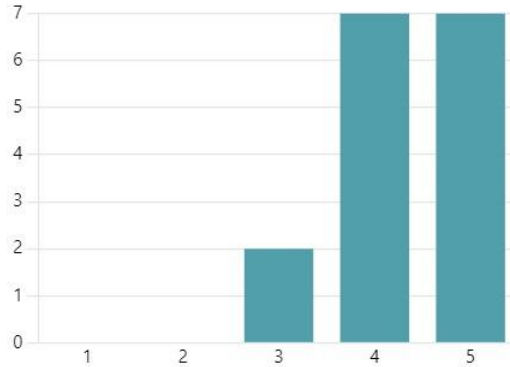


4. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your overall experience with the AULSS Committee?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

4.31
Average Rating



Suggestions

I would highly recommend the incoming President to do an internal survey during their term. However, to boost engagement, I would recommend coming up with an incentive for Committee members who have completed the form.

Removal of St Raphael's Coffee Cart

As many of you may be aware, our beloved St Raphael's coffee cart is no longer in operation at the Ligertwood building. This change occurred because Michelle, the lady who previously ran the cart, took on a new job, and the University had no plans to renew the lease for the coffee cart. At the start of the year, I engaged in multiple discussions with Anita Gayen to convey the students' dissatisfaction with the removal of the coffee cart. Both of us made several attempts to reach out to the University's Leasing team in hopes of exploring the possibility of renewing the lease for a new coffee cart provider. Unfortunately, our efforts were met with silence. The Leasing Team conducted a retail review during the first half of Semester 1 and was supposed to reach a decision in April/May. However, despite our numerous follow-ups, we didn't receive a response until June. Regrettably, the Leasing Team informed us that the University would not be reinstating a coffee cart at the Ligertwood, citing their belief that there are ample cafes in close proximity to the law school. I found this outcome deeply disappointing, especially since I had offered to conduct a survey for the Leasing Team to demonstrate the demand among Law students for a coffee cart and had even identified a potential new coffee cart provider.

For future Committees, I urge you to seize any opportunity that arises to bring back our coffee cart if the chance presents itself.



Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA)

The AULSS has been a long-affiliated member with ALSA and we pay an annual affiliation fee to be a Member Association of ALSA. ALSA is the national not-for-profit organisation which acts as the peak representative body for law students in Australia. Every year, the Member Associations across Australia and New Zealand send delegates to an Australian city for a week of Council, Competitions and Social Events ('Conference'). This year, the Conference was held in Sydney, at the University of Technology Sydney. The Conference is an excellent opportunity for Member Associations to network and build partnerships with other law societies and bring home new ideas to the table.



The Conference also consists of the National Competitions, which is held in conjunction with the Council sessions. Our Constitution states that the prize for any AULSS member who wins a competition shall be the right to represent the AULSS at the next annual ALSA conference competitions. This year, the AULSS proudly sent 10 competitor delegates with a total of \$895 subsidised for each competitor (\$730 for early bird registration, \$165 for discretionary costs). The conference went from 27 July 2023 to 2 August 2023. We were extremely successful in 2023 National Competitions, taking home the prize for 'Best Careers Initiative' and 'Best Health and Wellbeing Initiative'. Our competitors have also achieved amazing results, with Jess March and Kurt Schenk winning the International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition, and Katie Cooper as the runner up for the Witness Examination Competition. Both Kurt Schenk and Jess March also won best written submission, and Jess March won best oralist for the IHL Moot. A massive congratulations to our competition delegates once again.



Conference

I gained valuable insights and established numerous connections with executive members from other Law Student Societies and Associations (LSS/LSAs) during the conference. During the "President's Report" session, we engaged in discussions about the challenges that our respective societies were facing and the strategies we had implemented to address these issues. One recurring theme that dominated our conversations was the issue of engagement. To tackle this challenge, I drew inspiration from the Deakin Law Students' Society, which had introduced an innovative concept known as "Engagement Representatives" to enhance student engagement. These representatives act as intermediaries, connecting our students to our social media posts, events, and initiatives. They are tasked with devising creative ideas to foster interaction between students and the Society, which could involve activities such as "Lecture Bashing" and impromptu interviews with students. According to the Deakin Law Students' Society, this approach resulted in a remarkable 300% increase in social media engagement. Consequently, we introduced two Engagement Representative roles within the Communications Portfolio at our Special General Meeting (SGM).

Furthermore, our discussions encompassed various other topics and ideas, including:

- First-Year Law Camp
- Sponsorship Initiatives
- Expressing gratitude to sponsors through gifts
- Creation of a Secretary Role

These discussions and exchanges of ideas have enriched my understanding and provided me with valuable strategies to enhance the AULSS's operations.

Funding for our competitors

The Executive Committee engaged in extensive deliberations concerning the funding allocation for our competitors, a matter that gained prominence due to the substantial increase in registration fees for the Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) event this year. The registration fees ranged from \$730 to \$750 per person, in contrast to the previous year's fees, which were approximately \$300 to \$500. This spike in costs was partly attributed to the conference's location in Sydney, one of Australia's most expensive cities, and the decision to simplify the fee structure by eliminating tiered pricing.

During our Executive Committee meetings, we categorized the expenses into two distinct groups: registration fees and discretionary costs. Registration fees pertain to the expenses associated with registering our competitors and delegates, amounting to \$730 per person this year. Discretionary costs encompass all the additional expenditures incurred by each competitor and delegate to facilitate their attendance



at the conference or competition, such as flights, accommodations, food, and more. The Executive Committee resolved to fully cover the registration fees for each competitor and delegate. However, discussions regarding discretionary costs were postponed to allow us to gain a clearer understanding of our financial position after all the expenses related to the Law Ball had been finalized.

Ultimately, it was decided that each competitor and delegate would receive a \$150 subsidy to assist with discretionary costs. This decision brought our total expenditure for ALSA to \$9,170.

Furthermore, following discussions with Matthew Stubbs, we were fortunate to secure support from the Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics (RUMLAE), which agreed to cover the registration fees for the two International Humanitarian Law (IHL) mooters. This additional support enabled us to provide more assistance to our competitors for their discretionary expenses.

Recommendation

I would absolutely recommend the incoming Committee to continue to send competitors and delegates to the conference next year. It has been an extremely eye-opening experience and it is a great way to form new connections with interstate LSA/LSS's. This is also a good opportunity to provide to our competition Grand Finalists to compete with some of the best competitors in Australia. As next year's Conference will be held in Tasmania, which will hopefully mean that the registration fees next year will be reduced, one suggestion I would like to make is for next year's Executive Committee to try and follow the budget the 2023 Executive Committee has set this year.

Uniform Clerkship Scheme

The Uniform Clerkship Scheme, with participation from the UniSA Law Students Association and the Flinders Law Students' Association, is designed to provide penultimate and final year South Australian law students with the opportunity to apply for multiple clerkship programs across a range of prestigious firms. The scheme provides students with the certainty of uniform application, interview and offer times across the participating firms. Further, the scheme provides firms with a large pool of high quality, driven and opportunistic applicants from across the three South Australian law schools; certainty that pools of applications will be received at a particular set time period; and firm advertising through the scheme across our social media platforms. Thus, the scheme is highly beneficial for both students and firms and this year we received fantastic feedback and engagement from both parties.

The critical dates for the 2023 scheme were:

- Applications Open: Monday 3 July, 9am



- Applications Close: Friday 28 July, 5pm
- Firm Interviews Commence: Monday 7 August
- Offers Made by Firms: Monday 11 September, 9am
- Offers Accepted by Firms: Wednesday 13 September, 5pm

I decided to include an extra week between interviews commencing and offers being made to allow the national firms to adhere to their strict deadlines' interstate.

This year, I was hoping to expand the list of participating firms and managed to include two new firms to the list of participating firms:

- Dentons
- HWL Ebsworth
- Johnson Winter & Slattery
- Kain Lawyers
- Lynch Meyer
- MinterEllison
- Thomson Geer
- Norman Waterhouse
- Wallmans
- Tindall Gask Bentley

Suggestions

Firstly, I would suggest the incoming President to only include firms who offer PAID clerkships into the scheme. This year, Tindall Gask Bentley offered an unpaid clerkship and many students raised their concerns about this. FLSA also raised this as a concern and decided to not include Tindall Gask Bentley in its Uniform Clerkship Scheme advertising materials.

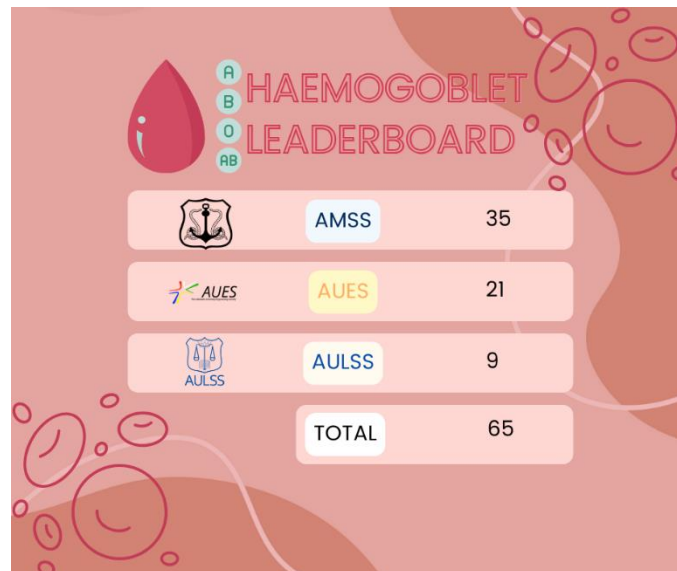
Secondly, I would highly recommend the incoming President to contact non-commercial firms to ask if they would like to participate in the Uniform Clerkship Scheme, such as the DPP and the Attorney-General's Department.

Tri-Society Blood Drive

It has been an absolute pleasure to collaborate with the Adelaide Medical Students' Society (AMSS) and the Adelaide University Engineering Society (AUES) on the Tri-Society Blood Drive 2023. This is the third consecutive year we are running this Blood Drive. This year, the Blood Drive commenced from 11 September to 6 October 2023. In collaboration with Lifeblood Australia, the three largest Societies at Adelaide University host a blood donation challenge with prizes up for grabs. We continued to the Facebook Group from last year to encourage donations through friendly competition, asking participants to take a selfie at their donation appointment, tag their respective Society and nominate their friends to donate as well! We then picked three



random donors from each society every 1-2 weeks to win prizes, which included prizes donated by RedBull, vouchers from the Adelaide Unibar, and tickets to Suits, Scrubs & Spanners.



As shown above, we had very strong engagement overall with 65 donations across the three societies. This is an excellent result as the Blood Drive ran for 2 weeks shorter than in 2022 and yet was close to hitting the same number of donations made in 2022. However, there was poor engagement with the AULSS members.

Suggestions

Most of my suggestions will be in greater detail in my handover to the next President. However, to summarise, I would recommend increasing the length of the Blood Drive and delegating more members to help with the running of this initiative. This year, only three people including myself were running the Blood Drive, which was a heavy task. I would also suggest coming up with incentives and ways to encourage more AULSS members and staff to donate blood.

JBAN Mentorship Program

The JBAN Mentorship Program, despite multiple delays, finally commenced at the beginning of Semester 2. After Peter Tantalos (2021 President) resigned from the JBAN Committee, Chelsea Chieng (2022 President) picked up where he left off and progressed the program together with me. Chelsea and I paired students with lawyers based on the areas of interest and the lawyer's area of practice. We currently have 30 active pairings with a majority of the pairings setting regular meetings till the end of the year. The program has also received positive feedback from both the lawyers and law students and it is likely that the JBAN will be continuing this program next year.



Suggestions

As the pairing process was extremely time consuming, I would highly suggest the next President to work together with JBAN to start the selection process as early as possible. Delegation of work between the AULSS President and JBAN is also the key to a successful mentorship program.

Foyer Furniture Revamp

This initiative is a small project led by Jessica Viven-Wilksch from Lex Salus. Jessica sought volunteers from the AULSS to brainstorm ideas aimed at making the Ligertwood Foyer space more inviting for students. Dua Junaidy (SJE Representative), Eleni Sarantou (Director of Education), Sofia Tait (Director of Careers), and myself willingly joined this effort. We collectively decided to focus on utilizing the resources readily available to us, rather than seeking funding from the University for a complete Foyer renovation. Some of the ideas include:

- Rearranging existing furniture to create a more spacious environment;
- Replacing old furniture with more functional pieces;
- Potentially introducing more plants throughout the foyer to enhance its ambiance;
- Incorporating bean bags to foster a sense of community in the foyer; and
- Implementing QR codes on tables that link to the Respectful Ligertwood Committee's virtual suggestion box.

As of the time of writing this report, we have already made slight adjustments to the furniture layout, and a delivery of bean bags has been arranged. I strongly encourage the incoming committee to follow up with Jessica on the progress of this project and to explore further opportunities to improve the Ligertwood Foyer for the benefit of our students.

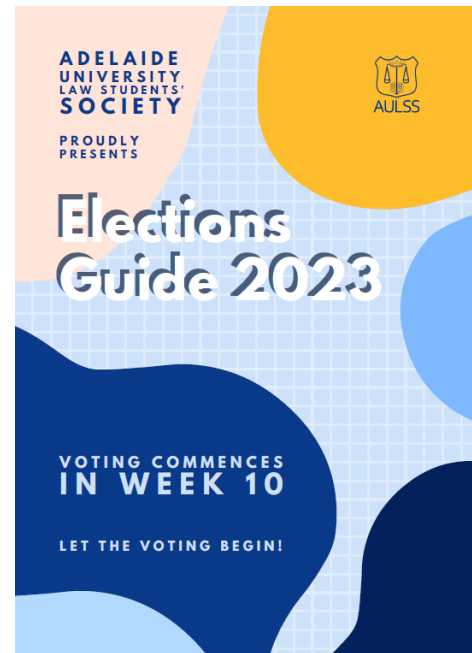
2023 AULSS Elections

I would like to thank Dr Francesco de Zwart for kindly agreeing to be the AULSS Returning Officer again this year.

Unfortunately, we have experienced an abysmally low number of nominations this year. We have received a total of 16 nominations this year, which is extremely disappointing compared to the 45 nominations we had in 2022. At the time of writing this report, the Election Period have just ended for both online and in-person voting. The positions that are contested at the elections this year is the Vice-President. The remaining vacant positions are:



- ONE Director of Activities
- ONE Director of Careers
- ONE Director of Competitions
- ONE Director of Education
- ONE Director of Social Justice and Equity
- TWO Activities Representatives
- THREE Careers Representatives
- FOUR Communication Representatives
- TEN Competition Representatives
- TWO Education Representatives
- TWO Social Justice & Equity Representatives
- ONE Competitions Development Representative
- TWO Engagement Representatives
- ONE External & Interschool Competitions Representative
- ONE First Nations Representative
- ONE IT Representative
- ONE Mature Age Representative
- ONE Queer Representative
- ONE Sponsorship Representative



I would like to congratulate those who have been elected unopposed for the 2023 Committee and I wish the contested candidates the best of luck in the Election.

Suggestions

I would recommend the incoming Committee to ask Franc to be the Returning Officer for next year's elections as he has been our Returning Officer for many years and is familiar with the procedures of the election. I would also recommend setting up a meeting with the Returning Officer to go through in great detail the Election Rules before the call for nominations as we have made substantial changes to the Election Rules this year.

Other Initiatives

These are other initiatives that I had worked on during the year.

Overseas Trip Proposal



During my trip to Malaysia at the beginning of the year, I caught up with an alumnus from the Adelaide Law School. His name is Matthew Phillips and he graduated Adelaide Law School over 30 years ago. He has since been practicing as a Litigator in Kuala Lumpur and has established his own law firm with 30 over lawyers. During our catch up, he mentioned that one of his goals was to find a way to introduce the legal industry in South-East Asia to the Adelaide Law Students. Therefore, he has proposed to conduct an overseas immersion trip with the Adelaide Law School, similar to the Rural Trips that the Adelaide Law School currently organises.



To summarise the proposal, the Adelaide Law School can select interested students to go on this trip. Matthew will then provide the accommodation at Port Dickson (Malaysia). His law firm will then organise the itinerary for the law students, which includes visits to the local courts, networking with the local judges and lawyers, etc... Matthew is also a really nice and accommodating person. He was even nice enough to treat me to a meal at his law themed café!

I spoke to Mark Giancaspro about this proposal once the semester started, and he said he was keen to move this forward. The last time Mark and I discussed this; he informed me that the Adelaide Law School was in the process of confirming if this is an initiative that can be run by the Adelaide Law School. I believe this proposal has a lot of potential and it is a great way to give students more exposure to the legal industries abroad. The next committee should follow up with Mark on the progress of this.



President's Newsletter

The President's Newsletter was started at the end of the 2022 by the previous president. The aim of the Newsletter is to summarise all of the AULSS events and initiatives that will be happening throughout the Semester. This year, I aimed to publish 4 Newsletters, one at the beginning of each term (2 per Semester). However, due to my limited capacity while I was away for the ALSA conference, I could only publish 3 Newsletters this year (2 in Semester 1, and 1 in Semester 2). I would highly recommend the incoming President to publish 4 Newsletters during their term as it reduces the need for Directors to send individual all-student emails.

Overseas Law Societies

AT the beginning of my term, I reached out to the President of the Australia Singapore Law Students' Society (AUSLSS), Sylvester, to see if there was any initiatives that we could run together. I reached out to the AUSLSS because there is a section in our Careers Guide where we featured Singapore as a potential country to practice law. Our relationship with the AUSLSS could potentially allow us to gain more information about practicing law in Singapore with an Australian law degree and run collaborative seminars together. I had two meetings with Sylvester: One via Zoom, and the other in Singapore. Unfortunately, I was informed by Sylvester that the Bachelor of Law degree offered by the University of Adelaide is not recognised by the Singaporean Government, which makes any collaboration with the AUSLSS difficult as their events are catered towards "recognised" law degrees. However, Sylvester expressed his interest in potentially running events with "non-recognised" Universities. He also graciously agreed to share his contacts from Singapore if we ever need them. At the time of writing this report, the AUSLSS elected their new president, of which I am unsure of. I would recommend the incoming President to reach out to overseas Law Students' Societies like the AUSLSS as our relationship with these societies can be extremely beneficial to our students.



AULSS

President's Newsletter 2 (Semester 1)

Hey Law Students!

I hope you enjoyed the mid-semester break (and didn't have too many assignments to catch up on 😊)

The AULSS has heaps of events lined up for the remainder of this Semester, including our annual LAW BALL!

Here is a quick summary of our upcoming events and things you do not want to miss out on...



Post-Covid Era and Engagement

This year, we find ourselves firmly entrenched in a "post-Covid Era." While I initially anticipated that the lifting of Covid restrictions would pave the way for larger events, we encountered new challenges, particularly in terms of student engagement within the law school.

There appears to be a diminished enthusiasm among law students to attend AULSS events compared to the preceding years of 2021 and 2022. I believe this might be attributed to the fact that events are proceeding as usual this year without the looming threat of cancellation. Consequently, many students do not perceive the urgency to participate in our events this year, as they assume they can always attend next year. The absence of the uncertainty that characterized 2020, 2021, and 2022 has had a notable impact on student engagement with AULSS events, social media posts, and initiatives. This phenomenon is not unique to the AULSS; it is a challenge shared by many Law Students' Societies and Associations, as I learned from discussions with other societies at the ALSA Conference.

I anticipate that the incoming Committee will confront a similar challenge next year and would strongly encourage them to devise innovative solutions to address this issue. I also hold hope that the introduction of Engagement Representative positions will prove instrumental in helping the 2024 Committee tackle this problem effectively.

Conclusion

As previously mentioned, I am extremely honoured to have served as the President of the 2023 AULSS Committee. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to the AULSS. These 4 years has provided valuable life-lessons and long-lasting friendships that I will never forget. While my time in the AULSS Committee is over, I look forward to handing over the reins to the incoming Committee and to watch as the AULSS legacy continues.

All the best,



Bryan Lau
President
10 October 2023



Vice President Portfolio Report

Director: Felix Eldridge
Representatives: NA

Summary

It has been a great honour to have served as this year's Vice President. This role for me is the culmination of a three year term on this Society's Committee, spanning three portfolios (Careers, Education, then VP within the Executive) and in each role I have faced a new set of challenges and opportunities.

The Vice President is a role that, by the nature of its powers and duties, tends to attract two types of people. The first are those that have either a commercial or fashionable mindset and wish to reinvigorate merchandise or negotiate the best Law School Local deals for their colleagues. The second are those who take an interest in governance or administration and prioritise its the secretarial, constitutional and policy duties. Unlike at least my two immediate predecessors, I saw myself firmly in the latter category, and it is a passion for the maintenance and improvement of governance that shaped my election platform and my achievements in this term.

Of all the key goals I set myself, the most important of which were as follows:

- The comprehensive reform of the AULSS Constitution
- The implementation and updating of new and existing policies
- The complete overhaul of the AULSS election rules
- The creation of an Endowment Fund for the Society
- The generation of a budget surplus for this term
- The continuation and enhancement of good governance throughout the term

Planning for the Year

A lot of the Society's events and initiatives are prepared months from their announcement of commencement, many of those are approved during the Executive Planning Day, often colloquially referred to as 'Blueprint Day'. The first opportunity for proper consultation with the Committee as to the expectations and information about the AULSS is in the 'Information Night' event.

Blueprint Day

The Blueprint Day is also important as once discussed, the events and initiatives can be placed into a calendar for the Executive to access and ensure that Directors



minimise disruption by not holding the events of their portfolio to conflict substantially with the events of other Directors. The Executive had more of a decentralised Blueprint Day than perhaps some of our predecessors, with more events and ideas being raised over the course of several Executive Meetings, although the meeting held on the 12th of December 2022 was de-facto the 'Blueprint Day'. Part of the reason for this was because there were two vacancies on the Executive as of the commencement of the term, those being the Director of Activities and Director of Social Justice & Equity. For a nominally full Executive elected in October, most Directors can use half of October and all of November to prepare ideas for their role in the leadup to the commencement of their term on the 1st of December. For those two roles, those Directors were unable to do so, as these roles were not able to be filled until the first week of December.

Due to the lack of nominations for several positions of the Executive at the most recent elections, I would assume that similar, if not more prevalent, issues will face the next Executive. Despite this, I would still encourage the next Executive to ensure that early in the term, ideally in December or January, they hold such a meeting and go over their general expectations for the year, and preferably all of the major events and initiatives they plan to run over the course of their term.

Information Night

At the start of the year, normally around January, the Executive will call an unofficial Committee meeting known as 'Information Night' which is designed to provide information about the AULSS to new members of the Committee and to inform the Committee of the Executive's broad plans for the year. This is typically a very good opportunity for the Committee to actually be briefed about key aims for that year, and is normally the first time in their term they can formally interact with each other as a whole, and no formal attendance requirements are required to be followed. This is a commendable event and I encourage the next Executive to continue to hold this event.

Professionalism

Both above meetings are excellent opportunities to outline the expectations and standards of office holders in the Society. The Executive and Committee are comprised of students, and we understand that people have other commitments or calls upon their time including their studies, other club commitments, volunteering, caring responsibilities, employment, social or personal time, and more. Despite this, we are also a representative organisation of our peers, and it is beholden upon ourselves to model the behaviour that we expect from others, and to ensure that the perception of the Society is that of a professional organisation. To that end, while it is of course a delicate balancing act, I would highly recommend the next Executive decide and communicate the expected standard of behaviour at these meetings.



Meetings, Minutes, Reports and Agendas

Much of the Vice President's function is to act as the de-facto Secretary of the Society, and as such, are responsible for the circulation of agendas, reports and the notices of meetings, as well as the preparation of minutes.

Committee Meetings

This year the Committee was constitutionally required to hold at least 8 meetings. At the time of writing this report, it has held all 8. Officially the body charged with administering the Society in between meetings of the Society, the Committee has gradually become less of a decision making body over the last few years, and more of a consultative one. As very few decisions require a formal vote of the Committee, one example being that of approving election rule changes, the meetings have become more advisory in the sense that Directors inform the Committee of upcoming events, initiatives and issue reminders for Committee members to perform or stop performing certain actions.

In light of this, and the fact that often there are complaints as to the frequency of such meetings, from both Directors and representatives, the minimum number of meetings was reduced in the Constitution from 8 to 4. The explanation for this will be covered later in my report, but I do wish to stress that this will not mean that only 4 meetings may be held, it simply means that the minimum number of meetings will be 4 in the future. I hope that this will make time pressures on the Society more bearable and the meetings become more relevant rather than being held for the sole purpose of ticking off the minimum number of meetings in the Constitution.

Historically these meetings used to run for long periods which would breed disengagement within the Committee, and efforts were made, in accordance with the model from last year, to keep meetings under 1.5 hours, and preferably to 1 hour which was almost always achieved.

As the Vice President is responsible for meetings, and historically the AULSS has catered for meetings of the Committee, I organised catering for all 8 meetings, alongside the meetings of the Society and the informal Information Night meeting. In 2021 I recall that catering alternated between sushi and pizza. Last year, it was either exclusively, or at least almost exclusively, pizza, which I noted had a lot less wastage. Given there was no opposition to pizza being the staple for that year, I chose to stick with pizza as it is easy to order and divide between Committee members. Given the rise of cost of living and thus the subsequent raise in food prices in the early part of the year, I experimented with a few different providers, but eventually decided to continue using Dominos, but to pick up the food by hand by walking about 10 minutes each way, rather than pay an exorbitant amount for delivery. I enlisted the help of several Committee members to do so, and I thank these members for their time.



Considering the increase to the size of the Committee, the average cost actually was under \$100 per meeting, which is inclusive of the Special General Meeting and the Information Night catering. The average cost is broadly similar to last year's despite the increase in the number of Committee members, but the cost at its lowest was a far bigger saving for the Society so I would recommend that the incoming Vice President continue using Dominos and continue collecting the food by hand. Factoring in the reduction in the number of meetings, I expect that the total catering budget for the AULSS will shrink dramatically, which will be of great benefit to the budget.

In accordance with changes made to the Constitution at the Special General Meeting, meetings of the Committee, alongside meetings of the Society and Executive may be held elsewhere than in the Ligertwood building or on campus. Despite this, I would highly advise that meetings of the Committee remain in Ligertwood as in person meetings tend to provide more engagement and interaction from attendees.

The meetings for Committee remained on Mondays, as has historically been the case, but there was the opportunity at the start of the year for members of the Committee to vote for a different day that the evening meetings would occur on. I recommend that the incoming President and Vice President continue to poll incoming Committee members at the start of next year to determine what day would be most attended by members before determining the dates of all meetings.

Attendance in person was preferred for all meetings of the Committee, but attendance by Microsoft Teams was permitted by the President on a fairly accessible basis to ensure that people could attend if they were somewhat ill or otherwise unable to attend in person. Attendance at these meetings was relatively good. There were a larger number of attendees that missed meetings with no attempt to request a valid apology. In accordance with changes made to the Constitution at the Special General Meeting, the very strict definition of valid apology was amended to become a lot easier to comply with, and with a concurrent reduction in the number of meetings the AULSS is required to, and thus likely to, hold, I hope that this will mean that more people will engage more productively with the AULSS.

The dates of Committee meetings were as follows:

6th March

27th March

1st May

22nd May

5th June

7th August

28th August

9th October

27



I thank the IT Officer Samantha Kuan for her help putting the agendas, reports, and Teams links on the website.

Executive Meetings

Meetings of the Executive are the primary decision making forums of the Society, and represent the main mechanism where updates regarding Society events or initiatives are raised, alongside with the discussion of policies and any contentious decision. Historically more focus was placed on Committee meetings to discuss some items now raised almost exclusively within Executive meetings, however given constant feedback from the Committee that their meetings (historically closer to 3 hours) were too long and included decisions or information irrelevant to them, the Executive has taken on primary responsibility for making these decisions in these meetings.

The Executive is constitutionally given powers to write policy and approve expenditure, which de-facto grants it disproportionate power when compared to the larger Committee. Much of the day to day administration, and the complexities of governance are resolved within these meetings.

In addition to dealing with highly technical, and a veritable tsunami of general updates, the Executive also can discuss highly controversial matters. Likened to Cabinet discussions, the Executive is able to conduct free and frank discussions about topics concerning the Society, without fear of misrepresentation from others. Topics regarding the Society's public perception, choice of events and the reasons for making decision are often raised at this level. At the conclusion of the discussion or debate, once the Executive had agreed upon a decision, it is a requirement that Directors support, or at least do not publicly undermine, the decision from the majority of the Executive. This unified stance ensures that decisions are not continually challenged, and the authority of those decisions are not undercut by resentful Directors. While this approach can be difficult for some to accept, this approach allows the Executive to move forward to other issues, and does not require Directors to actively tout decisions they agree with, with more a focus on simply noting that certain decisions were made 'by the Executive'. I would strongly encourage the Executive to maintain these frank discussions and continue the approach from previous Executives to bind Directors to support formal decisions made by the Executive.

The Executive has, at the time of writing, held 12 meetings this year, with a further two expected to occur before the conclusion of the term, for an expected total of 14. Last year there were 11 meetings held, which represents a likely rise in the number of meetings by 3 since last year. However, given that two of these meetings pertained substantially to the co-option of Directors (one for the two vacancies at the start of the term, and the other purely to fill the vacancy of Director of Education midway into



Semester 1), there were no significant changes to the number of meetings held this year.

Typically, these meetings are held in between meetings of the Committee, with a few additional meetings held at the start of the term for planning purposes. However, there is no constitutional requirement for the Executive to meet a certain number of times or at certain times of the year. While these meetings are long, often lasting between 2.5 and 3 hours apiece, these are necessary for the continual functioning of the Society, and I would advise caution regarding any proposal to significantly reduce the number of such meetings.

Meetings of the Society

In relation to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), while I cannot comment on the 2023 one since it has not occurred at the time of writing this report, I would highly recommend that Directors limit their speeches at the AGM. This is because previous AGMs have run for approximately 3 hours but feature no elections, no substantive votes and require no decision making of the Society's assembled members. In my opinion, these speeches merely exist for Directors to flamboyantly display their achievements, most of which are already noted in earlier meetings of the Committee. While I do not begrudge them their time in the sun, as a former representative I am keenly aware that most Committee members find these meetings unenjoyable, and I think that the Executive should be doing all they can to keep the meetings moving. To do this, I would encourage Directors to submit longer written reports rather than expand upon verbally, which can be considered at length by any members wishing to peruse, while granting the more disinclined members of the Committee with an earlier dismissal time.

In relation to the Special General Meeting (SGM), the AULSS held its SGM on the 11th of September, largely for the purpose of amending its Constitution. The AULSS made many amendments which I will cover later in this report. Unfortunately, due to a defect in a scheduled email, and also an unrelated reminder being missed by the Communications portfolio, notice was not given in accordance with the Constitution meaning there was some uncertainty as to the validity of changes effected at that meeting. To remedy this, I successfully passed a motion at that meeting to dispense with the formalities of that meeting given that a bona fide effort had been made to meet the requirements. Despite this, as a stickler for rules and good governance, I deemed it best to additionally pass a resolution confirming the changes made at the AGM as it was also a General Meeting of the Society and thus capable of making changes to the Constitution. I am confident that this meeting will ratify all changes made, and remedy any possibly lingering validity issues before I submit the final changes to the Office of Consumer and Business Services (CBS) to lodge.



Meeting Minutes

From the recommendations of my predecessor, I was advised to either reduce the amount of detail in the minutes, or to consider adding a Secretary role to the Committee to assist with this process. The advice also included a suggestion to investigate recording the meeting. In light of this, I took some of the advice and simplified the minute taking process so that it was not a full transcription of conversation, but had summaries of what was raised. While this did mean that the actual process of taking the minutes in the meeting was easier, this did still mean that the process of formally typing up the minutes later took a reasonable length of time. Realistically, unless the minutes were to be devoid of any information regarding the discussion of items and simply noted what motions were raised, carried, and who attended the meeting, I don't believe there is significantly much that can be done to make the process easier. While I was not able to give the idea of recording Committee meetings much time, I do think that the idea has some merit and should be investigated further if possible. I chose not to pursue the creation of a Secretary position for several reasons. In particular, I am concerned that the size of the Executive, which has already grown by 2 in the last few years, will make it harder for the Executive to meet, make decisions quickly, prolong Executive meetings, and make the position of Vice President somewhat irrelevant. I instead would recommend future Vice Presidents continue to follow the generic pattern I used in this term, whereby summaries rather than transcripts were used as the model of minute taking.

Meeting Agendas and Reports

This year, I chose to depart from the traditional format of agenda and reports for Committee and Executive meetings. The changes I made included merging the reports from Committee meetings into the agenda documents. To me it always felt impractical to distribute multiple documents where the agenda itself seemed superfluous to the meeting. This also limited the amount of tabbing between documents to find reports or items and thus made the meetings run smoother. While I found it much easier to work with, this may have been a personal choice, and I would not make a recommendation to keep or abandon this change.

I also switched the format of Executive meetings where instead of each Director providing a report containing all discussions, motions and updates, each Director would submit individual items and I would categorise these items within each agenda separately. The new system granted a lot more flexibility for items to be shuffled around where needed and it seemed logical to me that if there were contentious items that were likely to be time consuming, that these be put first on the list even if they were submitted by a Director whose reports notionally would be featured last in order of seniority or by alphabetical order. Again, while I personally found this system quite beneficial, it is potentially more of a personal preference than an institutional benefit so I make no recommendation as to whether it should be kept or changed.



I made no substantive changes to the format of General Meetings in relation to agendas or reports.

Constitutional Reform

As somewhat of a constitutional savant, one of my key objectives in my term was to reform our Constitution. I saw the opportunity to use my passion for policy and constitutional reforms to make bold and innovative changes for the future. The Executive, primarily drafted by myself, proposed 73 clause changes to the Constitution and 73 changes were passed at the SGM. This included multiple substantive changes within clauses and also clause changes that were purely procedural such as changing clause numbers or correcting typographical errors. I will not include references to all changes, especially the procedural ones, but will note below a number of the most important ones. All up, 73 passed changes sets a record for a year, with this being the greatest number of changes made since at least before 2016. In addition, a further 16 changes will be proposed at the AGM to correct some minor errors made in the original slate of changes this year, all of which are of a procedural nature. For reference, the number of proposed alterations historically was as follows:

Year	Number of Proposed Changes
2016	33
2017	63
2018	10
2019	19
2020	11
2021	58 (only 57 passed)
2022	24
2023	73 / 89 (73 changes were proposed and passed at the SGM, with a further 16 to be proposed at the AGM)

Constitutional Amendment Highlights

Non-Partisan Society

A key change I sought to make in office was to clarify that the Society is non-partisan rather than apolitical. The term 'apolitical' has been used in relation to the AULSS for some time now by previous Directors. I found this term most misleading, and while I don't believe that the Directors meant anything improper by referring to the Society in



this way, I had a clause formally inserted into the Constitution to clarify what the Society was.

For those unfamiliar with the terms, apolitical refers to no politics, whereas non-partisan means something that may embrace some politics but not party oriented or ideologically oriented politics. The difference may seem minor, but as a democratic body with free and fair elections, by definition the AULSS cannot be apolitical as it engages in the electoral process with competing visions for the organisation. I felt that the term non-partisan would be more appropriate given it still ensures that the Society not use its influence to support a political party or ideological organisation but can still engage in the political process, as we have done in relation to the Voice to Parliament referendum campaign. The new non-partisan stance is now prominently displayed in the Constitution and I hope this will clarify things for future Committees.

Political and Social Issue Stances

On a related but a distinguishable issue, the Society has previously witnessed controversy regarding its stance, implicit or explicit regarding certain social or political issues. Issues such as conflict in the Middle East (incredibly relevant now given recent events in the region) and abortion have the capacity to polarise and aggravate members of the Law School community. These stances have historically not been those adopted by a resolution of the Committee, but are implicitly determined by the composition of certain speakers panels at events or other comments made by Directors or former Directors. While it is entirely appropriate for this to be regulated at an Executive level via policy in relation to portfolio specific events or initiatives, given the capacity for controversy at a Society or Committee wide level, I sought to formalise a process by which endorsements of a political or social issue nature may be made.

Specifically, the changes made to the Constitution mean that the Society waives its capacity, as a separate entity, to make any political or social issue endorsement. What remains means that the Committee of the Society may issue a statement where it acknowledges that the majority of members, but not that of the Society itself, may endorse a particular political or social issue. While it may seem like a miniscule technicality, I think this is a very clever proactive solution to ensure that if challenged, the Society can always state that it has not endorsed any particular controversial issue and that in fact, it is simply recognising the views of its members whom are entitled to be of whatever opinion they see fit.

Membership Definition

Owing to some confusion about the eligibility status of law students who were enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws but not enrolled into a specific law subject for a particular semester, I sought changes to the definition which clarified that anyone undertaking a Law degree, even if not currently undertaking a subject in any particular semester,



was still a member. The change also amended a clunky phrasing that gave rise to the possibility that some postgrad students were represented by the AULSS when actually they were not.

Expansion of the Committee

Given the growing size of workload in certain portfolios, particularly that of the Competitions portfolio, the Executive determined to expand the size of several portfolios, and to introduce new representatives such as the Engagement Representative and the Competitions Development Representative which I'm sure will be discussed in more detail in the relevant Directors' reports. The benefit of a larger Committee is more spread out workload to reduce burnout, and more opportunities for engagement and better quality events. I would recommend if it were deemed necessary for future expansions of the Committee to be undertaken within reason.

Financial Prudence

Regarding the powers of the Executive, after discussion with the Treasurer, I decided to suggest a clause that would compel the Executive to consider the financial position of the Society when approving expenditure and to strive towards a surplus when budgeting. I think this change is an excellent one to gradually shift culture towards a more learned and responsible Executive when discussing the appropriation of funds for the Society. I do not believe that this will stop all extravagant spending or guarantee the Society will never incur a deficit, but I do believe that this is a good step in attempting to guide Directors towards a path of fiscal prudence and responsibility.

Streamlined Co-option Process

The process for filling vacancies on the Committee is largely governed by the co-option process whereby members of the AULSS submit anonymised applications for positions, which are then reviewed by the Executive and the Executive will vote on their preferred applicant or applicants for the vacant roles. This year the AULSS saw an unprecedented number of round of co-option as people left the AULSS for exchange opportunities, moved universities or could not keep pace with their expectations. In addition to the selection of candidates, the opening of co-options requires an Executive level vote, and this has slowed down the co-option process. As such, I recommended that the Society adopt changes to provide a more streamlined mechanism for the advertisement of vacancies whereby the President, after consultation with the Vice President, can authorise such vacancies. This is not intended to replace the existing system, but to be used as an alternative if needs arise. I also note that this does not change the requirement for the Executive to actually choose their preferred candidates, or affect the special vote the Executive must undertake to authorise additional co-options greater than the number of representatives ostensibly allowed in the Constitution.



Law School Local Responsibility Transfer

As noted later in my report, the Law School Local Program (LSL) will be transferred to the Treasurer for next year as this is a more relevant role for them to address, and they can make use of their sponsorship representatives to better divide the workload, much of which is fairly menial and requires no higher level decision making from a Director. This will also free up time for the Vice President to better assist the President in other matters.

Number of Committee Meetings

As noted earlier in the report, constitutionally the Committee must meet 8 times within a term, however given the decline in necessity for such regular meetings given that the Executive now shoulders greater burdens of day to day administration, the meetings have become an onerous tick a box requirement and as such, I sought to reduce the minimum number of meetings to 4.

Budgeting

While the brainchild of the Treasurer, I was heavily involved with the drafting of clauses concerning the budgeting and expenditure process of the AULSS as both the Treasurer and I were deeply concerned about the manner in which the Society nonchalantly approved vast sums of money with very little scrutiny or accountability. The changes made to this element of the Constitution will promote more transparency within the Executive as to where funding is going and how individual spending requests relate to the overall financial health and position of the Society.

Continuity of Governance

In addition to the 'Line of Succession' provision that was added to the Constitution last year at my request, I successfully had added a clause regulating the exercise of power in the event of a vacancy or incapacity of a Director. The line of succession clause from last year regulated the circumstances where either the President, Vice President or Treasurer was unable to act in their role, or the role was vacant. The continuity of governance clause is the equivalent of this but for other Director positions, however it differs from the previous clause because the line of succession mainly relates to automatic delegation of power from one of the named figures to another (for example, the Vice President will act as President during their absence or incapacity) whereas this clause gives the President an opportunity to appoint either a Director or a representative from the affected portfolio to step up for a brief period. As we had three periods of vacancy in office during this term, I felt this was a necessary and useful addition to our Constitution, and given the several vacancies for next year's Executive, my hindsight was well and truly rewarded as the new Executive will be able to temporarily fill the roles with acting Directors until the co-option process is finalised.



Endowment Fund

This will be covered in a later part of the report, but enshrining the key aspect of this Fund in the Constitution will increase the chances of its longevity in the future.

Merchandise

For the last few years, the AULSS has sold branded AULSS / Law School merchandise to boost its prestige and to raise revenue. In Semester 1 the AULSS introduced water bottles to our lineup. Despite being offered in Semester 1 online, this was mostly with the intention of progressively selling off over the next few years and using as promotional items to increase engagement with the AULSS. For Semester 2 the AULSS decided to offer a new special design to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Adelaide Law School.

The merchandise supplier used this year was the same one from last year (Nelson Teamwear). This supplier is very easy to work with, with quick responses to requests, and the capacity to make individually wrapped and sorted items with comparatively small minimum orders. I highly recommend the next Vice President stick with the same suppliers for next year's apparel merchandise.

The way the merchandise ordering process has worked, at least as of last year, is that the merchandise providers have a website for our merchandise, which people can purchase items for directly. The items are all made to order, so there is no surplus wastage (unless minimum orders were not met), has an option to post items directly to people (for a small fee), and they send through a summary and insights of the ordering (so you can see at a glance what sells well and what doesn't).

A key election commitment I made was to lobby to have sample sizes of the merchandise provided to us for sales. This is because sometimes people would either measure themselves incorrectly, or not bother measuring at all, and as such would purchase items that do not give them the best fit. Sample merchandise items allows potential buyers to come into the AULSS Office and try on items before purchasing a size, which helps people minimise the risk of purchasing the incorrect size. This was organised fairly easily and, despite a delay in their arrival during Semester 1's merchandise round, they were an excellent addition to our merchandise service and were received very positively by students.

Semester 1

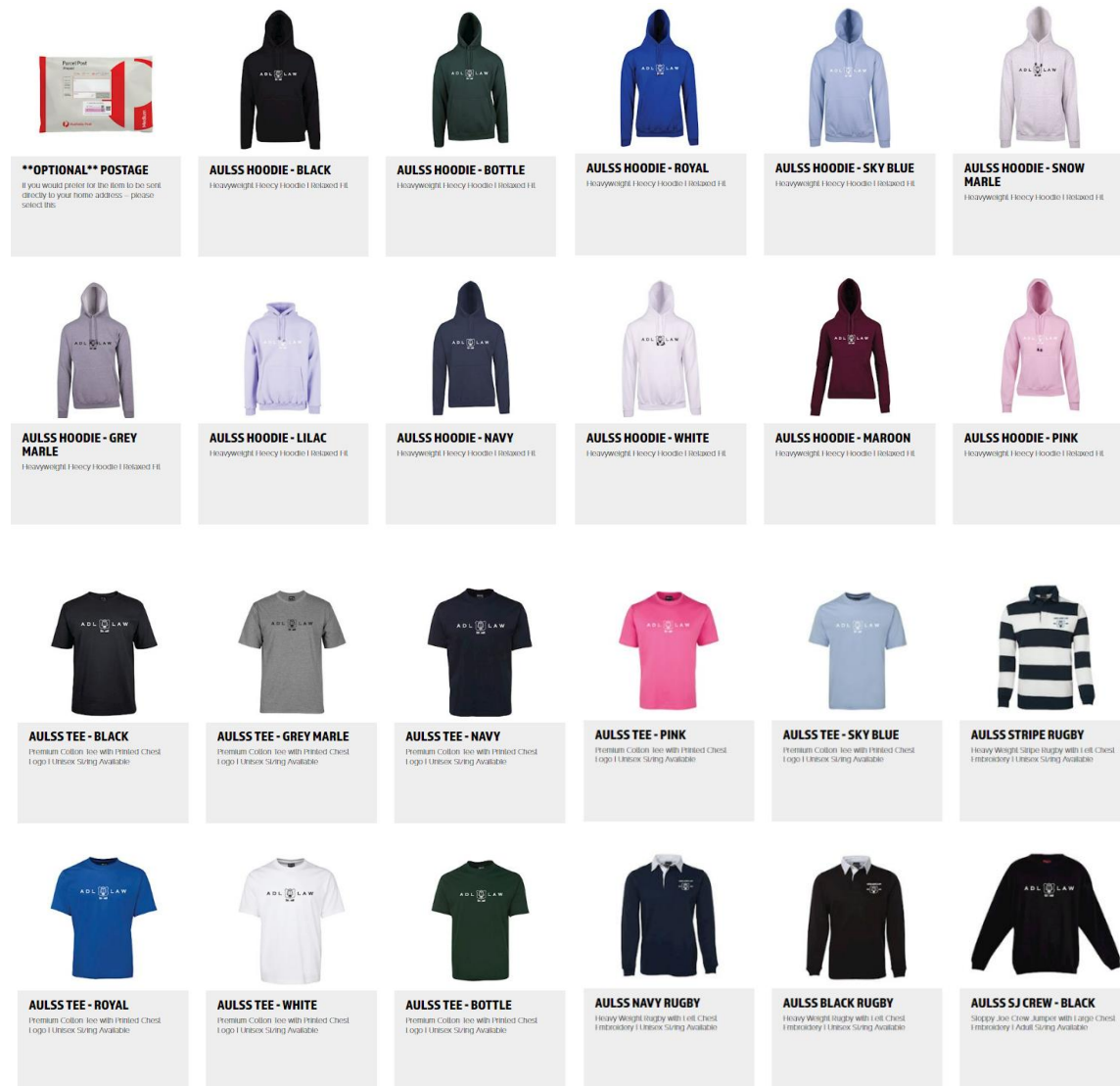
The Society's share of the revenue intake was just over \$1,600 which is fairly commensurate with last year's share which was just over \$1,700. Sticking with the previous design for Semester 1 because of the new special 140th year anniversary

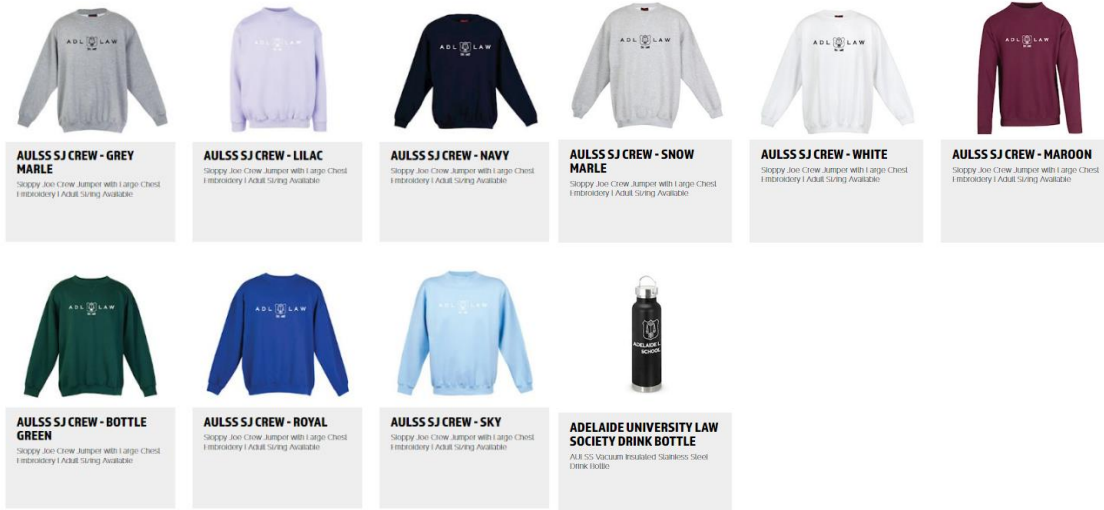


design for Semester 2, the AULSS sold a total of 203 items which had the following breakdown:

- Crew Necks: 85
- Hoodies: 59
- Black / Navy Rugbys: 5
- Striped Rugbys: 14
- T-Shirts: 33
- Water Bottles: 7

The following images show the list of items that were sold (note that these were virtually identical to what was sold in 2022.)



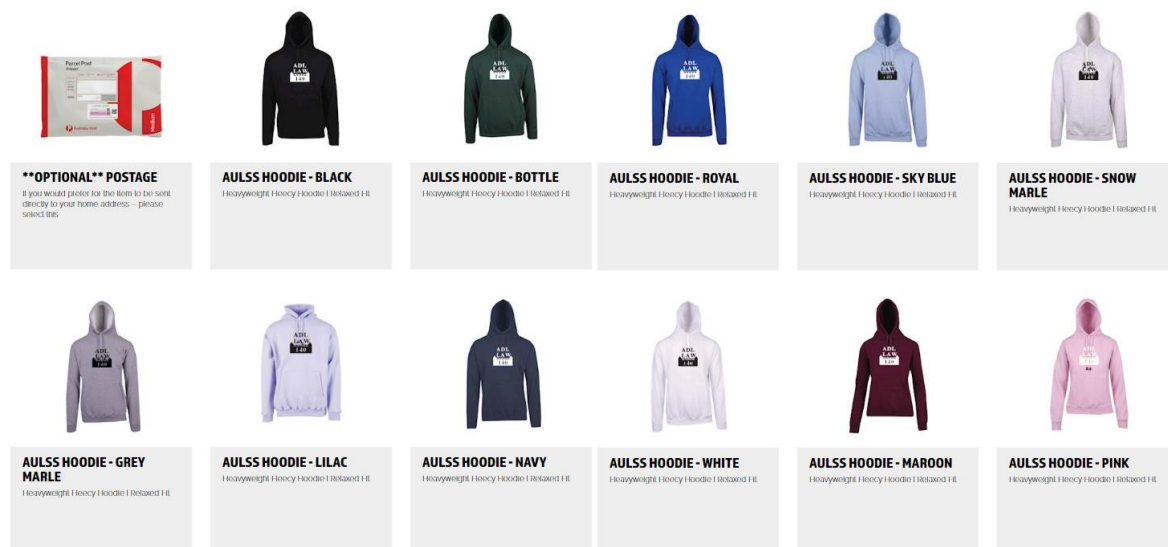


Semester 2

Despite a much more slick marketing campaign, including using alumni as models for items, this Semester was not nearly as successful as Semester 1, with a much more modest revenue intake of just over \$300. The AULSS sold a total of 62 items which had the following breakdown:

- Crew Necks: 19
- Hoodies: 11
- Black / Navy Rugbys: 14
- T-Shirts: 18

The following images show the list of items that were sold (these are all with the new 140th year design – design also attached)



Annual Report of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society Incorporated
2022-2023 Term












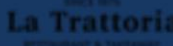






I would recommend that the next Vice President consider expanding the range of items being offered to cut through a potential saturation point reached with existing items of merchandise and work closely with the Communications portfolio to maximise advertising the sales, particularly to first year students who might be unaware of the merchandise.

Law School Local











Law School Local (LSL) is the AULSS' discount card program, where participating venues offer deals to card holding members of the AULSS.

This year, I successfully negotiated with 31 venues to provide deals for card holders (some with multiple deals). The venues and the deals associated with those venues are listed below:



			
<p>Adelaide UniBar</p> <p>Deal 1: \$15 Coopers Pale Ale Jugs</p> <p>Deal 2: \$11 Salt & Pepper Squid with chips & salad any day</p>	<p>Seed and Stone Cafe</p> <p>Deal 1: 10% off food/drink daily</p> <p>Deal 2: 25% off selected food on Fridays after 1pm</p>	<p>Community</p> <p>10% off bills over \$20 from Mon-Fri</p>	<p>Plus 82 Pocha</p> <p>10% off food and beverage (Except Friday, Saturday and Public Holiday)</p>
			
<p>Union Hotel</p> <p>Deal 1: \$20 Burger or Schnitty with a pint of core beer (Monday to Thursday All Day)</p> <p>Deal 2: Happy Hour on Friday from 4 to 6:30 (Core Beers \$8, House Wine and Spirits \$7) only for you guys</p>	<p>Leigh Street Luggage</p> <p>10% off food and beverages</p>	<p>Seoul Express Hindley Street</p> <p>10% off dine in or pick up (not from online orders)</p>	<p>Nevermind Bar</p> <p>10% off food and beverages</p>
			
<p>Rhino Room</p> <p>\$5 entry to Monday Night Comedy - 7.30pm @ Laugh Lab, Rhino Room</p>	<p>La Trattoria</p> <p>10% food and beverage discount on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday</p>	<p>Seoul Sisters</p> <p>15% takeaway food or coffee orders (not applicable for dine in)</p>	<p>Zero Latency</p> <p>15% off Virtual Reality Games (min 2 people booking) - email (vp@aulss.org for code)</p>
			
<p>Motherload Sandwiches</p> <p>10% off total bill</p>	<p>SOHO Coffee Roasters (Addie Place Only)</p> <p>10% off Food, Drinks & Coffee Beans</p>	<p>Proof Bar</p> <p>\$5 Peroni and house wines</p>	<p>Bakery on O'Connell</p> <p>10% off pie warmer or donut cabinet products (2 products per person)</p>



			
<p>The Maid</p> <p>Purchase any Main Meal from The Maid Kitchen Menu and receive a complimentary Beer, Wine or Soft Drink up to the value of \$10</p>	<p>San Churros</p> <p>\$10 Churros for One + Standard Coffee Deal (normally \$15.35)</p>	<p>Gatsby Lounge</p> <p>10% off total bill</p>	<p>Therapy Bar</p> <p>20% discount off drinks on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays</p>
			
<p>Bracegirdle's Chocolate</p> <p>10% off all purchases</p>	<p>The Little Hunter</p> <p>20% off the total bill for lunch or dinner</p>	<p>Capri Theatre</p> <p>\$10 movie ticket</p>	<p>Duke of York Hotel</p> <p>\$6 base spirits, \$6 house wines and \$7 house pints (available anytime)</p>
			
<p>Endota Spa</p> <p>Deal 1: 8% off Gift Cards https://endotaspa.com.au/gifting</p> <p>Deal 2: 15% off products online https://endotaspa.com.au/shop.html</p> <p>Deal 3: 12-month Complete Retreat membership is available for only \$299 (Normally \$365) https://endotaspa.com.au/retreat</p>	<p>Howling Owl</p> <p>Deal 1: \$7 Coopers Pale Ale all day / every day (with valid Uni ID)</p> <p>Deal 2: \$7 Beer of The Week, Mon - Sat from 7pm - 8pm</p> <p>Deal 3: 2 for 1 Gin of The Week, Mon - Sat from 7pm - 8pm</p> <p>Deal 4: 2 for \$30 Cocktail of The Week from 7pm - 8pm</p> <p>Deal 5: Complimentary room hire for events with 30+ guests in our ground floor or mezzanine bar & balcony event space on Mondays - Wednesday</p>		

Card prices remained the same as previous years at \$10 per card. While unfortunately due to a misunderstanding of instructions during one of the stall sales, an undetermined number of cards were sold without being properly documented in our sales records, we know of at least 80 confirmed sales of the LSL card, leading to revenue intake of at least \$800, however this is likely an understated figure and is probably higher as a result of the undocumented sales.

Unfortunately, one of the big benefits of LSL users last year was the inclusion of a deal with the St Rafael's Coffee Cart, run by Michelle in the courtyard outside Ligertwood. As a fixture of campus culture and an essential pit stop for many students and staff members, the loss of Michelle who has since retired from the cart, and the lack of a



replacement, has undoubtedly hurt sales, and being informed of this prior to the start of my term I was fully expecting that sales would decline as a direct result of this. Negotiating LSL deals largely involves either cold emailing a list of venues (mostly obtained through google maps) in the CBD and surrounding areas, requesting we advertise their business in exchange for some listed discount on our website.

I received extremely positive feedback about the range of LSL venues that participated in the program, reflecting a much more diverse range of venues than in previous years. Notable new venues or institutions reflective of the diversity included Endota Spa (Wellness products and treatments), Zero Latency (Virtual Reality), Adelaide Unibar, and San Churro.

This year, I agreed to assist the SJE portfolio raise money for the Justice Net charity by allocating 10% of all LSL revenue to this. The SJE share of the revenue intake was at least \$80 (noting the unknown amount of sales processed in the final stall sale).

While unfortunately the other societies were not amendable to it, I did investigate the possibility of a combined Engineering, Medical and Law Students' Society discount card program early in the term. This idea came about from a greater desire to collaborate with the AMSS and AUES which already had a basis from things like the Tri Society Blood Drive which is run between the three societies. The advantages of such a system would be that there would be greater bargaining power with well over three thousand members who could negotiate for much better deals between them. Unfortunately, in addition to an expected issue of how revenue would be split between the entities, both societies already had programs which they offered built into their paid membership structure. As the AULSS has a free membership structure and thus only charge people once for inclusion into the LSL program. In comparison, as both the AMSS and AUES have paid membership programs which are connected to the provision of services and benefits, a merger would have involved double charging them, or waiving our income stream, neither of which could be reconciled.

In accordance with changes to the Constitution at the SGM, the responsibility for administering the LSL program shall now fall upon the Treasurer for future years. My recommendation for the Treasurer and Sponsorship Representatives shall be to continue what I did, by sourcing the discounts early, methodically going through a list of all potential venues in the CBD to offer to commence or renew LSL deals, and using any connections from Committee members to leverage deals. I would further encourage the next Treasurer to work even more closely with the Communications portfolio to ensure advertisement of the LSL program was continuous throughout the year to maximise sales, and to run more stalls or opportunities to purchase LSL cards outside of students coming to the AULSS Office to buy them.



One idea I had but unfortunately lacked the time to pursue was to, after amassing a sizable list of venues, put in a weekly story on the AULSS social media displaying one or two venues and their deals, so that students could see the extent of our negotiated deals which would hopefully raise awareness of, and encourage people to buy cards from, the LSL program. While I did loosely make suggestions, I would recommend the next Treasurer work closely with other Directors to host events at LSL providers as an extra thank you and incentive to keep them in the fold in future years. This could easily apply to Activities and Education in particular for bar and café party or catchup events, but may even apply for things like the Hilarian launch party or Committee handover dinner.

Endowment Fund

The establishment of the Society's Endowment Fund is quite possibly my proudest achievement in my term, despite not being a specific goal I had in mind when I first nominated for the role. While I will defer to an extent to the Treasurer, who is responsible for the maintenance of such a fund for more details as to its logistical operation, for further explanation, I will broadly summarise its key function and the reasons it was created.

The concept of the AULSS Endowment Fund is to use historically saved capital from the AULSS and invest it in a high interest bank account such as a term deposit, rather than keeping it in the lower – medium flexible accounts the AULSS uses to store money. While it does represent a loss of flexibility for some of its funds, the AULSS can use this to steadily build up an independent income stream over the next few decades, and this would represent a groundbreaking new way that the AULSS would use its capital assets. Previously, large amounts of capital were frittered away on one off projects and in donations rather than banked, meaning that the AULSS was asset rich, but never income rich and thus was susceptible to sudden financial shocks and large expenses. This Endowment Fund will hopefully set the Society on a positive course for partial financial independence, even if it takes us a few decades to get there. After all, from little things, big things grow.

The origin for the Endowment Fund is threefold. Firstly the University of Adelaide has an Endowment Fund which is basically a colossal hedge fund that invests widely. It was set up by wealthy university benefactors and has been supplemented with philanthropic donations over the year. It then doles out money through scholarships and salaries for specific staff positions that would not exist but for said fund. Secondly, the USALSA (the University of South Australia's equivalent of the AULSS) which notes in its Constitution that their funds can be invested in either a term deposit account or used to purchase shares for ASX listed companies. Finally, the investment the AULSS



made in 2018-2019 into the University's Endowment Fund designed to generate money which could then go into a textbook fund for law students.

From this information, I noted that while the AULSS had capital, and given our volatile income streams that are heavily dependent upon external funding (sponsorship from law firms that can drop at any moment, law ball ticket sales which sometimes net a profit and sometimes net a loss, and merchandise sales which sometimes are healthy and sometimes not as much), this could be an opportunity for the Society to set itself up for the future by actually setting aside some of its capital and using it for the sole purpose of generating an income stream from interest.

YouX Grant Applications:

The AULSS is an affiliate of YouX (formerly the Adelaide University Union) as mentioned in our Constitution. YouX is a service providing body run by students that receives money collected from students through the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF). One of the ways it spends this money is through supporting affiliate clubs by allowing them to pitch for grant money to fund events, initiatives, and equipment.

Previously the AULSS has sought grant funding for events or initiatives since it is a comparatively affluent society, at least compared to the average YouX affiliated club. However, with a rise in the cost of holding events linked to a higher cost of living nationally, and with the increase in the budget for club grants for YouX by \$20,000 to a total of \$100,000 I decided to apply for grant money on behalf of the AULSS.

This year, the AULSS has submitted multiple requests for grant money, which we have or received over \$1,900 at the time of writing this report, and will have over \$2,000 as of the end of the term. This money was used for a variety of purposes such as purchasing coffee for a first year mixer at the start of the year, a new EFTPOS POS machine, AULSS branded pens to be handed out at events, catering for larger events, and more.

While responsibility for grants this year largely fell to me by default as I was more experienced with the grant process, the proper authority for the submission of grants should be the Treasurer in the long run, and I ensured that reforms to the Constitution, to formally bestow power and responsibility regarding the allocation and application of grant money, were passed at our SGM.

With another huge raise of \$30,000 to the YouX clubs budget set for 2024 for a total of \$130,000, I would highly encourage the Treasurer for next year to submit as many grants as possible to help reduce costs of holding events.



Policy Reform

A key aspect of my governance-oriented agenda was to promulgate new policies, and reform existing ones.

AULSS Election Rules

In 2018, the AULSS adopted a new set of election rules and has since left them unamended. I am unaware of what the rules were like prior to the 2018 AULSS election so cannot comment on what was in them beforehand, however I do recall being of the view that the 2018 rules were wholly insufficient to adequately manage the electoral process.

After consulting with Dr Francesco de Zwart, the former (and incidentally current) Returning Officer, and the President, I comprehensively redrafted the rules and put these for discussion with the Executive and then for approval by the Committee. The new rules came into effect in late August this year.

Key changes from the old rules include:

The introduction of a clause regulating the withdrawal process. I found it most odd that there was not a single reference to the process of withdrawing a candidacy if a prospective candidate changed their mind after nominating. There now is a clause governing the timeframe that this must happen in and acknowledging people's right to withdraw within that timeframe.

The introduction of a clause confirming voting eligibility. Even more strange was the complete absence of any reference to who was entitled to vote in elections. While the Constitution makes reference to whom is not entitled to vote in elections, it, and the rules, fail to specify exactly who is entitled to vote. The new rules clarify that subject to any provision in the rules or Constitution to the contrary, all members of the AULSS are entitled to vote.

The toughening of penalties for group campaigning. While in principle I support group campaigning and ticketed elections, knowing that this concept was not popular and as a stickler for rules, I rewrote the rules with a view to crack down on group campaigning. For context, the old rules specifically banned any groups of candidates, or a candidate's friends from campaigning on a candidate's behalf in order to help them get elected. In effect, a colleague that asked if their friend who did not know the candidate could please vote for them would be considered group campaigning, as would that friend sharing a social media post from that candidate encouraging people to vote. While well intentioned, that being to prevent unfair advantages from large and organised voting cliques, the rules lacked sufficient deterrent penalties and didn't even



include non candidates or non members at all, meaning that theoretically a law student could dish out bribes in front of the Returning Officer who would be powerless to stop them. The new rules properly empower the Executive to penalise any individuals caught breaking the rules if the Returning Officer is unable to issue the traditional penalties of suspension or disqualification, to candidates. Specifically, the Executive may now ban people from their events or competitions, and can refer them to university disciplinary bodies, and can even ban people from contesting elections for up to 5 years in severe cases.

There are also a number of clarifications of unclear interpretations and codifications of existing practice, as well as reorganising the rules to be in a much better format and flow.

In terms of future changes, while I think the rules are currently fit for purpose, there are two possible areas that I think have merit for future changes if investigated further.

The first, which warrants further investigation over a long period of time is the way that the Society handles virtual voting. The current system of e-voting via email is unduly complicated and likely has dampened potential turnout in elections, particularly from demographic groups that may have accessibility concerns when voting in person. While there are some legitimate issues to resolve including privacy of voting lists, integrity of the ballot, and the reconciliation of the people the AULSS deems to be eligible to vote being different from the easily accessible lists of law students that the University has (including people who cannot normally vote like postgraduate students and those undertaking their Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice) these hurdles are able to be overcome if investigated early enough. While rules may not necessarily need to be updated, currently they are left deliberately vague as to the way that e-voting must be conducted, and if a future Executive can resolve the underlying issues, they can write safeguard mechanisms into the rules to guarantee things like a longer minimum virtual voting window and a specific way to cast votes virtually. Doing all that is practicable to allow ease of access for voters is a good goal to pursue to ensure that more members of the Society can vote for their next Committee.

The second area concerns the second signatory required in the election nomination form itself. The Constitution prescribes that each nomination for a position in an AULSS election requires two students to nominate that person. This requirement has been duplicated, and its ambiguous wording and thus manner of previous interpretation by past Returning Officers clarified to reduce confusion, in the rules. The requirement to do so has been described as a barrier to nomination and may be one of several reasons why nominations for positions on the Committee at election time remain so low. Despite this, such a mechanism probably was kept in the Constitution as a check on candidates from nominating and thus winning unopposed simply due to a lack of competition and thus forcing them to at least attempt to be a plausible



candidate on paper. After all, if within a two week span a candidate cannot even get two friends to nominate them, can they even be construed as a representative choice of the Society in an otherwise contested election where one would hope any candidate should garner at least two votes? This idealistic theory hinges on a somewhat informed electorate, which may or may not be the case for elections that have trended towards lower turnouts and less contested positions in favour of a rise of co-option applications, and of an electorate that are more likely to vote for their friends than the most meritorious of candidates. With this in mind, while I would not specifically make recommendation that it be removed, a future Executive should investigate the merit of such a provision in the Constitution and election rules and consider whether it may be more of a barrier than a benefit.

Attendance Policy

The AULSS has a variety of meetings and events that have different requirements to attend including portfolio meetings, portfolio events, Committee meetings, Executive meetings, meetings of the Society, general events and sponsored events. Given the likely confusion for new members trying to find out which they need to attend, I pushed for a centralised policy, consistent with the terms of the Constitution, that outlined clearly the expectation for attending all events and meetings of the Society. I think that this is an excellent easy point of reference for future Executive members to refer to when outlining the necessity to attend, and this policy can be updated as the requirements are changed from time to time. In particular, the sponsored attendance requirements have historically fluctuated quite considerably, and this is a good opportunity to centralise such requirements within a broader policy, and if fluctuations continue, then the policy may be amended.

Volunteering Recognition Policy

The AULSS is a volunteer led and staffed organisation and it relies on the dutiful efforts of its Committee members to run all of its events and initiatives. While Committee members do a huge amount of work already in the roles they are intended to, some members perform above and beyond this level for duties outside their official remit, such as assisting the Vice President with merchandise handout stalls, volunteering as a witness for competitions and assisting other portfolios with setting up or packing up their events. Noting the progressively more desperate pleas from the Directors of Competitions in previous years, and the requests in particular of the former Vice Presidents, I sought to come up with a system to adequately recognise and reward any Committee members that diligently went above and beyond their official duties to help the Society.

This came into effect with the passage of the Volunteering Recognition Policy, which laid out the manner in which such members could be rewarded and recognised for their efforts. The policy specifically states that any member of the Committee that



contributes at least 20 volunteering hours for events or initiatives outside their portfolio can claim an additional \$20 reimbursement at the end of the year, and would receive an award from the President acknowledging this achievement. The reward is fairly minor considering the effort put in, but it is a token of appreciation nonetheless and I recommend that this program be maintained in some form going forward. I do wish to stress though, that this was not designed to be, nor should be interpreted as, the start of some form of salary process where people are reimbursed for their time which the Society could not presently afford to do.

Endowment Fund Policy

Elements governing the Endowment Fund that are not set forth in new provisions in the Constitution as of the last SGM are provided for in an Endowment Fund Policy. This Policy will need to be updated prior to the conclusion of the term as it was promulgated prior to, and now several clauses directly conflict with, the new provisions in the Constitution, but once amended this will regulate the more practical aspects of the Endowment Fund such as how revenue is to be raised for the Fund, what type of revenue is to go into the Fund, and when in the year the Fund will be renewed.

Miscellaneous Policies

Several policies that I assisted in some manner with, but were substantially drafted by other Directors who thus should take the credit for them, include the updated Grievance Policy, and the new Competitions Policy.

Ongoing Policies

Despite a number of policies likely being unfinished as at the time of writing this report, there are a number of policies that have been either been approved in principle by the Executive and are awaiting final drafting, or those that will likely passed in some form either by this AGM or at least before the conclusion of this term of office. These policies include:

A Hilarian Editorial Policy to codify and clarify the method of approval or regulation of Hilarian editions and content to balance editorial privilege with minimising risk to the editors and the AULSS at large.

An Event and Initiative Approval Policy, to codify and further regulate the approvals process for events and initiatives to ensure that they provide value and minimise risk to members and the AULSS, as well as ensure proper consultation with other Directors as to the proposed activities of the AULSS that year.

A Sustainability Policy, to encourage the mitigation of waste (particularly paper usage) by the AULSS from its events and initiatives.



The AULSS Office

The AULSS office spaces form an integral part of the AULSS' physical presence on campus.

Office

The AULSS Office, specifically Room 1.06 on the ground floor of the Ligertwood Building, is the main hub of the AULSS on campus. It is part storeroom, part office, part lounge, part amenities area, and part workstation. The office is practically a multi-purpose space shared by the almost 50 person Committee.

Cleaning the office has always been a challenge, and this year has been no different. Due to different portfolio members being on campus at different times and days, it is unrealistic to enforce an older roster which divided the cleaning by portfolio by weeks of the year. For all intents and purposes it has fallen to individual members of the Committee, largely those that use the office the most, to periodically clean up. Attempts in previous years to be lenient and harsh respectively have not made significant changes to the cleanliness of the office, so I am unsure what recommendation to make regarding how to keep it in the best working order other than to continue what is already being done. I would advise the next Vice President, to think deeply and discuss with the Executive potential strategies to minimise rubbish in the office.

The AULSS Office is privileged enough to have several amenities including a microwave and fridge. The fridge is often left with older and unclaimed food or drink. Periodically items are removed, and while it is an excellent amenity to have generally, it and the other amenities must be looked after properly.

The AULSS Office has an 'open door policy' which is that if a Committee member is in the office and is not discussing some confidential AULSS topic inside, they should keep the door open so that members of the AULSS can attend the office and use its amenities. Conversely, if no member is in the office, the door must be closed to prevent possible theft of items. This year, the AULSS has had quite a good year maintaining this policy, with very few breaches, many of which were quickly corrected. I encourage the next Vice President to maintain this unofficial policy and to ensure that it is communicated well to each incoming member of the Committee.

Storeroom

Previously the AULSS had been granted partial access to a room near the AULSS Office which was used by Michelle for her coffee machine and supplies when she was not using it. This partial access was notoriously fraught with difficulty when attempting



to access items since only a limited number of members were able to use the storeroom and it was a shared, and thus limited, space.

This year, the AULSS was very fortunate to be offered an upstairs vacant office space to turn into a proper storeroom. The AULSS has a lot of items, from surplus merchandise, stockpiles of cutlery, bits of furniture and props or signage, and various other miscellaneous items. This new acquisition is very helpful as the AULSS is now able to decant items that do not need to be downstairs to this new storage space, which assists the AULSS greatly in presenting a clean and neat office to members and stakeholders. I would highly recommend the next Vice President continue to take items that are not needed downstairs or are only needed for a brief period upstairs for long term storage.

Centralised Office Supply Ordering

The AULSS Office, in addition to cleaning, requires topping up of basic office equipment and supplies. Items such as paper, printing toner / ink, and stationary are items that are necessary for the continual functioning of the office.

The Constitution previously made no mention of who is responsible for procurement of items, but de-facto this job has largely fallen upon the Vice President to execute. As part of a Constitutional amendment made at the SGM, the formal responsibility for such office equipment now has fallen upon the Vice President.

In addition to this, I felt that it would be efficient for the ordering of items such as cutlery, plates, coffee pods and the like should be done centrally rather than in drips and drabs by individual Directors. This was in addition to a decision to order in some Biscoff biscuits for events as other Directors in previously years used to buy small packets of items for their events individually which seemed inefficient.

I'm not sure if there was a significant financial saving as a result of this, but I would certainly encourage the next Vice President to ask other members of the Executive what items they would likely need or want in the office or for events before any orders are placed.

Miscellaneous items

As the Vice President is the role most associated with the administration of the AULSS and its office, the role ends up drawing all manner of tasks and decisions on the administrative periphery of the Society. These are not core aspects of the Vice President's job, but the following are some of the more specific small administrative wins achieved this year.



Furniture

The AULSS Office at the start of the term had several chairs that smelled awful and at least one of which was broken. I contacted the university's infrastructure team and requested that we get some newer furniture from their stockpile of office equipment. They were very accommodating and allowed us to get a new set of cleaner chairs for the office. A small win, but a positive change.

First Aid Kit

After the movement of the Law School office, people needing minor medical attention had no easily accessible way to obtain it in the Law School. Seeing this, I organised the AULSS to purchase a First Aid kit which we keep in the AULSS Office for use by any Committee member to administer to people in the Law School, and also for Committee members to bring to events if necessary.

Committee Information Document

At the start of the year, knowing that there were going to be at least a few round of co-options for vacancies on the Committee, I created a brief summary document of key information about the AULSS and its Committee including who to contact about issues, what do the portfolios do, what can people store in the office, and more. Given how many co-opted members of the Committee there were this year in particular, this formed quite a good summary for new members as well as members who were elected for a full term at end of the previous year. I highly recommend that this document, once any amendments the President and Vice President see fit to make are made, should again be circulated to all members of the incoming Committee, including those who have been co-opted.

Suggestions for 2024

While many of my recommendations are embedded within the above elements of my report, I will note a handful of other recommendations.

Avoiding Controversy and Respecting Diversity of Opinion

In previous years the Society has been challenged by the fundamental conflict of how to balance the inclusion of all the diverse opinions of its members while representing social justice and political issues. In my term as Vice President, I strove to ensure that the Society minimise potentially controversial events or initiatives that might upset or cause division between its members. While it is easy to believe that the Society is merely its Executive or Committee, it is ultimately a representative body for all of its members, and we must accept that to inclusively represent a diverse set of voices among our membership base, that certain stances, speakers, events or initiatives may need to be amended, or even abandoned, in order to maintain that harmony.



This year, I am proud to have pushed through amendments to the Constitution limiting politicisation and guiding the manner in which stances can be made in the Society's name, as well as initiating some ongoing discussions regarding policy and practice to better prevent or minimise divisive issues being raised within the Society through its events. While there is no solution to this issue, and ultimately is a matter of culture for law students to reconcile each year, I feel like the Society is now structurally in a better place to address these cultural conflicts when they arise and I highly encourage the incoming Executive be mindful of possible controversy when approving any events or initiatives in the Society's name that have the capacity to distress the Society's members.

Financial Prudence

I would highly encourage the incoming Executive to model financial prudence and to spend the Society's funding cautiously, and with the intention of keeping the Society's income above its expenses. It is by far an easier option, both intentionally and unintentionally to spend recklessly, but it is an irresponsible and destructive approach for a student organisation that is heavily dependent on externally generated sources of revenue. To adapt a quote from former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher: "The problem with reckless spending is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

Inevitably some ideas for revenue raising don't succeed, and some normal sources of revenue don't pull in as much as originally thought, and there is no shame in this occurring because sometimes external factors are just damning. However, if people do not even try to be cautious with funds, then this reflects a broader cultural issue within an organisation of not caring for its long term wellbeing.

I would add that unfortunately, and with no improper intent I might add, the Executive is beset by a culture of ignorance over the Society's holistic financial position. This is because each Director has limited insight into the way their funding requests affect other portfolios and the Society as a whole. The system prior to this year has encouraged Directors to spend as much as they are authorised not because they should, but merely because they can. While some of this has been remedied with a more centralised budgetary system as added into the Constitution, a more cultural change needs to occur concurrently whereby expenditure is mapped across the Executive as well as within a portfolio so that Directors have a greater say over the more frivolous, unnecessary, or opulent expenses of their colleagues. As such, I would recommend the next Executive carefully analyse expenditure and expected expenditure in a utilitarian manner that prioritises the most value for the most member.



Responding to Sexual Assault Training Sessions

This year, I attempted, largely in vain, to encourage members of the Committee, particularly the Executive, to attend training sessions run by the University regarding how to respond to and proactively prevent sexual assault, harassment, and bullying at events. Despite the low turnout at these sessions, I would highly encourage the next Executive to take these free trainings seriously as they would be of great help not just practically, but symbolically to demonstrate the Society takes a strong view on preventing these actions against its members. I thank the previous President Chelsea Chieng for her recommendation of attending similar sessions at the end of her term, which I took up the call for during my term.

Expansion of the Committee

I support expansion of the Committee if the Executive and Committee deem it fit, to keep up with the rate of events and to adequately spread the workload out between Committee members. Despite this, I do not support or encourage any expansion of the Executive. The Executive is already a medium sized Executive when compared to other club executives on campus. It runs long meetings, arrives at decisions somewhat quickly, and functions at a fairly efficient level. However with every addition of members of the Executive, the functionality of this body becomes more difficult, with meetings needing to run longer to accommodate more voices and it being harder to achieve consensus and reach decisions quickly (as opposed to a larger Committee). For these reasons, I would strongly recommend no further expansion of the Executive for a long time.

Greater Centralisation or Decentralisation of Portfolios

A question that will likely continue to arise, and at some point, whether by this incoming Executive or another, will need to be addressed, is the manner in which the portfolios of the AULSS interact with one another. The AULSS, unlike the vast majority of other clubs on campus, has an incredibly decentralised structure which is not centred on a Committee, but is instead centred upon its portfolios which are represented by a Director. Committee members interact with each other at certain events from time to time, but the only opportunities for the entire Committee to mingle are the Committee and General meetings. Now, I do not oppose this structure, I think it is in fact a good structure for a large club like the AULSS, however I acknowledge that it has weaknesses in terms of engaging and unifying the Committee behind events they are not aware of that are run by people they don't know to achieve aims they might not fully understand. It would be logical for the Executive to discuss whether they think further decentralisation and thus greater focus on individual specialised portfolios is a good trend to follow, or whether some actions should be taken to push the portfolio's closer together would be better. I make no recommendation as to the answer, as I don't believe there is a correct one, but I draw attention to this issue.



Centralisation vs Decentralisation of Executive Authority

In addition to the above, the Executive which meets about a dozen times a year or so, will hear ideas from Directors for discussion or approval. The relationship between Executive 'approval' and simply 'awareness' is a blurred one and while technically possible to do, it is only rarely that the Executive would formally prevent an individual Director from moving forward with an event or initiative, as this would be seen to be interfering with a Director's autonomy. Sometimes it is reasonable and sometimes less so for the Executive to micromanage a portfolio, or alternatively to let a portfolio go unchecked for too long. I think that a future Executive, whether this incoming one or another, should reevaluate the broader relationship between each portfolio through its Director and the Society at large. I would recommend that while there are no correct answers regarding this relationship, one principle should guide decision making. The principle is to what extent will the actions of a portfolio adversely affect another portfolio or the Society as a whole. The more adverse the influence, the more involvement from the Executive is warranted, and the less adverse the influence, the less involvement is warranted. I would suggest that events of a controversial nature, expensive events, and events requiring the use of resources (including the allocation of rooms) would be ones that need to be regulated further.

Conclusion

It has been an immense privilege to have served as Vice President of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society. While the year most certainly has been challenging, from external economic shifts increasing the cost of running events, to processing a seemingly endless number of co-options onto the Committee to address structural vacancies and resignations, to trying to engage disengaged students with the AULSS, to finding consensus regarding issues within a diametrically opposed Executive, it has been an incredibly rewarding experience and I do not for a second regret putting my hand up for the role.

Having successfully achieved the vast majority of goals I set myself either before I nominated or shortly after taking office, I am confident that the Society will not only continue to flourish but will continue in an upward trajectory to excel even farther.

This year the AULSS has finished with a strong budget surplus to protect it from sudden fiscal shocks, established an Endowment Fund to secure its future prosperity, reformed its Constitution to improve the AULSS' capacity to achieve its objects, and created and updated its policies to improve its governance into the future.



I want to especially thank my predecessor Bella Mickan, who encouraged me to nominate for the position, provided helpful advice, and modelled exemplary leadership in her term which I tried my best to follow in mine. I also extend my thanks to my colleagues on the Executive with whom I have worked closely this year, and in particular the President Bryan Lau with whom we made quite the dynamic duo of leadership, Treasurer Minnah Butt with whom we've shared an obsession with fiscal responsibility, and Director of Competitions Patricia Pappas with whom was always ready to procrastinate with me in the AULSS Office. To my successor as Vice President, Leah Schlein, I wish you the best of luck and hope you will do well in the role! And while I won't miss being told that we need to sign yet another circular resolution, I will miss the AULSS and its Committee.

Felix Eldridge

Felix Eldridge

Vice President

10th October 2023



Treasurer Portfolio Report

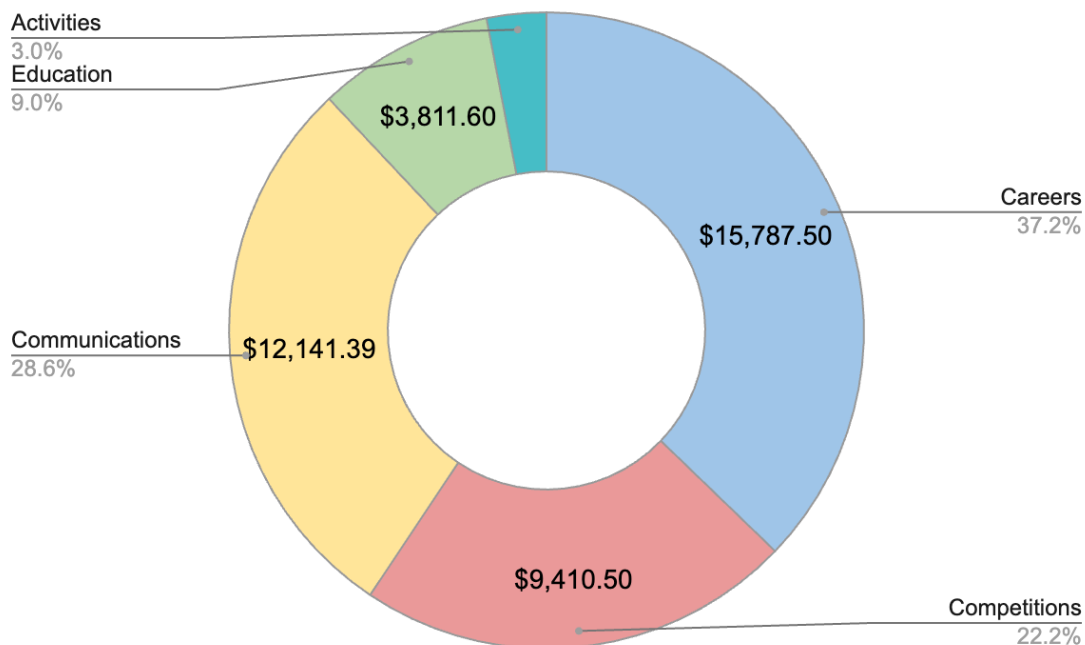
Director: Minnah Butt

Representatives: Olivia Walker (Semester 1); Aryaman Mehta

Summary

2023 has been an incredibly successful year for the AULSS and I am proud to have been part of the Executive that achieved so many milestones. I am honoured to have worked with such a competent and driven group of people and hope that the initiatives undertaken by this Executive continue to be sources of success in future years. This report will discuss our sponsorship, financial performance, the establishment of the Endowment Fund, and the implementation of constitutionally-entrenched financial controls.

Sponsorship



Sponsorship revenue in 2023 totalled \$42,438.001 (inclusive of GST), representing a 7% increase from 2022. The AULSS had 22 sponsors this year, 6 of which were new sponsors resulting from an intensive sponsorship strategy targeting a wide range of

¹ This includes the total sponsorship of the Intervarsity Marathon for which profits are to be split with the Flinders Law Students Association. This distribution has not yet occurred as this competition has not commenced and is the first of its kind.



entities in the corporate and legal industries. We contacted over 100 firms with personalised emails, follow ups, phone calls, and arranged online/in-person meetings to promote the AULSS and encourage sponsorship. This strategy was successful and there is still a great deal of opportunity in continuing it next year as there are several hundred more law firms and corporate entities who could be interested in partnering with the AULSS. We did however lose 5 sponsors from last year which is a trend we should mitigate as much as possible. There is little value in gaining new sponsors if the existing ones cannot be retained. Below is a table listing our sponsors in 2022 and 2023.

As expected, the Careers portfolio generated the largest amount of sponsorship income with Communications and Competitions trailing close behind. Education's largest source of revenue was the GDLP Night and Activities generated its standard sponsorship revenue from its only sponsored event being Law Dinner.

Sponsor List	
2022 sponsors	2023 Sponsors
ABL	Arnold Bloch Leibler
Allen & Overy	Allen & Overy
Allens	Allens
Ashurst	Ashurst
BakerMcKenzie	
Clayton Utz	Clayton Utz
College of Law	College of Law
Commercial & Legal	Commercial & Legal
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Cowell Clarke	
G+T	Gilbert + Tobin
HSF	HSF
HWL Ebsworth	
JWS	Johnson Winter Slattery
Kain Lawyers	Kain Lawyers
Law Society SA	The Law Society of SA
Leo Cussen	Leo Cussen Centre for Law
LK	LK
Mellor Olsson	
MinterEllison	
Thomson Geer	Thomson Geer
	Andreyev Lawyers
	Crawford Legal
	Finlaysons Lawyers
	Piper Alderman
	Precision Legal
	Websters Lawyers



Sponsor Gifts

Communication with sponsors through email and phone calls lacked a personal touch and prevented opportunities for frank discussion and feedback. Instead of the standard 'thank you' email at the end of the year, the sponsorship team decided to make gift baskets for our sponsors and hand-deliver them to the Adelaide based firms. The gift baskets consisted of chocolates and AULSS merchandise which we considered to be meaningful and memorable gifts for our sponsors. Visiting the sponsors' offices also provided an opportunity for discussion and networking. I strongly suggest that this new initiative be continued in the future as it is a great way to build strong sponsor relationships and learn ways to improve our activities.



Sponsorship Items Update

Our communication with our sponsors begins with the distribution of the Prospectus, which makes this document not only vital to the financial stability of the AULSS, but also an opportunity to impart a strong first impression of the AULSS upon key stakeholders. I thank all the Directors for their assistance in creating the Prospectus, with special thanks to Bryan for assisting Henry with the formatting.

The annual redrafting of the Prospectus is an opportunity to review the AULSS' sponsorship items, pricing and presentation decisions. In terms of sponsorship items, offerings for the Competitions, Careers, Education, and Communications portfolios were updated to align with each portfolio's activities for the year. Training items were removed from the 2023 Prospectus as it was determined that these items were incorporated in AULSS activities in other capacities. The biggest changes were made to the Social Justice & Equity items which were entirely replaced as follows:

2022	2023
SJ Breakfast Series Social Justice and Wellbeing Articles AULSS Sports Golf Competition SJ Fundraiser Dinner	Walk for Justice [Donation] Ending Period Poverty [Donation] Wear it Purple Day [\$250] Law Reform Panel: Enshrining the Voice Law Reform Panel: Neurodiversity & Disability in the Law [\$600] Law Reform Panel: Pro Bono or a topic your choosing [\$600] The SJE Law Journal- Full page advertisement [\$500] The SJE Law Journal - Half-page advertisement [\$300]

Pricing Update

With the high rate of inflation during post-covid years, I updated the pricing of our sponsorship items. A substantial increase was deemed necessary to maintain a balance with the rising costs of goods and services we expected to encounter throughout the year. In making this decision, I had to balance the planned price increase with a potential decrease in demand but expected that many of our best-selling items would likely exhibit a low degree of price elasticity. As the leading law school in South Australia, external stakeholders would likely purchase our items despite a price increase. Also, given the infrequency with which sponsors engage with our Prospectus (just once a year for most of them), I considered it unlikely that they would notice or be concerned about a reasonable price hike. As expected, only two of



our sponsors raised questions about the increases and both were understanding when an explanation was provided.

The following table shows the details of the price increases for each item.

Competitions	2023 Price	2022 Price	\$ Change	% Change
Open Moot	\$1,750.00	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	16.67%
Novice Moot	\$1,500.00	\$1,220.00	\$280.00	22.95%
Witness Examination	\$1,250.00	\$800.00	\$450.00	56.25%
Client Interviewing	\$1,250.00	\$800.00	\$450.00	56.25%
Negotiations	\$1,250.00	\$800.00	\$450.00	56.25%
Criminal Law Moot	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
First-Year Moot	\$1,500.00	\$1,220.00	\$280.00	22.95%
Civil Law Witness Examination	\$1,000.00	n/a		
Triversity Client Interviewing *	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
AULSS x SULS Negotiations *	\$2,000.00	n/a		
Family Law Mediation	\$1,000.00	n/a		

Careers	2023 Price	2022 Price	\$ Change	% Change
Careers and Clerkship Guide – Full Page Ad	\$1,100.00	\$975.00	\$125.00	12.82%
Careers and Clerkship Guide – Half Page Ad	\$750.00	\$675.00	\$75.00	11.11%
Firm Presentation Evenings, hosted at Adelaide Law School	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	\$100.00	11.11%
Firm Presentation Evenings, hosted at Firm Office	\$800.00	n/a		
Firm Presentation Evenings, hosted online	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$0.00	0.00%

Publications	2023 Price	2022 Price	\$ Change	% Change
Volunteer Handbook	\$700.00	\$635.00	\$65.00	10.24%
Competitions handbook	\$700.00	\$650.00	\$50.00	7.69%
First Year Guide	\$700.00	n/a		

Communications	2023 Price	2022 Price	\$ Change	% Change
Website Major Sponsor	\$1,300.00	\$1,270.00	\$30.00	2.36%
Email Advertisement	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Social Media Story	\$150.00	n/a		
Social Media Permanent Post	\$220.00	\$175.00	\$45.00	25.71%
Social Media Burst (Story + Permanent Post)	\$350.00	n/a		
Package of 3 bursts+ email	\$850.00	n/a		
As Needed Package	\$1,000.00	n/a		

Education	2023 Price	2022 Price	\$ Change	% Change
Problem and Short Answer Question Seminar	\$650.00	\$400.00	\$250.00	62.50%
Legal Research and Referencing Seminar	\$650.00	\$400.00	\$250.00	62.50%
Exam Preparation Seminar	\$650.00	\$400.00	\$250.00	62.50%
Legal Skills Seminar (Topic of Your Choice)	\$650.00	\$400.00	\$250.00	62.50%
GDLP Networking Night	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%

Packages	2023 Price	2022 Price	\$ Change	% Change
Gold Package	\$2,500.00	\$2,250.00	\$250.00	11.11%
Careers and Clerkship Guide – Full Page Ad				
1 Education Seminar – Topic of your choice				
2 Social Media Bursts				
Email Advertisement				
Silver Package	\$1,750.00	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	16.67%
Careers and Clerkship Guide – Full Page Ad				
2 Social Media Bursts				
Email Advertisement				
Bronze Package	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$200.00	20.00%
Careers and Clerkship Guide – Half Page Ad				
1 Social Media Burst				
Email Advertisement				



Package Pricing Issue

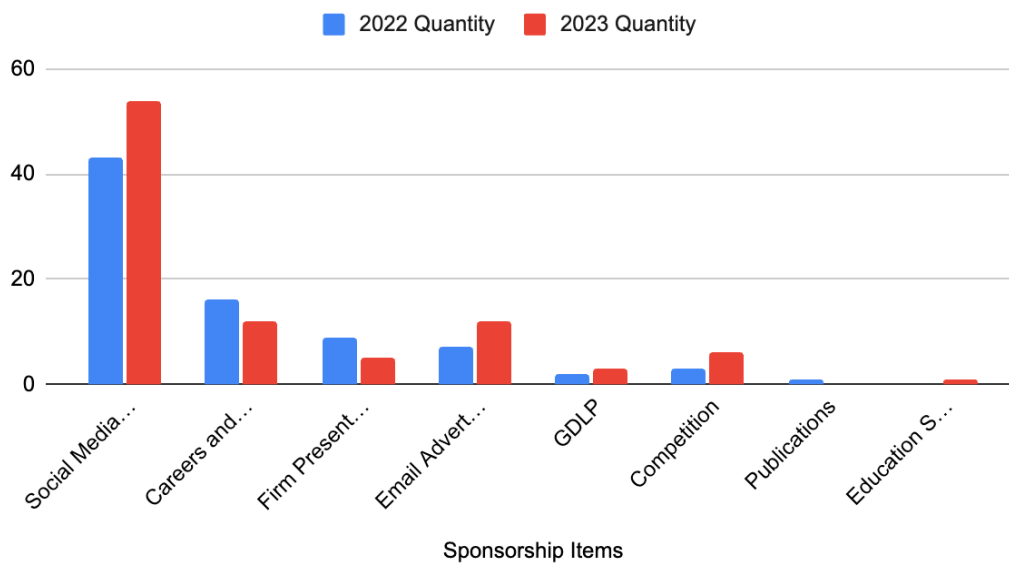
Two factors guided the pricing of the packages. Firstly, the prices were to be increased from 2022 and secondly, the price of each package had to be less than the sum of its components to create value for sponsors. Upon reviewing the Prospectus at the start of semester two, I noticed that a third factor was overlooked in making these decisions: the price difference between each package had to be greater than the price of the differentiating components.

The Gold package costs \$750 more than the Silver package. The only difference between the Gold and Silver packages is that the Gold package contains an Education seminar. The cost of an Education seminar is \$650. If sponsors had purchased a Silver package and an Education seminar separately instead of buying the Gold package, they would have saved \$100. This oversight was not raised by any sponsor and did not lead to any apparent issues as we had more Education seminars than last year, but it is an error and should be corrected in 2024. It may also be the reason we sold twice as many Silver packages as Gold [2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze].



Sponsorship Items Sales Performance

Sponsorship Performance Comparison



Key Insights

- SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY and ACTIVITIES: no change from 2022.
- EDUCATION:
 - GDLP sponsorship increased by 50% from 2022.
 - 1 sponsored education seminar was hosted in 2023 compared to 0 in 2022.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Social Media sponsorship increased by 32%.
- CAREERS:
 - Careers & Clerkship Guide advertisements decreased by 25%
 - Firm Presentation Evenings decreased by 44%.
- COMPETITIONS: Sponsored competitions increased by 100%.
- OTHER: No publications were sponsored this year.

Takeaways

We have seen increases in sponsorship of Competitions, Education, and Communications portfolios and decreases in the Careers portfolio and Publications. Competitions' sponsorship performance was strong this year with 3 newly sponsored competitions. Andreyev Lawyers, a new sponsor, was involved in Client Interviewing and Negotiations. Websters Lawyers is sponsoring the Intervarsity Marathon and is signing on to sponsor this prestigious competition for the next five years. Competitions seem to be a strong draw for sponsors as this is something that the AULSS tends to organise better than other law student societies in South Australia. Competitions are



also a great opportunity for some meaningful student-sponsor networking and sponsor involvement naturally improves the quality of competitions since we have legal practitioners involved in the organisation of the event. The advertising focus on our competitive advantage in this area has proven to be successful and should be continued.

Sales of Communications items have increased significantly. I expect the reasons for this are that the quality of our social media posts remains high (despite low engagement) and there are generally more events being hosted by firms which require advertisement. Packaging communications items, an idea suggested by Henry, has proven to be quite successful as it allowed firms to lock in advertisements well in advance and pay less than they would have for the individual items. 3 sponsors purchased the '3 bursts + 1 email [\$850]' and 1 sponsor purchased the 'As Needed [\$1,000]' package. The highest selling communications item was the 'Burst [\$350]' consisting of a permanent post and a story post on both Instagram and Facebook. The increase in sponsored posts did however place additional strain on the Communications portfolio, which will be managed by increasing the number of representatives in future years.

The Education portfolio's most successful event was the GDLP Networking Night. Last year, a question was raised regarding the benefits of sponsorship versus attendance of this event for GDLP providers. It was noted that attendance (which was free) offered all the same benefits as paid sponsorship save for naming rights which were not a justifiable benefit given the cost of sponsorship [\$1,000]. This year, we attempted to standardise the GDLP payment tiers into one \$1,000 flat fee for attendance/sponsorship. As expected, we had some pushback from the provider who had been previously attending free of charge but after some negotiation, a \$500 rate was agreed given the provider's not-for-profit status and the steep increase in the cost of attending the event. As a result, we now have 3 sponsors for the GDLP Networking Night. There was also one highly successful sponsored Education seminar run by LK along with a handful of non-sponsored events hosted with other not-for-profit organisations. Education seminars represent an unexploited opportunity which can be beneficial for both students and sponsors in ways distinct from the Careers seminars and Communications advertising. Sponsors can showcase their organisations' specific skillsets and students can gain practical hands-on knowledge often lacking from university education. This may be a sponsorship item worth focusing our advertising on in future years.

Sponsorship of Careers items declined in 2023. It is quite unlikely that the decline in the sales of advertisements in the Careers & Clerkships Guide (C&CG) is related to a quality issue. Our C&CG is an award-winning publication, and the launch night is one of the best-attended non-Activities events. Some issues this year included difficulty reaching our sponsors due to their email security measures. As a backstop, we also



made phone calls, but these often went unreturned. For the future, contacting the Human Resources or Business Development officers of the organisations on LinkedIn would be a good way to ensure the success of one of our most important sponsorship opportunities. Firm Presentation Evenings also declined (from 9 in 2022 to 5 in 2023) which may be attributed to low attendance in 2022 or a shift in sponsors' focus onto other AULSS activities. Two of our 2022 Firm Presentation Evening Sponsors did not sponsor the AULSS this year (Minter Ellison, Mellor Olsson) while LK sponsored a competition and Education seminar and the College of Law focused on advertisements and the GDLP Networking Night instead of a Firm Presentation Evening.

In the Activities portfolio, sponsorship of Law Dinner was maintained. There was some discussion about Quiz Night being a sponsored event, but Natalie advised that sponsorship imposes a certain degree of decorum and professionalism upon an event and Quiz Night may not be an appropriate place for this which I agreed with. Nonetheless, LK did provide gifts for the event as a personal favour but was not an official sponsor.

The following table shows a detailed comparison of items by year.

Sponsorship Items	2022 Quantity	2023 Quantity	Difference
Social Media Post	43	54	11
Careers and Clerkship Guide	16	12	-4
Firm Presentation Evening	9	5	-4
Jobs Board Ad	9	n.a.	
Email Advertisement	7	12	5
Mentoring	1	n.a.	
GDLP	2	3	1
Website Major Sponsor	1	1	0
Competition	3	6	3
Publications	1	0	-1
Law Dinner	1	1	0
Education Seminar	0	1	1
Social Justice Items	0	0	0



Financial Performance

The AULSS' operating year runs from 1 December to 30 November which differs from our financial year which dates from 1 July to 30 June as per our Constitution. My discussion of the AULSS' financial performance will be a year-to-date update of our performance during this Committee's term (being the period starting 1 December 2022 until the date of this report). Previous AGM reports have based their discussion on the financial year, but I believe that for the purposes of this report, the financial year is not the most accurate summary of the performance of the incumbent Committee and the use of this period can strongly skew our understanding of the success of our activities. For example, using the financial year for this report would exclude many of our second semester events and include many second semester events from 2022. Financial statements for both the financial year (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023) and the operating year (1 December 2022 to the date of this report) are annexed.

Bank Balances

The AULSS bank account balances as at the date of this report are listed in the table below.

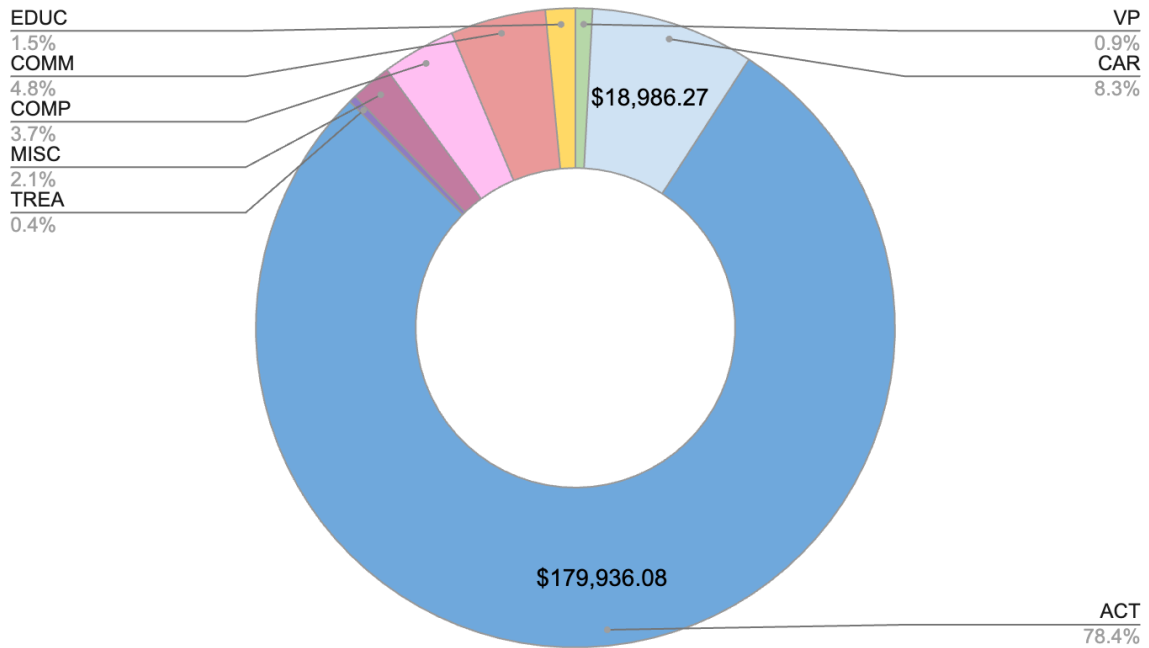
Account Name	2022 Balance	2023 Balance
Society Chequing Account	\$19,570.43	\$60,349.65
Business Online Saver	\$87,079.40	\$47,783.59
Term Deposit	N.A.	\$20,000
Total	\$106,649.83	\$128,133.24



Profit Breakdown

Income

Income Breakdown



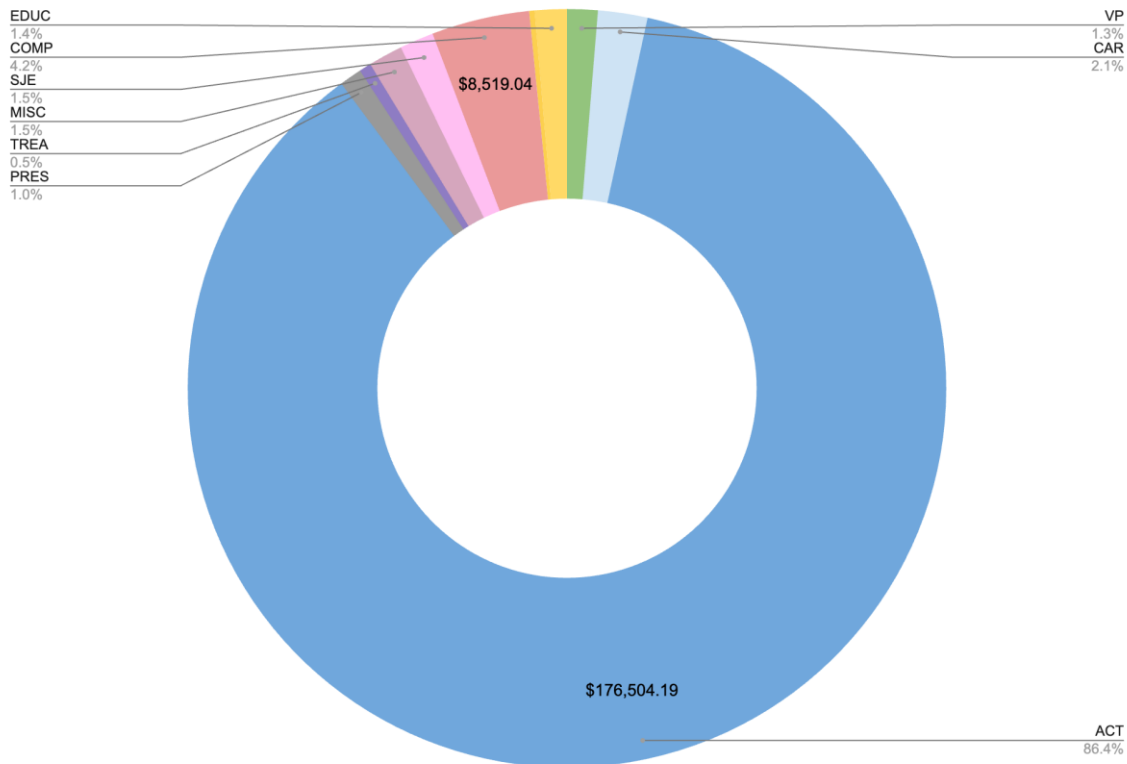
As we know from previous years, our income is heavily dependent on the Activities portfolio and specifically on Law Ball. We have increased our sources of income this year, with more revenue generated from other portfolios and funding from YouX. With the establishment of the Endowment Fund, we can expect to see greater interest income in future years also.

The Vice President's income is understated in the Profit and Loss statement as funds were not properly allocated to Law School Local and merchandise sales when our Square terminal was first set up. Similarly, income generated by Social Justice & Equity initiatives was not recorded properly by Square. Instead, these sources of income have been grouped together in the Miscellaneous (MISC) category which also contains revenue generated from donations, YouX grants, and refunds.



Expenses

Expense Breakdown



As expected, the Activities portfolio also has the largest expenses. This will not be a concern so long as the Activities portfolio continues to generate profits from each of its events, which it has successfully done this year. The Competitions portfolio represents our second largest expenditure category. This is almost entirely due to expenses associated with sending competitors to the annual Australian Law Societies Association (ALSA) conference. This year, ALSA cost the AULSS \$8,418.17. The competition likely would have cost us more had the University not covered registration fees for some of our competitors which were \$730 dollars per person this year (for early bird registration). The Executive also voted to grant competitors and delegates \$150 in additional discretionary funding. Each attendee was provided with \$880 in funding to attend the conference, representing a 76% increase from last year's funding of \$500 per person.

Although I understand the value in having a strong AULSS presence at national conferences of this sort, I am strongly of the opinion that the ALSA expenditure should not be this large. We need to remember that this Committee represents all students of the School of Law and spending close to \$9,000 on a very small group of members is



not a decision that is in the best interests our members as a whole. Further, the Constitution states that '*the prize for any member who wins a competition shall be the right to represent the AULSS at the next annual ALSA conference competitions, but such a right does not attract automatic funding...*' While the AULSS should support delegates and competitors as much as possible, including financially, there is no requirement for the AULSS to shoulder this financial burden whatsoever.

ALSA is undoubtedly a beneficial institution, and we should continue our affiliation with them, but we must acknowledge that the benefits of attendance at the conference accrue to only a handful of individuals. The funding contributed to ALSA could be much better utilised for the betterment of our members in the form of scholarships or even unconditional monetary awards for winners of competitions. The latter may induce greater participation in competitions by students who are not particularly interested in the ALSA prize while still allowing them to use the prize money to attend ALSA if they so wish. I would suggest that we revert to our 2022 position of providing \$500 of funding to each attendee of ALSA and should consider more meaningful and accessible uses of excess cash.

Profit Comparison

At the date of this report, the Society has made a profit of \$24,507.01 during this operating year. This represents a 19% increase from the previous operating year during which the Society made a profit of \$20,570.68.

I do note that we have several upcoming expenses yet to be disbursed, including:

- \$20 reimbursements for Committee members;
- catering for Q&A with the Chief Justice; and
- printing for the Hilarian.

The financial year (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023) profit is \$7,456.06, compared to the previous financial year's profit of \$36,987.86. As discussed previously, this amount is not representative of the actual activities of the 2023 Committee as the 2022-2023 financial year profit includes the loss incurred by the 2022 Law Dinner and understates our sponsorship revenue. Similarly, the 2021-2022 financial year profit includes the profits from two Law Balls. However, it is a requirement of the Constitution that the Treasurer prepare a balanced account for the financial year which is located in Annexure B.



Endowment Fund

The AULSS' main source of income is sponsorships which can be volatile and heavily impacted by external forces. This was a lesson the AULSS learned during the Covid-19 pandemic which emphasised the need for diversified sources of income. Thank you to Felix for leading the initiative to establish the Endowment Fund, a constitutionally entrenched investment fund in the form of a term deposit.

Each year, the AULSS is to contribute 5% of sponsorship revenue from the previous year to the Endowment Fund to continuously but incrementally build up this asset base which can hopefully serve as a substantial source of income in future years. This 5% increase can be changed by amending the Endowment Fund Policy and is at the discretion of the Treasurer if the amount is deemed unreasonable given the AULSS' financial position.

The Endowment Fund currently consists of \$20,000 and will earn interest upon maturity which will be reinvested by next year's Executive along with 5% of this year's sponsorship revenue.

Use of YouX Grants

Thank you to Felix for taking the initiative to organise funding through grants provided by YouX. It is important that the AULSS utilises all avenues of external funding to finance its activities to ensure strong financial performance and high quality events.

The following table summarises the use of YouX grants in 2023, totalling \$1,940.41.

	Category	Amount	Reason
Grant 1	Merchandise & Promotions	\$200.00	Pens
Grant 2	Online and Subscriptions	\$464.99	Canva
Grant 3	Equipment	\$300.00	Square terminal
Grant 4	Fundraiser	\$291.52	Sausage Sizzle
Grant 5	Events and Activities	\$195.00	First year meet and greet
Grant 6	Events and Activities 2	\$430.00	CCG Launch
Grant 7	Equipment	58.9	Misc
Total		\$1,940.41	

Financial Controls

At several key decision-making moments throughout the year, it became apparent that the existing system of financial controls was ineffective and insufficient given the growth the AULSS has experienced over the past few years. The only regulation to



date has been the requirement of a circular resolution of the executive to approve expenses exceeding \$500, but even this was treated as more of a formality than a control mechanism.

Among the constitutional amendments approved at the Special General Meeting was the introduction of financial controls, including the requirement of an Annual Budget (Budget) to be created by the Treasurer in consultation with each Director and to be approved by a special resolution of the Executive. Inclusion in the approved Budget will constitute pre-approval for any expense. The Treasurer will retain absolute discretion as to the inclusion of any expense item in the Budget, except for expenses exceeding \$5,000 (which will be governed by the procedure mentioned in the below table for Tier 5 expenses). This mechanism will encourage planning of events in advance and consultation among the Executive.

For all expenses not included in the Budget, the following approval requirements will apply:

Tier	Amount	Approval Requirement
Tier 1	<\$150	Notify the Treasurer within 24 hours of incurring the expense. No more than 2 tier 1 expenses can be incurred per fortnight by any Committee member.
Tier 2	\$150 to \$500	Seek the approval of the Treasurer which will not be unreasonably withheld.
Tier 3	\$500 to \$2,000	Seek the approval of the Executive by way of an ordinary resolution or a circulating resolution to be passed with an ordinary majority
Tier 4	\$2,000 to \$5,000	Present the expense to the Executive during an Executive meeting and seek approval by ordinary resolution.
Tier 5	>\$5,000	Present at least 2 alternatives to the Executive during an Executive meeting, at least one of which must be a lower cost alternative. The Executive shall select their preferred option at that meeting by ordinary resolution.

The purpose of these amendments is to diminish the need for burdensome administrative approvals procedures via the Budget mechanism. Future Executives will be incentivised to include as many expenses as possible in the Budget to avoid the approval requirements. However, as a backstop, the approval requirements will serve to ensure that each disbursement is given due consideration based on the size of the cost.



Suggestions for 2024

My suggestions for next year's Committee have been mentioned throughout my report but are summarised in this section.

For the drafting of the Prospectus,

- Review the pricing of packages against their differentiating components
- Standardise the pricing of seminars. Education, Career, and Social Justice & Equity seminars should all be priced equally. The Gold package should allow sponsors to choose which seminar they would like.
- Leverage the tangible benefits of sponsorship and specifically mention ALSA awards.
- Do not further increase prices in 2024 as the 2023 increases were substantial.
- Differentiate Education and Careers seminars and highlight the need for firms to be involved in both types.
- Consider a new sponsorship item: Merchandise sponsor for the year entitling the sponsor to have their logo included on all merchandise for the year (such as on the sleeve of sweatshirts, rugby tops, etc.)

For the distribution of the Prospectus.

- Maintain the system of email, follow up email, and phone call, but also utilise LinkedIn and other forms of networking to contact potential sponsors.
- Continue to reach out to new sponsors, including those not in the legal industry. Aim to contact 100 potential new sponsors per semester and engage with them in meaningful ways.

For the Constitution,

- Consider amending the financial year of the AULSS to coincide with the operating year (1 December to 30 November)
- Consider whether the implementation of financial controls has been useful and if not, how they may be amended to improve their functionality.

Finally, the 2024 Committee should consider a lean approach to planning activities for next year. Every portfolio has experienced a significant decrease in engagement including low social media interactions, low competitions participants, and low attendance at some Activities events. Loss of some of our previous sponsors is also a concern. I expect that with the increase in in-person events taking place after the covid years and the general tendency for each new Committee to be 'bigger and



better', the AULSS has perhaps become too large for its own good, even requiring an increasingly large Committee each year. The burden on Committee members has also been enormous with concerns of mental health arising often. For members of the Executive, the AULSS workload has been akin to 1-2 university courses due to the 10 Committee and General Meetings, 13 Executive Meetings, internal portfolio meetings, external meetings, and time allocated to doing the actual work required of the Executive. It may be worthwhile to cut down on events, combine competitions, and generally trade in quantity for quality. The fewer activities we offer, the greater the attendance will be. Of course, these considerations must be balanced with our sponsorship obligations, but I strongly believe that a lean approach would benefit the AULSS.

Conclusion

This year, the AULSS' sponsorship revenue and profits increased. We experienced a decrease in sponsorship of Careers items and Publications, but outperformed 2022 in other areas. We established new sponsor relationships and cemented those relationships through strong communication and meaningful interactions. We also utilised alternative sources of income for the AULSS including grants and investment income. Finally, we implemented more stringent financial controls to ensure that the funds of the AULSS are utilised appropriately. The AULSS' financial position has never been stronger, and I hope that the trend of success continues in future years.



Minnah Butt

Treasurer

4 October 2023



Annexure A

Operating Year Profit and Loss Statement

Profit and Loss

Adelaide University Law Students' Society Incorporated For the 12 months ended 30 November 2023

	DEC 2022-NOV 2023	DEC 2021-NOV 2022
Trading Income		
Apparel/Merchandise	1,759.81	2,616.77
Careers Income	4,634.00	-
Closing Event	1,459.09	2,727.27
Handover Dinner Income	-	841.67
Interest Income	641.68	251.54
Law Ball	144,887.27	122,142.38
Law Dinner	15,520.00	14,803.64
Opening Event	2,727.27	1,800.00
Other Revenue	3,060.09	2,273.97
Pro Vino Ticket Sales	6,702.73	5,242.73
Pub Crawl/T-shirts	3,733.36	3,797.14
Quiz Night	3,736.36	2,704.55
Sales (Other)	13.64	11,149.24
Social Justice Breakfasts	-	266.50
Sponsorship	38,580.00	35,959.95
Square Sales	1,645.95	-
Square Surcharges	216.35	-
Total Trading Income	229,317.60	206,577.35
Cost of Sales		
Apparel/Merchandise Expenses	834.59	-
Total Cost of Sales	834.59	-
Gross Profit	228,483.01	206,577.35
Other Income		
LSL Sales	211.85	-
Total Other Income	211.85	-
Operating Expenses		
ALSA (Affiliation and Other)	545.45	600.00
ALSA (Competitors)	736.36	2,727.30
ALSA (Conference and Council Delegates)	7,136.36	4,194.10
Back to School Event Expenses	481.82	286.36
Bank Fees	123.30	386.96
Career Seminar Catering	402.40	508.19
Careers (Various Expenses)	46.67	52.27
Cleaning	11.18	-
Closing Event Expenses	1,727.27	3,948.00
Communications Expenses	-	647.76
Competition Expenses	377.22	2,675.20
Consulting & Accounting	1,839.00	2,808.00



Annual Report of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society Incorporated
2022-2023 Term

	DEC 2022-NOV 2023	DEC 2021-NOV 2022
Donations	852.24	1,580.00
Education (Other)	1,140.00	2,122.70
Education Event Expenses	1,521.86	-
End of exams event	506.55	-
First Year Drinks 2.0	-	1,051.59
General Expenses	-	181.82
Gifts	2,755.77	-
Handover Dinner Expense	864.49	284.92
Income Tax Expense	(1,492.00)	(433.00)
Law Ball Expenses	140,576.13	119,495.76
Law Dinner Expenses	16,647.97	16,070.42
Mature Age expenses	116.92	493.29
Meeting Expenses	812.75	1,200.06
Miscellaneous Activities Expenses	574.22	1,065.34
Office Expenses	1,789.59	897.18
Opening Event Expenses	2,415.45	1,599.55
Other Hilarian Expenses	-	132.27
Party Expenses	454.55	545.45
President Miscellaneous Expenses	540.52	211.58
Printing – Careers	3,860.00	3,429.96
Printing - Comps	269.10	38.35
Printing – Education	-	983.92
Printing – Hilarian	470.00	1,743.64
Printing – Other	91.00	-
Printing & Stationery	131.81	-
Pro Vino Expense	7,109.00	4,904.55
Pub Crawl Expenses	3,245.45	3,368.31
Quiz Night Expenses	2,765.78	2,389.92
Reimbursement of Expenses	-	700.80
Social Justice (Other)	1,325.76	1,870.33
Social Justice Breakfast Expenses	-	456.82
Social Justice Events Expenses	785.91	-
Square Fees	30.65	-
Subscriptions	536.40	156.37
Ticket Reimbursement	-	163.62
Vice-President Miscellaneous Expenses	54.55	70.45
Website & IT	8.40	396.56
Total Operating Expenses	204,187.85	186,006.67
Net Profit	24,507.01	20,570.68



Annexure B

Unaudited Financial Year Profit and Loss Statement

Profit and Loss

Adelaide University Law Students' Society Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Trading Income		
Apparel/Merchandise	4,074.22	1,822.58
Careers Income	4,634.00	-
Closing Event	3,583.56	-
Handover Dinner Income	841.67	892.83
Interest Income	625.62	59.26
Law Ball	144,887.27	199,306.47
Law Dinner	14,803.64	-
Opening Event	2,727.27	1,800.00
Other Revenue	4,668.37	1,811.14
Pro Vino Ticket Sales	6,702.73	5,242.73
Pub Crawl/T-shirts	3,138.36	3,797.14
Quiz Night	2,704.55	2,931.82
Sales (Other)	2,826.57	11,700.86
Social Justice Breakfasts	-	493.77
Sponsorship	34,749.09	37,425.86
Square Sales	1,645.95	-
Square Surcharges	216.35	-
Total Trading Income	232,829.22	267,284.46
Cost of Sales		
Apparel/Merchandise Expenses	834.59	915.62
Total Cost of Sales	834.59	915.62
Gross Profit	231,994.63	266,368.84
Other Income		
LSL Sales	45.45	-
Total Other Income	45.45	-
Operating Expenses		
ALSA (Affiliation and Other)	545.45	600.00
ALSA (Competitors)	3,463.66	-
ALSA (Conference and Council Delegates)	7,440.91	3,739.55
AULSS Sports	-	22.73
Back to School Event Expenses	768.18	-
Bank Fees	427.39	408.04
Career Seminar Catering	520.55	390.04
Careers (Various Expenses)	63.72	258.91
Cleaning	11.18	-
Closing Event Expenses	3,493.45	2,007.28
Communications Expenses	-	663.04
Competition Expenses	2,403.59	1,102.47



Annual Report of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society Incorporated
2022-2023 Term

	2023	2022
Consulting & Accounting	2,376.00	2,782.90
Deposits	-	(30.31)
Donations	852.24	2,544.55
Education (Other)	1,873.09	2,707.96
Education Event Expenses	163.59	-
End of exams event	506.55	-
First Year Drinks 2.0	1,051.59	-
Freight & Courier	-	53.50
General Expenses	-	318.18
Gifts	2,614.54	-
Handover Dinner Expense	1,149.41	1,272.72
Income Tax Expense	(1,492.00)	(247.00)
Law Ball Expenses	140,488.91	175,513.81
Law Dinner Expenses	27,546.85	2,159.09
Mature Age expenses	162.66	447.55
Meeting Expenses	1,182.83	554.77
Miscellaneous Activities Expenses	1,312.73	1,682.99
Office Expenses	1,922.30	859.92
Opening Event Expenses	2,415.45	1,599.55
Other Hilarian Expenses	132.27	277.27
Party Expenses	454.55	545.45
President Miscellaneous Expenses	321.97	1,783.13
Printing – Careers	3,860.00	6,674.50
Printing - Comps	-	59.37
Printing – Education	3.92	980.00
Printing – Hilarian	1,270.00	1,718.64
Printing – Other	91.00	-
Printing & Stationery	131.81	-
Pro Vino Expense	7,109.00	4,904.55
Pub Crawl Expenses	3,245.45	4,339.99
Quiz Night Expenses	1,935.37	2,618.69
Reimbursement of Expenses	600.00	65.10
Social Justice (Other)	1,457.63	1,709.93
Social Justice Breakfast Expenses	-	689.10
Square Fees	30.65	-
Subscriptions	482.76	98.18
Ticket Reimbursement	18.18	163.62
Vice-President Miscellaneous Expenses	125.00	978.26
Website & IT	49.64	362.96
Total Operating Expenses	224,584.02	229,380.98
Net Profit	7,456.06	36,987.86



Activities Portfolio Report

Director: Natalie Nimon

Representatives: Georgia Chiswell, Emma Colovic, Charlie Hayes and Kathryn Jannes

Summary

Activities 2023 has been an incredible opportunity. I have loved working so closely with my amazing representatives who through their incredible efforts, creativity and hard work have thrown brilliant events. I am so proud of all of their achievements.

We have shown the true potential of this portfolio to push boundaries, creating bigger events, at new locations and reach profits unseen previously. These show and reflect the large impact this portfolio has on the AULSS and the larger Law School by enabling students to enjoy their University experience and make unforgettable memories.

This incredibly successful year would not have been possible without my fantastic representatives and of course, Ruby our Communication's rep! I truly have loved every moment, partly because you make my job so easy with your passion and hard work but mostly because I adore you all as individuals and love spending time with you.

Opening Party

This year started with Emma's first event Opening Party at The Maid. This event sold out with 200 attendees and was a massive hit. Emma absolutely killed it, with a great DJ, venue and overall night. The Maid were easy to work with and loved having us back! This event through Emma's sourcing of a cost-effective DJ and photographer made a \$340 profit, which is amazing!



Photos



Pro Vino

Georgia came into 2023 with a bang organising in my opinion the best wine tour in AULSS history. She completely switched things up with all new venues and a new general location in the Adelaide Hills and smashed it. The day couldn't have gone more perfectly with great weather, beautiful venues, delicious wine, drink and food. I received so many compliments about Georgia's amazing event and truly cannot emphasise enough how well she did.

The day started with a bus from the Uni Bar to Sidewood where guests enjoyed a 5 wine tasting followed by delicious pizzas. There were games to enjoy including lawn bowls and other activities. This was followed by a trip to Lot 100 where guests got access to 2 free drinks, a bar and chips. This year Georgia opted to spend money on food rather than a DJ (as done in previous years). From feedback we received on the day this was much preferred by guests! I think this is as Georgia's new approach meant guests got more value from their tickets with \$73 providing a bus trip, 5 wine tastings, pizza, 2 gins and chips resulting in a \$453 profit.



Photos



Triversity Pub Crawl



Kathryn's first-ever event was our triversity pub crawl with Uni SA and Flinders' Law Societies. It was a great way to collaborate with the other Unis and allow intermingling between other Law Students. Unfortunately, Flinders' Uni did little work to assist in this event but Uni SA were great!

Kathryn brought back the t-shirt design competition resulting in the 'See ya later litigator' design which was so cute! The venues were further narrowed down slightly resulting in more full venues and cohesive 'crawl'. I think this worked better than previous years were guests were more spread out due to there being a wider variety of venues. Venues included Black Bull, Little Pub, West Oak, Woolshed, Nevermind, Cherry Super California, Zombies and San Churro.

Promotion for Pub Crawl



TRIVERSITY PUB CRAWL 2023

7:30-9PM

black bull pre-party

9-10PM

little pub / west oak

10-11PM

woolshed / nevermind

11PM-LATE

cherry / super california





Law Ball

Law Ball 2023 was an event that I worked extremely hard on and am so proud of how everything turned out! I chose to go back to Adelaide Oval due to issues which occurred with the convention centre previously and due to my personal preference, that it is the better venue. I loved Adelaide Oval however, I do have recommendations for next year's Director in their dealings with them. Foremost, checking over contracts multiple times and strictly comparing prices. I found multiple errors in contracts they sent despite them being 'final versions'. Moreover, do not be afraid to insist on certain aspects, requirements or cheaper prices. Adelaide Oval will be very hesitant to change but can often compromise on aspects which they previously insisted were unchangeable. Moreover, I found that the use of an event planner, who is experienced in the industry is extremely valuable as they can provide advice and reassurance in situations where you need to be insistent on your needs. Moreover, at next year's Law Ball, Adelaide Oval have said they will require the AULSS to pay for paramedics. Considering the size of the event, this is a smart decision in my opinion, especially as they were used at this year's Ball when guests were injured or inebriated.

My goal for 2023's Law Ball was to make it the biggest and most glamorous Law Ball ever. I landed on the Bond theme because I thought it was the perfect choice to achieve this with the black-tie apparel and luxurious associations with the theme. For decorations, I chose a red carpet, 15x 1.5m feather pieces, a massive chandelier, a sparkling back drop, 007 lit up numbers, 2x 8 tier and 96 bottle champagne towers, projected imagery and the black and white dance floor. I further incorporated the 360 photo booth as well as 2x regular photo booths, 2 DJs, a videographer and 2 photographers. I wanted guests to feel immersed in an expensive event and for it to



feel 'over the top'. Through looking at previous years I saw that despite numbers increasing dramatically, expenses had not. Generally, the bare minimum was spent to keep ticket prices low. However, due to the magnitude of the event by adding \$22 to prices I was able to drastically change the budget and calibre for the ball. Through considering how prices were already increasing due to inflation and price ranges for other University Balls I decided to increase prices this year. Despite receiving backlash, we still received the largest numbers in history and kept within or lower than other University Balls in SA. Moreover, through this increase, I was able to make this event one to remember with Havana Brown!

In line with wanting to make this the most glamorous law ball ever, I looked for a headline artist. This led to me doing multiple meetings with potential managers for the AULSS before landing with Sydney-based APE Events. They introduced me to artists and provided information on what to quote, questions to ask and how to book. This in turn led to me contacting a few potential headliners before settling on Havana Brown. I think incorporating an artist increased the hype surrounding the event and led to a whole new market of guests. However, through this, I had to increase spending and therefore, ticket prices. I think next year's director will need to consider their goals for the event taking into consideration the backlash in increasing ticket prices and the other associated costs for an artist i.e. rider, management, AV etc. By booking a headliner it also significantly increased my workload as there were so many aspects I needed to arrange. Moreover, there is difficulty in finding Australian artists in our price range whom our guests would enjoy. However, I think it was the right decision for this year's event.

Tickets were priced between \$140-\$150 and a profit of \$5.2k was made, the largest in AULSS history.



Poster Design



Photos



Law and Paws

For our alcohol-free event, we collaborated with SJE, Redbull and Paws and Claws to bring Law and Paws where students got to cuddle with puppies, drink Redbull mocktails, munch on some baked goods and enjoy some amazing games. Was such a fun event and was wonderful to donate money to a charity with an amazing cause rather than spending it on food.

Photos



End of Exams

To celebrate the end of exams for semester 1, Charlie organised her first event, the End of Exams Party. Organised at the new venue Kent Town, it was a great night with the theme pop of colour to ensure a bright, colourful and amazing night! There were free drink cards, a DJ, photographer and overall was amazing!

Photos



Quiz Night

Q for Quiz Night was a great return of our annual quiz night with a fun new theme, organised by Emma. This great event saw guests arrive in fun amazing costumes matched to one letter. There were the Kardashians, Disney Princesses, Total Drama Island, Glitter and many more. The event sold out and made an amazing profit due to Next Gen increasing the tab for free due to some errors. There were subsidised drinks, BYO snacks and a great venue close to the city.

Photos



Law Dinner

Back to the intercontinental, Law Dinner was organised by myself and sponsored by the Law Society with President James Marsh performing a speech. The event had an open bar and 2 course meal with the food being amazing!



Photos



ABLE Back to School Party (Delayed)

After a rocky start to this event due to a last-minute cancellation by a venue, Georgia came through to reorganise this event with ABLE for a delayed Back to School Party, glitter theme! With 2 live bands, games and glitter drinks, Georgia along with the ABLE team did so well to turn this event into a great night! Hosted at the Rhino Room in the city, a great venue!

Suits Scrubs and Spanners

Organised by Kathryn and representatives from the Engineering and Med Society, Suits, Scrubs and Spanners is back at the Atlantis! An exciting and popular event which has already sold out!



Stress Less Event

As always, we will return in week 12 of semester 2 with another stress less event to help law students de-stress leading up to the exam period.

Closing Party

Charlie is organising our Closing Party at the Park Side Hotel! We look forward to celebrating an amazing year!

Suggestions for 2024

I am so excited to see what Activities 2024 will shape to be, I am sure it will only be bigger and better than this year. I would suggest looking at cutting events which were not largely popular this year, potentially the End of Exams and/or Back to School Party. I believe as people return to travelling they are less likely to attend these events surrounding the July holiday. I think these events could be re-organised or changed to make it more exciting and add something fresh and new to the activities schedule. I would also recommend not increasing Law Ball ticket prices any higher due to the backlash which occurred this year. However, I would also note that regardless of this backlash the event still sold the most tickets in history so to keep their heads high and trust their guts on what they will think will make an amazing Law Ball, because it will be! I think this year has shown how profitable the Activities Portfolio can be, seen in the profits achieved below a record high! I also think it's important to be supportive of Reps and their commitments as being in activities requires a huge investment of time outside of the work week, so it is important to be understanding of this to allow a supportive portfolio.



Income Items				
Item	Price	Quantity	Actual	Notes
Opening Party	\$340.00	1	\$340.00	
Pro Vino	\$453.10	1	\$453.10	
Pub Crawl	\$44.86	1	\$44.86	
Law Ball	\$5,262.86	1	\$5,262.86	
Quiz Night	\$1,080.70	1	\$1,080.70	
Law Dinner	\$29.22	1	\$29.22	
Total		1	\$7,210.74	
Expense Item				
Item	Price	Quantity	Actual	Notes
Alcohol Free			\$400.00	
End of Exams			\$204.00	
			\$0.00	
			\$0.00	
Total	0.00	\$0.00	\$604.00	
		Projected	Actual	
Net Position			\$6,606.74	\$ difference from projected

Conclusion

I am so proud of all the hard work and amazing events that my team has been able to achieve this year. The Activities Portfolio is such a fun portfolio to be in and I have enjoyed every second of being on. It has been a pleasure working with such passionate and incredible people who love what they do – planning exciting events and bringing people together. I am also grateful that we have such engaging students, especially with our annual Law Balls.

I am sad to say goodbye to Activities, as it has definitely shaped my Law School experience and I have had so much fun, learnt a lot and most importantly, met lots of amazing people through it. Thank you all.



Natalie Nimon

Director of Activities
5th October 2023



Careers Portfolio Report

Director: Sophie Tait

Representatives: Aziza Nathin, Chris Mary, Elizabeth Chng, Henry Lewis, Jarod Eddy, Jessica March (Semester One) & Lucas Michaels (Semester One)

Summary

The 2023 academic year was another successful one for the AULSS Careers Portfolio. It has been a pleasure leading my team in creating insightful and beneficial initiatives for students.

At the time of writing this report, the Careers Portfolio has held twelve events with a further three to finish off the year. In addition to this, my team published the 2023 Careers & Clerkship Guide which won the 'Best Careers Initiative' award at the Australian Law Students' Association National Conference in August. This was an exceptional result to follow from last years' win.

Our primary focus this year was to reach a greater breadth of students in light of the overall decreased engagement levels. This was achieved through:

- Collaborations with the Adelaide Law School's Next Steps and 180 Degrees Consulting;
- Additions to the Careers & Clerkships Guide e.g., a 'Networking' section and an expanded 'Practising Regionally' section;
- Highly interactive events such as 'How to Interview Evening', 'Inside the Courts: Court Tour & Associateships Event' & the 'Kain Lawyers Seminar & Networking Evening';
- Increased all-student emails; and
- New events including 'Careers x SJ: Careers in Public International Law' and '180DC Internships Night'.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Executive, my representatives, and the wider committee for their support and passion throughout the year. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support received from faculty staff, industry professionals and each of our sponsors; this year would not have been possible without them.

Semester 1

Semester 1 was a busy start for the Careers Portfolio; it was the semester which saw the team organise the Triversity Fair, run various skill-oriented seminars, host several sponsored events, and create the AULSS' largest publication. The Portfolio's overall



aim for the first semester was to ready students for clerkship applications, work experience and networking.

Competitions x Careers: Come & Try Day

As in previous years, the Careers and Competitions Portfolios teamed up to host the 'Competitions x Careers: Come & Try Day' on Sunday 5 March from 12:00pm. The format was much the same as 2021 and 2022; we offered workshops for Client Interviewing, Mooting, Witness Examination and Negotiations over several sessions where students could hear from past winners and learn relevant tips & tricks. Members of the Careers Portfolio walked students through the skills and competencies associated with each competition and how they may inform students' professional skills.

Reflection

This event was created to express the importance of participating in competitions and how it is important to building professional skills. Due to the considerable amount of positive feedback from 2021 and 2022, we decided to continue this collaboration in 2023. However, from the events' debut, this event has seen decreased attendance levels. Whilst I believe it is an important event to maintain, particularly for new students, the role of the Careers Portfolio is not constructive. I would recommend a different collaboration between the two portfolios; this may be an event involving barristers and/or judges teaching students various advocacy skills. Further, it may be useful to create a section in the Careers & Clerkship Guide setting out AULSS competition opportunities alongside testimonials from students on how competitions impacted their professional career.

Triversity Law Fair

In its sixth year, the annual Triversity Law Fair was hosted on Friday 24 March from 11:00am until 2:00pm at the Adelaide Convention Centre. This event is open to all year levels, however, is typically aimed at law students in their penultimate or final year, as well as recent graduates. It was jointly organised by Shanah Green & Samantha Duff at the Australian Association of Graduate Employers (AAGE), the AULSS Careers Portfolio, the Flinders Law Students' Association (FLSA) and the University of South Australia Law Students' Association (USALSA).

A total of 192 students attended the Fair with 104 of those being from the University of Adelaide; a small increase from last year. These students had the extremely fortunate opportunity to speak with the following 17 exhibitors at the Fair:

- Accessible Justice Project;
- Attorney-General's Department;
- Commercial & Legal;
- Dentons Australia;



- DMAW Lawyers;
- Finlaysons Lawyers;
- HWL Ebsworth Lawyers;
- Johnson Winter Slattery;
- Kain Lawyers;
- Leo Cussen Centre for Law;
- LK;
- Lynch Meyer Lawyers;
- MinterEllison;
- The College of Law;
- The Law Society of South Australia;
- Thomson Geer; and
- Wallmans Lawyers.

I reached out to AAGE in January to organise a meeting in preparation for the Fair. During a Zoom meeting between the AAGE, AULSS, FLSA and USALSA, we agreed that the profits from the Fair would be divided amongst the three university societies as follows:

- 30% shared equally; and
- 70% shared based on the respective attendance levels from each university.

From this, the AULSS received a total of **\$4,635** (approximately \$350 more than 2022) of the total \$8,759 profit. The AAGE was pleased with the total profit given expenses for the venue and catering substantially increased this year and the surplus was only \$500 less than in 2022 (\$9,245).

In regard to event marketing, the AAGE did send through some basic promotional material, however the AULSS also created the joint Facebook event page as was done in 2022. For reference, the graphics are located to the right.



[ABLE Instagram Takeover](#)

We were fortunate to be approached by the ABLE Faculty Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Eleanor Danenberg, to 'takeover' the ABLE Instagram during the Fair. This was a great opportunity to engage with law students ,and those



from related faculties, to promote the activities of the AULSS. I believe with the introduction of new 'Engagement Representatives' next year, the Careers Portfolio should work alongside the Communications Portfolio and the ABLE Faculty to conduct similar social media marketing.

Triversity Law Fair 2024

The Fair has always been well received by students; it is a great opportunity to network with firms and organisations all in the one location. Unfortunately, I have been notified by the AAGE that after conducting a post event review, they have come to the decision to not host a stand-alone Triversity Law Fair next year. The cost of hiring a separate room and managing a separate process for bookings is no longer viable to the AAGE and is not something they offer in any other city. Instead, they will be proposing to create a 'law hub' within the Big Meet Career Fair if there is enough interest from exhibitors. They will discuss this plan further with the 2023/4 committees. As such, I suggest the incoming director to contact AAGE as soon as feasible in order to adapt to the new format seamlessly.



How to Interview Evening & Mock Interviews

The How to Interview Evening & Mock Interviews were held on Wednesday 26 April from 6:00pm in the Ligertwood Building. The evening was aimed at providing students, at all levels, with interviewing skills including what preparation to do, what questions to ask, practising responses, and how to self-promote.

The event began with a thorough presentation by Michelle McKinnon from the University of Adelaide Career Services. Michelle provided a comprehensive presentation on what employers want, how to answer interview questions, the STAR Model and information on video interviews. Whilst Michelle was presenting, we had four HR representatives sit on a panel to add their experiences and knowledge. These representatives were:

- Bernice Witkowski – Executive General Manager at DMAW Lawyers;
- Hilary Riddle – P&D Manager at Thomson Geer;



- Olivia Sharman – HR Associate at Piper Alderman; and
- Pina Zito – HR Manager at Cowell Clarke.

Following the presentation, students in attendance had an opportunity to partake in 1-on-1 mock interviews with the four HR personnel listed above.

Reflection

This event has proven to be an excellent initiative each year. We received positive feedback from both students and panellists, all of whom showed great enthusiasm.

Keeping in mind that this event requires a presentation room in addition to interview rooms, it is important for the incoming director to organise room bookings as soon as possible. This needs to be done in discussion with the Director of Competitions as competition rounds generally occur on similar nights.

Further, whilst it was excellent to have a variety of volunteers from different firms, I would recommend that the incoming director and treasurer pitch this event to a firm as a sponsorship opportunity. It is common not only for HR representatives to interview students, but partners and senior associates too; as such, the single firm can provide multiple personnel.

Finally, in the week following the event I was able to send an all-students email with the PowerPoint slides generously provided to me by Michelle. The email also contained a link to book in a mock interview with the Career Services. A copy of the email can be seen to the right. I believe this was a great addition to both advertise the Careers & Clerkship Guide and follow up the success of the event.

Hi Law Students,


Now that exams are officially over, it's time to start preparing yourself for those clerkship applications!

Our 2023 Careers & Clerkship Guide is now available online [here](#) or in hard copy around the Ligertwood foyer. From **page 20**, you will find useful tips & tricks to help navigate through the clerkship application process and subsequent interviews. You will also find the Uniform Clerkship Scheme dates on **page 60**, so make sure you don't miss any critical deadlines.

Fiona Brammy from the University of Adelaide Career Services has also been kind enough to share her slides from our 'How to Interview' evening earlier in the year (see **attached**). She has also advised that if you would like to book in a mock/practice interview with the Career Services team, simply email career.services@adelaide.edu.au.

Good luck!

Kind regards,
Sophie

 **Sophie Tait**
Director of Careers | Adelaide University Law Students' Society

180DC Internships Night

This event was held on Tuesday 2 May from 6:30pm-8:30pm in conjunction with 180 Degrees Consulting and the University of Adelaide Project Management Society. The AULSS contributed money to catering the event, which I believe was greatly appreciated by students in attendance.



The event entailed 3 current final-year university students speaking about the internships they undertook in the summer of 2022-23 at leading consulting and investment banking firms. The objective of the evening was to give students near-peer examples of local students who have undertaken the journey themselves and impart both experience and junior advice. Whilst the event was not formally organised by the AULSS, it gave the society an opportunity to cross-promote with 180DC and make the event accessible to law students by hosting it in Ligertwood.

Reflection

I would firstly like to thank Bryan Lau for assisting in the organisation of this event. I think 180DC is a great organisation for the AULSS to collaborate with, particularly due to the interest in consulting amongst law students.

180DC had reached out to us to co-host a 'how to interview' evening and additional events, however we did not end up partnering with them. It is important to ensure that we are not doubling-up on events and that we are keeping them relevant. As such, I think the internships night was the perfect event to take on and would recommend the incoming director to host a similar event with 180DC on consulting/investment banking.



Careers & Clerkship Guide Launch Night

On Wednesday 17 May we held the official Launch Night for the 2023 Careers & Clerkships Guide. As done in 2022, the event was held on Level 5 of the Ligertwood building; an accessible, easy to find location for students and external guests. Attendees had the opportunity to network with each other for the first half hour over food and refreshments; from there myself and several sponsors of the Guide made a 5 to 10-minute address each. The sponsors in attendance this year were Graham Jobling from the College of Law, Mark Giancaspro on behalf of the Law Society of South Australia, and Hilary Riddle from Thomson Geer.

Reflection



Whilst the format was largely similar to that of past years, the addition of the speeches from sponsors filled the time well. A recommendation for the incoming director is to flag the invite for sponsors when we contact them for their advertisements in the guide; this way sponsors can mark the date as soon as possible and interstate firms have time to organise a representative to travel to Adelaide.

The turnout was again similar to 2021 and 2022; so, it was great to see consistency. However, changes to the format of the event may see greater attendance. Given Triversity will no longer be a standalone event, we can use the Careers & Clerkship Guide Launch Night as a networking event where sponsors may set up a small stall each. This way we can create a networking hub to attract students as well as promote the publication of the Guide.

Nonetheless, it was an overall very successful event. The food sourced from Foodland, and the location, both remain great options for this event in future.



Education x Careers: Headstart Seminar

The Careers and Education Portfolio on Thursday 25 May at the College of Law office at 19 Grenfell Street, Adelaide. The seminar was aimed at first to third year students with the aim of introducing the necessary skills and opportunities available to them in the initial stages of their career. The presentation from the Director of Education, Eleni Sarantou, and myself, covered the following topics: early career opportunities, networking associations and relevant skills. Following the presentation, we held a Q&A session with a panel consisting of Celena Le (Law Graduate at HWL Ebsworth), Annie Zhang (Honours Student & Law Clerk at Piper Alderman) and Nadeesha Indigahawela (Associate to the Honourable Justice Bleby).

Reflection

This year showed significant growth from the Headstart Seminar in 2022 which received a disappointingly low attendance. The event in 2023 had much higher attendance levels and a significant amount of positive feedback. At the conclusion of the event, many students even approached the panel, Eleni, and myself, to ask questions and network with great enthusiasm. To encourage even more event



attendance next year, I would suggest for the incoming Director of Education/Careers to contact all first-year mentors/mentees to promote the event.

Further, the change in location to the College of Law offices I believe added to the success of the event. I think it is important for any incoming director to make small changes to these reoccurring events to reignite interest.

HSF Online Presentation

The HSF Online Presentation took place on Wednesday 24 May from 5:30-6:30pm. The presentation was initially led by Hong Le (Graduate Recruitment Consultant) and covered a brief overview of the firm (practice groups & sectors), an overview of HSF's vacation



clerkship recruitment process (key dates, how to apply and what the process is, and CV structure) and, to finish, a discussion led by Henry Materne-Smith (Disputes, Environmental & Planning) and Keagan Lee (Disputes, Corporate). Following the presentation, Hong opened up to a Q&A with the audience.

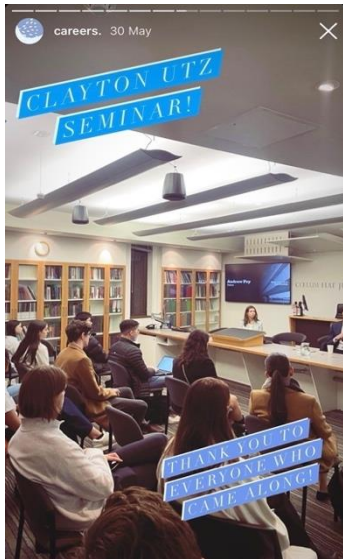
Reflection

The event saw an overall great attendance and engagement with the speakers. This year I elected to offer firms with an earlier timeslot of 5:30pm ACST, acknowledging that firms headquartered in the eastern states are a half hour ahead of us. I believe this has worked well, however there is a fine line between making events early enough for firms but late enough that students who work during the week can still attend.

Clayton Utz Firm Seminar

We held the Clayton Utz Firm Seminar on Tuesday 30 May from 6:00pm in the Ligertwood Moot Court. Andrew Fry (Partner in Projects & Construction) and Danielle Sandys (Graduate Resourcing Consultant) lead the seminar speaking about the firm, the work they do as well as their clerkship program. Following the presentation students had the opportunity to ask questions and network with Andrew and Danielle.





Reflection

The event had a great turnout of students and positive feedback; overall it was a very successful sponsored seminar. Danielle Sandys was delightful to work with, making the whole organisation process very streamlined and clear. I recommend we continue to work with Clayton Utz, however as we conduct a number of sponsored seminars through the year, I would perhaps suggest a format change. For example, it would be conducive to host a seminar where the firm hosts a CV/resume workshop or a seminar on skills and techniques to succeed as a clerk/graduate i.e., drafting documents and letters of advice with mock scenarios.

Kain Lawyers Seminar & Networking Night

As far as sponsored events go, I think the Kain Lawyers Seminar & Networking Night was the most successful of the year. This event was held at Kain Lawyers' new offices on King William Street from 6:00pm on Wednesday 31 May.

Upon arrival, students received a name tag and an attendance survey to inform the firm of their details, year level and future interests. Students then had the opportunity to enjoy some food and refreshments in the firm 'Clubhouse', and an informative presentation/Q&A. There were a range of clerks, lawyers, associates, and directors in attendance who



networked with students and participated on the presentation panel.

Reflection

Kain Lawyers was very easy to work with and created a very welcoming environment for attendees. I think the name tags and attendance survey were nice touches to personalise the event. Further, hosting the event at their offices allowed students who were finishing work in town to quickly come over. Kain Lawyers were also very generous in providing alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with an array of antipasti which were greatly appreciated by students. If they are willing, I would recommend the incoming director to maintain a similar format for Kain Lawyers.





Allen & Overy Online Presentation

The Allen & Overy Online Presentation was the final Careers event for semester one. Allen & Overy contacted the AULSS for a presentation during the final week of the semester, and therefore the event was held during the

exam period on Wednesday 28 June. The event was coordinated so that registrations were done through Allen & Overy directly rather than through the AULSS. Moreover, the seminar invite was open to students on the east coast and in New Zealand. The presentation lasted for around 45 minutes wherein Allen & Overy Partner, Minesh Patel, spoke to students about their Sydney Summer Clerkship opportunities.

Reflection

Given Allen & Overy's presence as a top tier international firm, it was great to participate in another seminar with them. Whilst there was a healthy attendance, I would recommend the incoming director to pitch event proposals (see the above reflection on the Clayton Utz Firm Seminar) to Allen & Overy in order to change up the format of these reoccurring sponsored events.

Semester 2

Given the clerkship application season was over, semester two was a good chance for the Careers Portfolio to have more freedom of choice with the events run. As seen last year, semester two also sees a change in portfolio members due to student exchange. With the introduction of my two new representatives Aziza and Elizabeth, it was great to see some fresh faces and renewed enthusiasm to finish off the year.

Careers x Next Steps: Careers in Public Law

This event was held on Wednesday 23 August from 5:30pm in the Ligertwood Moot Court. I would like to thank Dr Anne Carter, the coordinator of Adelaide Law School's Next Steps program, for co-hosting this seminar with the Careers team. I would also like to thank my representative Chris Mary for assisting with the organisation of the event.

The seminar took the traditional format of panel discussion followed by a Q&A. We were fortunate enough to be joined by Warwick Ambrose (Senior Solicitor from Crown Counsel), Kieran Lindner (Solicitor from Civil Litigation), Catherine Clemow (Solicitor outposted to Consumer and Business Services) and Jodie De Vries (HR Representative from the Attorney-General's Department) on the evening.



Reflection

Again, the event saw great attendance levels and positive feedback from students. I think it is important to incorporate a seminar every year that focuses on careers in public law as the schedule is typically corporate-heavy.

Dr Anne Carter was excellent to work with; as a former solicitor at the Crown Solicitor's Office, she has a strong connection to the public law sector and excellent connections to draw from. I would recommend the incoming director to collaborate with Next Steps again, however it may be worth brainstorming some changes to the event. This could include breaking off into smaller tables for discussions with the panellists as done in 2021 or changing the location of the event.



Thomson Geer Firm Seminar

The Thomson Geer Firm Seminar was held on Wednesday 30 August from 5:30pm in the Ligertwood Moot Court. Whilst this seminar was held post-clerkship application season, we still saw a really great turnout. We were lucky to be joined by Chris Kelly (Partner), Alice Leary (Associate) and Hilary Riddle (People & Development Advisor/Office Manager). These panellists gave an excellent presentation on the history, practice areas and work of Thomson Geer followed by a short Q&A. As an aside, I was also fortunate enough to be asked to say a few words on the panel as a former clerk. This was a great opportunity for myself as an AULSS member to make a connection between students and the firm.

Reflection

As Thomson Geer is a well-renowned firm with offices in Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne, a strong turnout was to be expected. Due to time constraints, it is not always possible to fit all sponsored seminars in the first semester, however, Thomson Geer has now had a seminar in semester two over the last couple of years. As such, I would suggest the incoming director/treasurer to reach out to Thomson Geer earlier in the year to coordinate the seminar to occur in semester one. Further, I think Thomson Geer would be a great option with which we could run an 'office tour'/in-house seminar; I would recommend the incoming director to pitch this event concept to them next year. Overall, Thomson Geer was great to work with and I strongly encourage the AULSS to maintain a relationship with the firm.

Careers x Next Steps – Inside the Courts: Court Tour & Associateships Event



This event is yet to be held but is scheduled to occur from 6:00-8:00pm on Wednesday 11 October at the Sir Samuel Way Building. As in 2021, the structure of the event will take the format of a 45-minute guided tour of the Sir Samuel Way Building followed by a panel Q&A with the Honourable Justice Bleby and associates Nadeesha Indigahawela & Jack Walsh.

The distinguishing aspect of the 2023 version of the court tour is the incorporation of associates. This way, instead of running a separate panel seminar solely focusing on associateships, students could get a feel of the courts as well as speaking with current/former associates.

A good turnout is expected for this event as it was fairly popular in 2021. However, I would recommend any incoming directors thinking of running a similar event to host it at either the Federal Court or Supreme Court building to avoid further repetition.

Leo Cussen Online Presentation

As with the Court Tour & Associateships Event, the Leo Cussen Online Presentation is yet to be held. The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday 17 October from 5:30pm via Teams and will incorporate a presentation from Leo Cussen and a short Q&A. I do not believe Leo Cussen has held a seminar with the AULSS, at least not in the last couple of years, so I am looking forward to hosting this event.

Typically, the Education Portfolio will run events with GDLP/PLT providers such as the GDLP Networking Night, however I think it would be great for these sorts of events to be a joint effort between the Careers and Education Portfolios in the future. Further, if Leo Cussen choose to open an office in Adelaide, I would recommend that the incoming director suggest any future seminar with them to be held in-house so that students can engage further with the organisation.

Careers x SJ: Careers in Public International Law

As with the above two events, this collaboration between the Social Justice & Equity and Careers Portfolios is yet to be held. The webinar is scheduled to occur on Thursday 19 October and will take the form of a presentation/Q&A.

I pitched the idea of hosting a careers event focusing on international law in 2022, however due to time constraints it did not occur. As such, I was determined this year to make it happen. The Director of Social Justice & Equity, Hamish McNamara approached me to make this seminar a joint effort and incorporating a social justice aspect. Consequently, we have decided to make the focus: Careers in *Public International Law*.



I would like to thank Hamish, along with our respective representatives Elizabeth Chng and Duaa Junaidy, for all assisting in the organisation of this event. The panellists for the event are as follows (with more to come):

- Petra Ball – International Humanitarian Lawyer at the Red Cross;
- Sam White – Australian Government Solicitor; and
- Dr Sarah McCosker – Partner at Lexbridge.

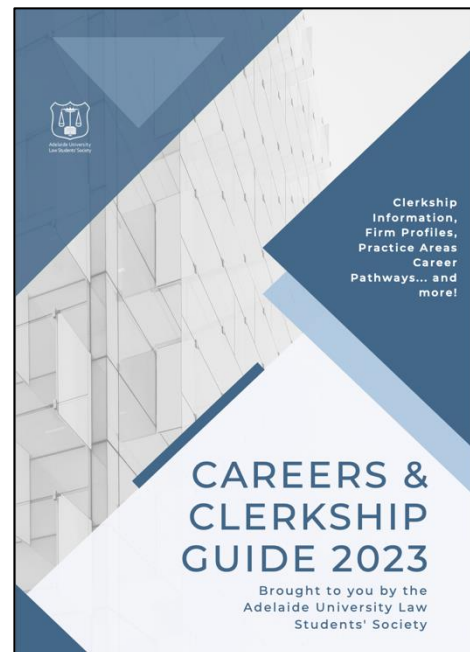
I would strongly recommend the 2024 Careers Portfolio to run another international law seminar, whether it be a similar focus or with a different focus perhaps on careers in private international law. I think hosting seminar with a focus on international law addresses the interests of an array of law students, particularly in light of the recent exponential growth in the international realm.

Other

2023 Careers & Clerkship Guide

Creating the 2023 Careers & Clerkship Guide was a truly rewarding experience that allowed me to contribute to the development and success of fellow law students. As I look back on this project, I am extremely proud of what our team was able to accomplish.

As I had worked on the 2022 version of the guide, I was aware of the time and effort it took to design the Guide. Consequently, I began work on the design concept from my election in December. Having established 'portfolio colour palettes' in 2022, I wanted to maintain consistency with the blue and white. I do not believe that the incoming portfolio needs to stick with this colour palette in 2024, in fact a change in colour may be required to refresh the new version. Personally, I prefer a corporate feel for the Guide, however this is completely up to the incoming director to change or maintain.



In regard to the content of the Guide, we largely stuck to the core content developed over the years with some new additions and changes. The notable changes included:

- 114 pages to 139;
- 32 new contributors;
- A 'Day in the Life' of a Vacationer;
- An expanded 'Practising Regionally and Abroad' section;
- A new 'Networking' section; and
- A new 'How to LinkedIn' section.



Our 2023 Careers & Clerkship Guide won the 'Best Careers Initiative' award at the Australian Law Students' Association National Conference in August. This was an exceptional result to follow from last years' win.

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone that contributed to the publication of the Guide. First and foremost, I would like to thank my semester one representatives – Jarod Eddy, Henry Lewis, Jessica March, Chris Mary & Lucas Michaels. The Guide would also not have been possible without our generous sponsors, including:

- Allen & Overy;
- Allens;
- Arnold Bloch Leibler;
- Ashurst;
- Clayton Utz;
- The College of Law;
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth;
- Herbert Smith Freehills;
- Johnson Winter Slattery;
- LK;
- Law Society of South Australia; and
- Thomson Geer.

This award marks what has been an extremely successful year for the Careers Portfolio and I look forward to seeing the 2024 come into fruition next year.



Sponsored Attendance Policy

This year the I, along with the assistance of the Executive, set out to solidify the attendance requirements of Committee members at sponsored events. The Policy itself ended up being a combined policy on various attendance requirements such as portfolio meetings, Executive meetings etc.



The sponsorship part of the policy requires members to attend 2 sponsored events per semester at their discretion. As this requirement is fairly minimal, we opted to not include a clause on apologies. Further, we considered the Careers & Clerkship Launch Night to be a sponsored event given the number of sponsors that have sponsored advertisements in the guide. The event also saw several people from sponsoring organisations join us. I also considered the Triversity Law Fair a sponsored event as we do make a large profit from it. Finally, the policy sets out a number of consequences that will be incurred by members in the instance they do not comply with the attendance requirements. For 2023, the consequence was losing the \$20.00 reimbursement provided to committee members at the conclusion of the academic year. It is up to the incoming Executive to change the policy in future; however, I believe it is a strong starting point and proved to be effective in 2023.

Job Opportunities Board

The Job Opportunities Board is an additional responsibility undertaken by the Careers Portfolio each year. We maintained the general structure from past years which categorises listed jobs into four categories: Legal Undergraduate, Legal Graduate, Non-Legal Undergraduate and Non-Legal Graduate. It has proven to be a great addition to the website and an extremely useful tool for students. As such, I strongly believe it needs to be maintained in years to come.

From the outset, I devised a roster system for my team in order to ensure that the Board was updated every two to three weeks. My representatives collated an array of positions from various employment websites in a Word document which was forwarded to our IT Representative, Samantha Kuan, who would update the website. Throughout the year I would also receive ad-hoc emails from firms asking to have their employment opportunities listed on the Board. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Samantha for being so helpful and efficient with this task – you did an incredible job.

Though the option of having Board listings as an item on the AULSS Prospectus has been raised in the past, I do not believe this to be necessary. If firms would like continuous and prominent advertising on the website, this is already an option in the Prospectus.

Suggestions for 2024

In addition to the recommendations and suggestions made throughout the report, the following are my suggestions for 2024.

Women at the Bar Event



Dr Anne Carter received an email from the Adelaide Law School Dean regarding a careers event about working at the Bar. Specifically, the SA Bar Association's Woman at the Bar Committee (WABC) is keen to be involved. I think this would be a great initiative and would showcase women in the law.

The initial email was sent by Josephine Battiste, a member of the WABC, and expressed that one of the key aims for WABC is to encourage more women to consider the Bar as a career option. Unfortunately, less than one third of the SA Bar Association members are women; as such, I think it is key for the AULSS to contribute to increasing these numbers by promoting this career path early on in law students' lives.

As expressed earlier in my report, this may be an event that could see a collaboration with the Competitions Portfolio as it has a focus on advocacy. It may be a good idea to get members of the WABC to come in and run a workshop on advocacy skills alongside a small presentation on women working at the Bar. In summary, it is pertinent that the incoming director reaches out to Anne as soon as feasible to get the organisation of this event afoot.

BARBRI Legal

BARBRI Legal, global provider of the US Bar Exam and UK SQE Preparation, reached out to the University of Adelaide Career Services in May of this year to host a webinar advertising their services. This enquiry was referred onto the AULSS which resulted in a meeting between myself, Bryan Lau and Siobhan Walker, Business and Development Manager from BARBRI London. Siobhan expressed significant interest in hosting a seminar with the AULSS, however upon follow up the interest decreased.

I think it is worth keeping BARBRI Legal in mind in the coming year and for the incoming director and treasurer to reach out again to either advertise their organisation or host a seminar. As an aside, it may also be useful to reach out to the Law Training Centre who held a seminar on their SQE preparation which proved to be quite informative and successful. I believe there is the requisite interest in qualifying overseas to justify further attempts to attract these sorts of sponsors.

Conclusion

As a final year law student, this will be my last year with the AULSS. I would like to thank the 2023 Committee, the Executive and our students for their support and encouragement this year. I would also like to recognise both the 2021 and 2022 committees for their guidance and knowledge which has assisted me greatly in executing my role as the Director of Careers for 2023.

I sincerely hope that the events and initiatives run by the Careers Portfolio this year have made a meaningful contribution to the growth and development of my fellow



students at the Adelaide Law School. I am grateful and proud to have concluded my term on a high note and I look forward to seeing the future of the Careers Portfolio in years to come.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Tait', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Sophie Tait

Director of Careers

30 September 2023



Communications Portfolio Report

Director: Henry Allen

Representatives: Ruby Stewart (Communications Representative), Grace Jin (Communications Representative – Co-opted Semester 1), Minh Tran (Communications Representative – Co-opted Semester 1), Samantha Kuan (IT Representative), Kush Goyal (Hilarian Editor), Ikhwan Fazli (Hilarian Editor), Cerys Davies (Hilarian Editor).

Summary

2023 is the fourth year of the Communication's Portfolio's inclusion within the Adelaide University Law Students Society and this has been a year marked by a drive to honour the work and practices of previous iterations of the portfolio, as well as a push to modernise and solidify our processes so as to best serve the Law School across any period or circumstance.

The role and the respective responsibilities of our portfolio have continued to expand this year, with our involvement in publications, marketing of external events and initiatives, and most notably sponsorship contact and fulfilment continuing to expand over the levels witnessed in previous years. This continuing expansion has allowed us to lay the ground-work for further growth in the coming year with the expansion of representatives and the creation of new roles aimed to facilitate this committee-wide growth.

Across this year, we have been involved in producing marketing and content to accompany almost every initiative from the committee, including our numerous events, competitions, seminars, discussions, information sessions and external presentations. Each of these were accompanied by high-quality and effective marketing materials and procedures generated by our representatives, as well as having a role in producing and designing a number of the AULSS's premier publications. We have also helped generate and promote a level of sponsored content far exceeding that of previous years, to positive effects.

It is hard to ignore that this is a year that has come with considerable challenges, which required some portfolio-wide shifts in goals and priorities. Engagement as a whole, across every platform, suffered a considerable hit, meaning we had to very rapidly adapt and create new processes to best combat this issue. However, we were able to successfully trial and implement a number of strategies and tactics that allowed us to market more accurately and efficiently and allow for our event engagement and attendance to still meet previous standards despite a declining level of average engagement.

The entirety of the success and quality of work produced by this portfolio can be attributed to my representatives, who had had to manage and adapt to a rapidly



fluctuating set of workloads and expectations, and who have provided valuable insight into potential strategies and practices to help improve the portfolios operations. Their standard of work has been exceptional in all categories, and they have approached every task with skill, dedication and an incredibly valuable mindset and attitude, and I am incredibly pleased by their work and the feedback they have received this year and am grateful for their assistance this year.

In the coming year, it will be certain that the landscape in which Communications operates will continue to be a tenuous one, although the way and extent to which this will eventuate will be difficult to predict. However, I have trust and faith in whoever steps into the role that by drawing upon the procedures and mindsets of previous years, as well as by implementing their own instincts and insight, that they will be able to valuably develop the Communications Portfolio as it continues to mature and solidify, and encourage them to use the practices developed across this portfolio's history to build across 2024.

Creative vision and design

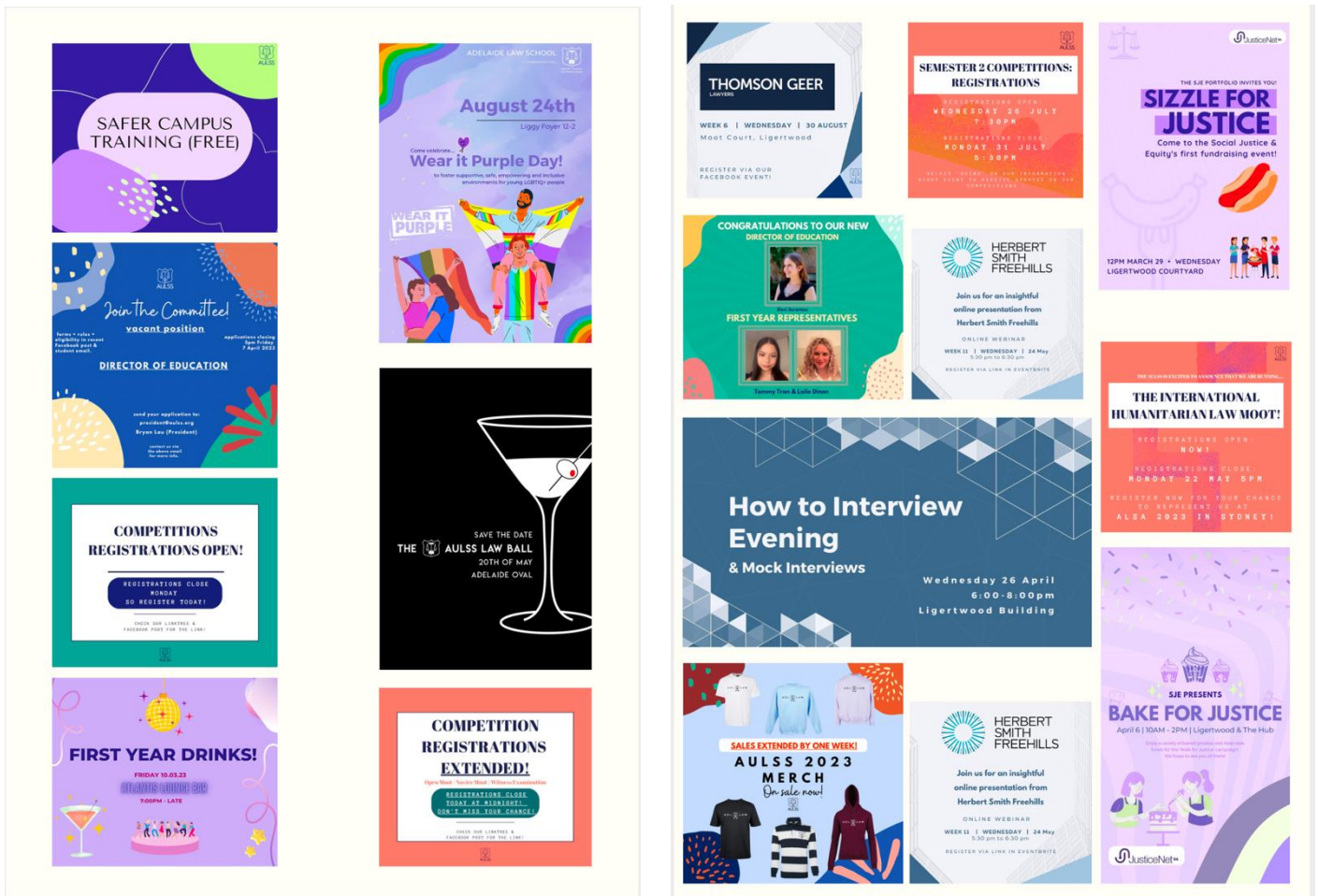
This year's visual styles took cues predominantly from the style developed across 2022. This was a visual design across all graphics and materials which was intended to be "abstract, colourful, accessible, tailored and consistent". This style was one that worked to great success across the past year, and as such, was implemented across 2023 without much notable change outside of minor graphical shifts in style in accordance with modern and common trends.

The decision to implement distinct colour palettes for each portfolio was also carried over for this year, so as to build consistency and internal logic with our materials. Each director was given the opportunity at the start of the year to make alterations to their palette, and outside of an indication of which colours they wished to be the main focus or 'anchor' of their palette in the cases of Social Justice & Equity and Competitions following from feedback from last year in relation to making content easy to read, there was little change from last year.

In following with last year, I have attached below a collage of a number of materials generated across this past year from each of our portfolios.



Design examples



Recommendations for 2024

I would recommend that our design philosophy be maintained going into 2024 for consistency, as was recommended last year. I would also recommend that directors be strongly advised to stick with the colour palettes previously used by their portfolios and not allow any major changes without serious consideration, but to encourage them to provide feedback on secondary colourings and accents, as this proved valuable this year.

Portfolio Structure & Committee Relations

Similar to previous years, Communications operated on a system of allocating to each portfolio a single representative who would be responsible for their marketing and promotions needs. However, in comparison with previous years, the intended allocation of portfolios was delayed by representative's personal circumstances, as well as by two of our co-opted representatives being new to the portfolio and relatively new to the processes and software required for their role. For the majority of the year, Ruby was allocated to Activities, Minh to Social Justice & Equity, and Grace to Competitions. Although each representative was only responsible for one



portfolio, there was consistent monitoring to make sure that each workload was not in excess of what was reasonable. Outside of my general responsibilities with overseeing the portfolio, I was responsible for the marketing from the Executive, chiefly the President, Vice-President and Treasurer, as well as the Careers Portfolio, the Education Portfolio, and the AULSS's various Sponsorship entitlements. Initially the Education Portfolio was intended to be allocated to a representative alongside the Social Justice & Equity Portfolio considering their relatively lesser marketing requirements, however, the departure of Tony Tu as Education Director close to the publishing date of the First Year Guide would have been incredibly arduous for a new representative, and I subsequently stepped in following on from my work with the portfolio last year. Following this point, the progression of each portfolio's work and notice of events through the year meant there was no adequate opportunity to transfer the portfolio's responsibilities without significant burden, and as such, I remained allocated to Education for the remainder for the year.

Sponsorships are an area that presented a number of challenges for this year. The amount of sponsorships requiring marketing entitlements was unexpected, and the manner on which these entitlements were required to be fulfilled were often highly problematic. Sponsorships as a whole total a responsibility exceeding that of any other portfolio, and sponsors would often be unpredictable. Issues presented here included sponsors expecting us to take on a major part of their content creation role, sending through inadequate or incomplete materials or captions, sending through edits and amendments either short notice or after materials were posted, requesting entitlements that didn't exist, and most notably almost always presenting a short and inflexible timeframe for fulfilment. These are challenges that are inevitable and unavoidable just by the nature of an external sponsor arrangement, and they are listed purely for the purposes of awareness, rather than complaint or qualm. As such, and noting the considerable yearly increase in sponsorship needs via Communications, as well as most sponsor contact being directly through the Director, I would flag sponsorships as a major consideration for next year.

On reflection upon the year, whilst there was no other significant disparity between any portfolio's expected workload and their actual output through the year, there was a general observation that each portfolio had greatly increased their output, and furthermore many look through their expansions across the coming year to have this increase jump up significantly. This alongside the unexpectedly large workload associate with sponsorships means that these allocations will be increasingly important and should be strategic so as to make sure each rep has an acceptable workload. This will hopefully be aided by the introduction of new representatives next year.

Engagement Representatives

Engagement Representatives are a new type of role that will be introduced in 2024. This role was inspired by a similar role at Deakin University, which was implemented to combat the same issues we have been facing this year and has resulted in a 200-300% uptick in engagement and attendance and won the Best Student Engagement Initiative prize at this year's ALSA conference.



The particulars of this role are yet to be figured out, and initial ideas for the role will be generated by future discussions between myself and this year's president, discussions with the portfolio, and during my handover, with majority of responsibility and jurisdiction for how this role will operate being up to the judgment of next year's director. At this stage, the idea is that they will not only act in a similar fashion to Deakin's implementation, but also act as representatives that can publish initiatives and posts that aren't tied to any one particular portfolio, and allow them to operate untethered, as a current weakness of our structure is any 'general' announcements have no specific representative they should be directed to.

This new type of representative, although the exactness of their role will be yet to be seen, is a very exciting development, and I look forward to seeing how they can help the portfolio continue to expand.

Communications Policy

At the start of the year, I indicated a wish to have a Communications Policy introduced and implemented so as to affirm many of the portfolio's consistent procedures. This policy was proposed by Nicolas Rich, the 2021 Director of Communications, and further drafted by Annie Zhang, the 2022 Director of Communications.

The expectation that this policy could be released this year was founded on the expectation that this year would largely be a continuation of past procedures, which was unfortunately largely not the case for this year. As such, this was shelved as a priority.

However, the policy was drafted to alleviate many of the issues relevant to this year. The most pertinent of these included Communications representatives being asked to undertake tasks by Directors that were more appropriate to be given to their own portfolio, onerous event marketing tasks being given far too close to when the event was required to be released and miscommunication regarding the practical role of the Communications Portfolio relative to the functions of other portfolios, as well as discussion of issues from previous years such as inconsistent marketing and design arising from Directors' dictating their own themes, inadequate or excessive posts that dominated the Instagram grid .

I wish to note that whilst this policy would be intended to cover fairly severe issues regarding Communications, the introduction of this policy is not in response to any such breaches, as nothing of that sort occurred this year. Rather, I feel that the circumstances of this year have flagged that having this policy as a published document, able to be referred to by committee members, would be a valuable resource and safety net going forward, particularly as the unpredictability of the portfolio's landscape has been a key take-away from the year. This would allow for minor issues and questions which may go unnoticed in particularly unpredictable periods to be largely mitigated where possible.

Recommendations for 2023



I would recommend again, where possible, allocating one representative to each portfolio. Furthermore, as occurred this year, during peak busy period, I would recommend that the Director be involved in reallocating tasks or stepping in themselves to assist from time to time, especially in cases where a representative is unavailable or incapacitated.

I would also recommend that, considering sponsor contact is without exception through the director rather than any representatives, the Director take on Sponsorships as a responsibility, as well as the Executive's marketing role. I would also recommend, noting the considerable workload, that a Director take not no more than one other portfolio if they are required to, to make sure they have capacity to handle unexpected sponsorship requirements.

Regarding a Communications Policy, I would recommend that, dependent on the circumstances of 2024, that the Director consider finalising and implementing this policy.

Portfolio Procedures & Initiatives

Comms x [PORTFOLIO] Marketing and Event Plan documents

These documents were developed at the start of 2022 and refined over the course of the year and were used widespread across the committee that year to great effect. They were intended to directly combat the high volume and often time-dependent nature of many marketing tasks, a risk which has continued to increase as the committee has expanded, and it was able to effectively and efficiently allow for relevant details to be detailed, observed, appraised and then enacted. This also alleviated the burden of overcommunicating and inefficiency of communication where messaging was used previously.

The final form of these documents last year was the initial form that were used and given to the members of the executive this year, alongside an explanation of the purpose and need for these documents, with the hope that they would help streamline the comms process even further. There were a number of benefits this year from use of these documents, including allowing repetitive content to be generated easily, upcoming events to be scheduled effectively far ahead of time, copy text to be edited and collated easily, as well as for marketing bottlenecks to be clearly identified well before time.

However, it is important to note that the effectiveness of these documents was marred by a surprising lack of compliance from some directors. Whilst many used the documents effectively throughout the year, in some cases directors didn't open or use their documents for as long as 9 months, which had a number of negative implications for operations across the whole Communications Portfolio. However, once they were all used, it allowed for us to accurately analyse individual workloads and potential bottlenecks far more effectively.



Additionally, these documents this year were enforced with a strict two-week notice period, following feedback from previous years. This was largely introduced so as to minimise the impact of short-term turnaround Comms tasks in representatives, especially considering that most representatives could hold outside employment and commitments or be affected by personal circumstances or periods of academic or personal travel, most of which was relevant this year. Whilst there will always be exceptions to this requirement, there were a number of occasions where non-compliance presented some issues with marketing schedules for other events. However, when this issue was raised with the committee, there was a promising shift, and I am grateful for the large shift in approach after this was raised as an issue, with notice related concerns largely disappearing in the second semester.

Calendar

To help identify bottlenecks and busy periods, there was the implementation of a calendar later in the year where marketing obligations were to be scheduled and noted. This was largely in response to our shift to a 'three-per-day' policy in response to feedback that our posts and stories were on occasion overwhelming and too frequent. The aim was to allow for marketing plans to be extended rather than be shortened in periods of heavy posting. Whilst the calendar was created and disseminated, there were a bevy of technical issues that made it difficult to use, with entries not being carried across all platforms and users, and the privacy settings necessary on the AULSS account to provide adequate security making it difficult to create a manageable calendar accessible following the University's pivot from Google. As such, use of the calendar was mostly abandoned as Semester 2 progressed, and the optimal window for its use passed, with attempts to fix it likely to require too heavy an administrative burden to have any real benefit.

Recommendations for 2023

Regarding the Comms x [Portfolio] documents, I recommend that these documents be used again to allow for marketing tasks be delivered efficiently and effectively. I also would recommend that the next director be strict with enforcing that all marketing tasks should go through these documents, especially if the engagement issues faced this year persist into 2024, as well as bringing up any compliance issues with these documents or the two week notice period as early as possible to reduce flow-on issues.

Regarding the Calendar, I would also recommend that this be considered as an option. Whilst it will not be a necessity with full compliance with marketing documents, or could present additional unnecessary work, it could provide benefits, and I recommend the next Director consider whether this is necessary depending on the landscape of 2024.

Platforms and Engagement

Instagram



Instagram remained our most beneficial platform this year, with the content uplift from last year allowing us to have a strong uplift in engagement. It meant that consistently this was a platform that was reliable for gathering higher engagement. However, the intention to carry over the use of this platform as a 'highlight reel' following feedback from previous years, has been compromised by a few factors. First the lack of engagement being most noticeable on Facebook and least observable on Instagram meant that more and more of the grid was taken up by marketing than posts of events. Secondly the choice to allow Instagram posts to be purchased by Sponsors meant there was a considerable amount of sponsored content that was unbalanced in comparison to AULSS content.

This has meant that whilst it has been beneficial as an engagement gathering tool, it has been less effective as a visually attractive and compelling display of the AULSS. In a similar vein, consistency in stories and their usage has also not been as strictly enforced as usual. I believe these changes should be rectified when given the opportunity for a fresh start next year.

Please see below screenshots of the Instagram grid to date:



Facebook has suffered a shocking hit in engagement across this year. Whilst engagement as a whole has been heavily impacted across every platform and metric, with general drops in attendance, views, link clicks, ticker purchases and likes on all types of posts, Facebook has been the most noticeable of these, and as our largest platform, this has been a key focus for the entirety of this year.

Where this drop of engagement has come from is hard to determine, but noting the severity of it, the continual nature of it across the year, the fact it has occurred across all platforms, reports from other societies they've had similar issues, lower event attendances, and the severe drop between years where identical marketing processes have been used indicate that this is an issue which has arisen from a shift



in our audience rather than an issue of process. Therefore accordingly, we have had to make a number of shifts to procedure. These have included a number of the changes detailed above, such as the calendar, uniform use of the planning documents, a three posts per day approach, posting at peak times, and boosting posts.

There were a number of issues with our approach to this engagement drop that I wish to note for future use should it happen again. The first was a failure to account for change in the planning for the year. Majority of my planning for the upcoming period was based upon the relative stability of previous years, and didn't account for a potential change, rather preferring to focus on solidifying practices that then had to change, meaning that it was more difficult to approach any changes to strategies. Additionally, trying to adapt practices from previous years to these different circumstances meant that they were not always as effective as they should have been, where brainstorming new processes from the beginning would have been more effective, such as with not rectifying the 'post when you can' practice when engagement was requiring us to be more calculated and efficient in our marketing.

We also met some issues in generating engagement from within the Committee. This has been a consistent issue in previous years but was more apparent this year due to the already low levels of engagement, but majority of committee members not engaging in posts regularly, with a peak of just under half the committee engaging, and a low of 1/9 participating. This is an inevitable issue that can be easily rectified with consistent reminders however, and one to be wary of to help generate greater engagement.

There was also some use of 'boosted' posts, requiring payment, on Facebook to reach greater numbers, in particular for the Law Dinner and ABLE Party. Whilst this worked, often generating up to 10x the amount of views, the amount of actual engagement from our target audience generated compared to the price required means these should be used sparingly. Whilst they did both have the desired effect and increase event ticket sales, the standard price to be incurred means they are only applicable in certain situations, with both cases recording an extra 10 tickets at the cost of \$50 over a one day period.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn has been a platform with varying use in the past years, with periods of inactivity, and some resurgences in use in occasional years. However, similar to the use of the Calendar, considering the operational toll in getting it up and running amongst a portfolio with no members with a need for it who would also be familiar with the operational requirements, the decision was made to shutter use for this year, and focus on the platforms that needed drastic changes.

However, I believe there is some potential in using the platform for select posts, mostly for some publications, sponsored items and or competitions announcement, but the procedure used to manage this platform would require consideration.



Platforms and Applications

As with previous years, Canva represents an incredible and easy to use resource, and should continue to be used at every opportunity. Adobe as a platform should again be considered, particularly in terms of which plan is purchased and whether it is cost effective, as the Hilarian team are the only consistent users of Adobe products, with only InDesign being crucial. However, this does not mean that Adobe should be abandoned completely, but there may be room to scale back our subscription depending on the requirements for future years.

Recommendations for 2023

Regarding Instagram, I recommend that use of this platform return to its usage in 2022, with intentional content filtering to make sure that sponsored or informative posts do not overwhelm and dull our overall presentation, but rather hold a good balance of being informative and engaging. Higher use of techniques with filters and collages will help in this as well.

Regarding Facebook, considering the severe drop in engagement, I would recommend focussing on techniques that worked over the past year, including three per day peak posting, the planning documents and the tactical use of boosted posts. I would strongly encourage trialling other new techniques if the engagement drop continues as it looks it may. I would also recommend consistent reminders to the committee about liking and engaging with posts where possible.

Regarding LinkedIn, I recommend the AULSS move to establish a greater and planned-out LinkedIn presence, aiming to increase sponsor engagement that way if the opportunity arises, developing a clear strategy for content posting as well as guidelines for the type of content that is relevant to be posted there.

AULSS IT

Sub-report by Samantha Kuan, IT Representative

Working on the AULSS Committee as the IT Representative this year has been a rewarding experience, and I am thoroughly grateful to have been a part of the committee. The main responsibility of this role has been updating and maintaining the AULSS website on SquareSpace and overseeing AULSS emails. I have also had the pleasure of working together with the Education portfolio in adding a page for law students who wish to offer tutoring to advertise their services.

As the previous IT Representative explained to me, there are some aspects of the website that are maintained using code, rather than native SquareSpace features, such as the Competitions page, due to the aesthetic limitations of SquareSpace. However, as a student familiar with website coding, I still had some difficulties in using the code to update the site. Therefore, I have updated the code to make it



easier for future IT Representatives to use, and have also added comments alongside the code to further ease their understanding. I will also ensure that the next IT Representative fully understands how to use the code and how to update it in the future. I will also let them know other pages that I feel need to be modified.

Working with the Education director Eleni, I created a page for tutors to advertise their tutoring services for law students. Unfortunately, due to SquareSpace not having a built-in feature to add tables, this was considerably harder than it should have been, as I had to code the individual rows/columns in HTML. As I have experience with HTML/CSS design code, this was not difficult to implement, but I imagine it would be much more so for someone not familiar with coding. The code is relatively simple to tweak to add more tutors, so I will ensure that the future IT Representative understands how to use it.

Moreover, I have also been a direct point of contact to update the website per the Executive team's request and through it@aulss.org, which is the overview of all the different Director, Portfolio, and Committee emails. This role ensures that questions (particularly those sent to info@aulss.org) are directed to the right person. Throughout the year I have mainly worked with Vice-President Felix to update committee meetings, Law School Local and merchandise page, as well as Careers director Sophie for the Job Opportunities Board.

Overall, I have been satisfied with my role this year as the AULSS' IT Representative – last minute updates are few and far between, with most Executives giving plenty of notice to update. Thanks to the committee for being so lovely and having me as your IT Representative!

Hilarian Magazine

Sub-report by Cerys Davies, Ikhwan Fazli, Hilarian Editors

General Summary

As per sacrosanct tradition, the Hilarian Team this year has at some stage worked on three issues— with one more currently being edited at the time of writing this. We have published a whole issue, multiple apologies, as well as confessions numbering in the high double digits (we estimate).

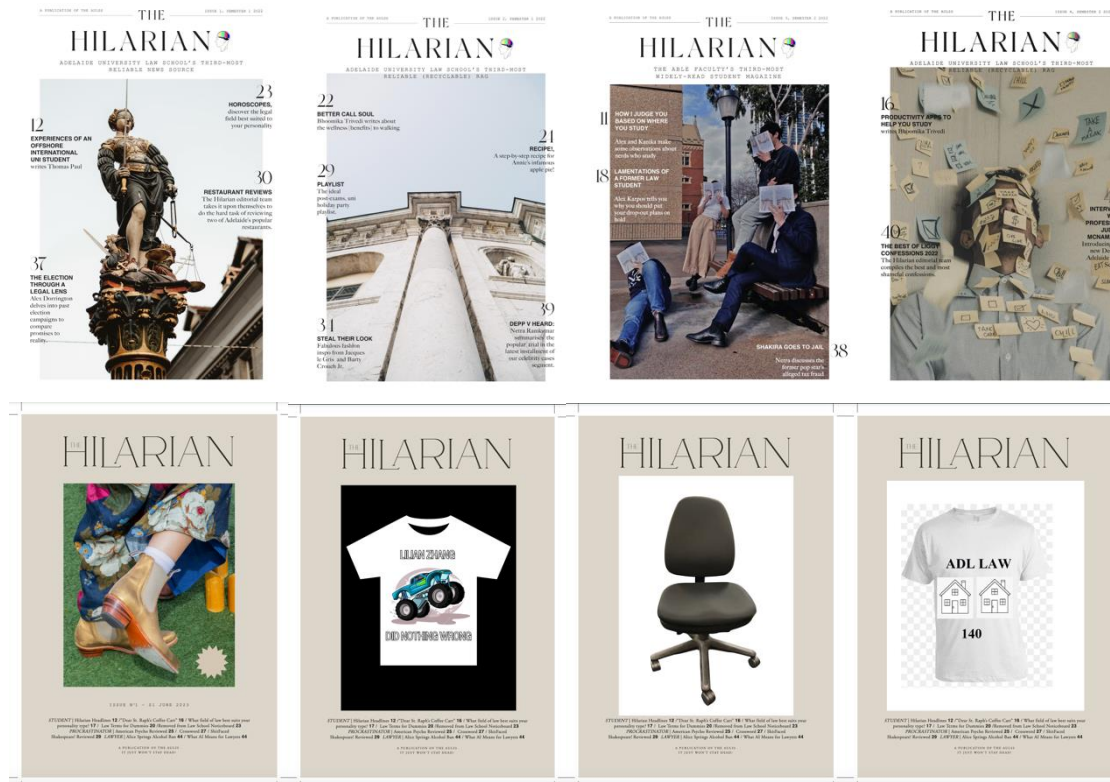
We would also like to extend a special thank you to our following subcommittee writers for their vital and amazing contributions to the Hilarian this year: Lucas Michaels, Ahalya Kamineni, Jennifer Lamb, Navah Heidari, Alexander Dozz, Rafik Gad, Alice McKay, William J Barker, Netra Ramkumar, Michail Ivanov, Grace Jin, Isabella Penna, Sophie Stratfold, Belle Watts, Josh Wilson, Elijah Hubner Booth, Sofia Tait, Kanika Singla, David Bang, Henry Allen, Scott Ryder, Ian Parsley, Cousin Broden, Joel McHale, Leonidas Mikkelson, Annie Zhang, Serena Trout and Ryan Law. We would also like to thank all the casual contributors that have submitted



content to us. It has been an absolute delight to share the fantastic work and talents of our fellow law students with the rest of the Ligertwood community.

For future reference, these are the dates for when our issues were published this year:

- Issue 1: 1 June 2023
- Issue 2: Late October 2023 (currently being edited)
- Issue 3: Late October 2023 (currently being edited)
- Issue 4: Late October 2023 (currently being edited)



Creative Vision

Overall, our creative vision this year has been to continue the design of last year's magazine, to ensure a more stable and recognisable publication around the law school. We have also aimed to continue our social media policies from last year, and we have been able to see consistent engagement. We have unfortunately lost sponsorships this year, including our long-time sponsor PMC Wagner, but have managed to secure new sponsorships from the Bluth Company and the Trade Federation. We were able to divide our subcommittee up into three separate groups, listed out in each issue, each headed by an editor; we found that this increased efficiency.

Suggestions for Next Year

We hope that next year's slightly less attractive, talented and funny editors will expand Liggy Confessions by having a regular schedule for posting, while also having more stringent guideline policies to prevent the issues that have affected other university confessions pages. We would also desire more active Instagram



content creation, and (if possible) a transition to storing all Hilarian issues on the AULSS website as opposed to on Issuu, including past issues. Thank you for taking these tips from our cold, dead hands.

Conclusion

In closing, I believe that this year was a formative and important year for this portfolio. Whilst it had more than its fair share of ups and downs, there were a number of positives and key lessons to be taken from the progression of the year that I think will serve the portfolio greatly as it continues to expand. In retrospect, this year remained close to my original vision going in; to find what parts of the portfolio were strong and universally applicable, and what changes we should make for the future. However, this eventuated not through the solidifying and codifying of common practices, but through the exploration of how each of our processes were able to adapt to a strong shift in audience and engagement, as will inevitably have to happen again in the future. Above all, amidst an incredibly and unprecedented strong shift in every element of how we engage with our audience, we were still able to provide a valuable service to the AULSS, in producing high quality content, promoting a wider range of initiatives and seminars than ever before, and engaging in more effective, tactical and efficient marketing tactics that will continue to develop across the coming years.

To my communications representatives, Ruby, Grace and Minh, I want to give my sincere thanks and appreciation for your work throughout the year. This year posed a number of challenges that far exceeded what you would have expected, but through every change in procedure, last minute request and edit, and unexpected shift from our core audience, you continued to work with the utmost care, expertise and professionalism, and have been instrumental in trialling our new ideas and identifying our strengths as a portfolio. The standard of your produced content has also been beyond reproach, garnering an incredibly high level of praise and admiration, which in my opinion has helped our collective content reach a level of quality our portfolio has not seen before. Most of all, I'm incredibly proud of your continual drive and willingness to go above and beyond to assist each other and serve the AULSS as best you can in your roles, which certainly hasn't gone unnoticed by the rest of the committee. I feel incredibly grateful to have had such a wonderful team and want to thank you for everything you did throughout this year.

To my IT representative Samantha, thank you for your continual dedication and work throughout the year. Your work in all parts of your role has been faultless, and I've heard nothing but glowing reviews of every task you've been asked to complete. Your role is one that is instrumental to the AULSS running effectively, and your faultless work and expertise has allowed for us to all continue to work with efficiency and ease.

To our Hilarian Editors, Kush, Ikhwan and Cerys, thank you for your all of your work, drive and creativity throughout the year. Your work across the past two years has truly been transformative for The Hilarian, developing a number of new directions for engagement, style and tone, and balance of content that have been incredibly



beneficial and developmental for a much-loved part of the law school. Although you too had a year not without substantial challenges, difficulties and a great deal of internal analysis and changes of approach, I believe your tenure will be defined by your grounded, thoughtful and mature approach to each of these issues, and your continual push to create and refine a magazine and culture that didn't just entertain, but first served and represented each part of the law school community.

To the rest of the Committee, I'd like to thank you for your support of our work, and your continual willingness to adapt to our changes of process and procedure, and your valuable insight into how we could best improve and serve you as effectively as possible. Finally, to the students of the Adelaide Law School, I'd like to thank you for giving me the privilege and opportunity to serve you as Director for this year, it has been my pleasure, and I hope I have been of benefit and utility to you across my tenure.

I sincerely wish the incoming portfolio the best of luck, I am sure that the future of this portfolio will continue to be a bright and fortuitous one, and I eagerly await watching you continue to excel and succeed in years to come.



Henry Allen

Director of Communications 7 October 2023



Competitions Portfolio Report

Director: Patricia Papathanasopoulos

Representatives: Bhoomika Trivedi, Cate Lipsham, Chloe Rungie (Resigned, Semester 1), Deeptanshu Sharma, Emily Trieu, Eton Williams, Evelyn Vincin Walker, Georgia Zhang (Resigned, Semester 1), Harry Passehl, Isabella Burgess, Katie Cooper, Lili Caltabiano, Salma Mansurwala, Yurui (Rui) Jiang

Summary

To reflect AULSS tradition, I open this report with a quote reflecting the year:

“So make the friendship bracelets,
Take the moment and taste it”

- Taylor Swift, You're on Your Own Kid

This year was the largest AULSS Competitions has ever been, which is why everyone who was involved should be **extremely** proud of themselves.

The Competitions Portfolio entered 2023 having three main goals:

- Providing competitions realistic and reflective of practice
- Providing high quality competitions
- Ensuring competitors feel supported when competing



Within this, I approached my term with a future focus, meaning I aimed to ensure that the portfolio was set up for future years.

In all of our initiatives we aimed to fulfil these goals. In terms of key statistics this year, we ran 53 rounds for 15 different competitions. We managed 223 competitors and almost as much volunteers acting as clients or witnesses and judges over the span of 19 weeks. We sent over 357 initiations to judge a competition and spent more than



120 hours per representative per competition. We ran 4 Come and Try and Information Sessions, and we ran 7 training sessions.

I would like to open this Report by thanking my Competitions Representatives for their time, effort, and commitment throughout all of these initiatives. I know being a Competitions Representative is a large time commitment, but each of you have impressed me every day throughout your term. Thank you for everything you have put into the Competitions Program.

Preparation and Administrative changes:

Pre-Semester 1 Meetings

At the beginning of our term, we held 3 meetings of the Portfolio to discuss the format of the Competitions and how to coordinate them. We also discussed various administrative changes within the portfolio and the Competitions Policy. We also had individual meetings for each competition to discuss each representative's goals for the competition and key notes for our task for updating the handbook.

Recommendation:

Having meetings as early as possible to be an integral aspect of our preparation for the year.

Internal Review of All Semester 1 Rules

Each year, the rules of our competitions are reviewed by the representatives in charge of the competition and any proposed changes are submitted to the Director of Competitions. It appeared to have been some time, however, that all sets of Rules were critically reviewed by one person. In doing so at the beginning of the year, I noted 5 inconsistencies, which I edited to ensure uniformity and accuracy:

1. References to "polic[ies]" which do not exist
2. References to the Equity and Wellbeing officer (which has not existed since 2020)
3. Timeframe to submit appeals
4. References to a form to submit appeals
5. Procedural changes

My priority in the break was to ensure the uniformity in our processes.

References to Policies which do not exist

Each set of rules referred to the following "polic[ies]":

1. AULSS Competitions Conflicts Policy (I assume the term "policy" was chosen in the colloquial sense, rather than in the formal and literal sense because these rules and concepts have always existed within the portfolio.)
2. Code of Conduct Policy (which appears non-existent, despite being referred to in the AULSS Constitution)
3. AULSS Register of Disciplinary Action

Procedural changes



Mooting:	We elected to formally change the format of the three-way moot procedure to reflect how we did it during the 2022 Moots. Before 2022, three-way moot were treated as a moot between all three teams competing, meaning there could only be one winner. However, our view was this was unfair because it meant there was a 1 in 3 chance of winning in the room as opposed to 1 in 2, especially noting circumstances where the ultimate winner ("Team 1") scores higher than the team on the same "party" ("Team 2"), who in turn scores higher than the team acting for the "opposing party" ("Team 3"), as Team 2 would have won had it not been a three way moot. This is contrary to our general aim for each room, which is to ensure each set of circumstances affect competitors uniformly.
Witness Examination:	There is now a requirement that Witnesses not add to the fact scenario beyond that which is not reasonably implied by the facts. While this has been a general request for the witnesses, there is now an official obligation upon the witnesses. The clause is not a ground of appeal if a witness accidentally strays from the script.
Family Law Mediation:	There was a slight error in the score sheets as one of the criterion changed between pages.

Recommendation:

Due to time constraints, there remain some elements of the rules which remain non-uniform. I recommend the 2024 Director of Competitions repeat this process with all sets of rules and then give them to the competitions representatives for review.

Changing the rules too much each year would obviously be poor policy, as students should go into the competitions program knowing what to expect. However, future directors should take the time to review all the rules of all competitions and ensure they are clear and still reflect the rules for the ALSA equivalent.

Competitions Policy

This policy was passed with the intention to formalise some of our processes and provide transparency in our portfolio. In previous years, the majority of this content was contained in each set of Competition Rules. However, Competitions Portfolios have the discretion to change it at the beginning of the year. The content of the policy also reflects subject matter which should not be subject to change between years. The Competitions Policy addresses the following sections:

Code of Conduct Policy

This formalises and codifies what is colloquially called the Competitions "Blacklist", and is now formally called the Competitions Disciplinary Record.

It creates:

- a) a general requirement for competitors to act civilly toward the Competitions Representative and Judges; and
- b) a requirement for competitors to attend their rounds, and tell the coordinator when they withdraw.



This formalisation and code of conduct is in accordance with the 2022 AGM Recommendations. It was also passed with the intent for transparency, as the 2022 Competitors did not know the existence of this penalty, whereas the 2021 Competitors did. It is a difficulty for each portfolio to communicate the existence of this penalty while simultaneously not scaring the competitors. My hope is that formalising this policy and putting it on the AULSS Website will assist in this process.

AULSS Competitions Conflicts Policy

It has been a general rule in our Portfolio for some time that a judge cannot have a conflict of interest with a competitor, and was referenced in the rules as a policy. This policy now formally outlines what constitutes a conflict of interest, and officially formalises the rule.

Covid-19 policy

I want every potential competitor, coordinator, volunteer, and judge to feel comfortable participating in our portfolio's events, which is why it was important to establish clear guidelines surrounding whether competitors should come while they are positive. In 2022, I wrote a provision which was inserted in all of the competition rules saying competitors have the right to compete virtually where they test positive to covid-19. The policy reflects this, states that competitors cannot compete while positive, and must request to virtually compete.

This should be reviewed in future years subject to the danger Covid 19 poses to the community. However, I am a strong advocate for maintaining a cautious stance, acknowledging that some students and judges are immunocompromised, and some judges are elderly. If judges feel safe to come in and judge, they are more likely to come back which is helpful for future portfolios.

Policy on competing virtually

This policy outlines what circumstances competitors will be allowed to compete virtually, and creates a requirement that competitors only be marked on things which would have happened if they competed in person. It also requires accommodations be made for situations which arise solely due to the competitor competing virtually (eg: where the wifi fails).

Subcommittee Policy

This policy establishes the Competitions Subcommittee and outlines the rules, obligations and guidelines. See the subcommittee section of this report for an analysis of its efficacy and reasons for establishment.

External competitions late withdrawal policy

This stems from a 2020 AGM recommendation to reduce the financial and administrative impact on the AULSS when a competitor withdraws after the cut-off date for an external competition. It now requires competitors who withdraw from an external competition to reimburse the AULSS for the registration fee, and a failure to attend the rounds without informing the relevant parties will attract the same penalties as the AULSS Internal Competitions.



Recommendation:

The current policy has some typos and does not include the new specialised representatives. I recommend updating it for 2024.

ALSA Problem Question Bank

Despite the low quality of the problem bank, it is beneficial to have access to a security source of problem questions, especially given we are not required to pay money to access it. There are a couple good problem questions, and setting some problem questions from the previous conference can help students gain familiarity with the structure of the content.

ALSA requires us to submit two problem questions to the bank to gain access, which has been a representative responsibility in the past, or lecturer or it has alternatively been delegated to a lecturer. However, I wrote multiple problem questions for competitions I have run in the past and submitted my best two.

I note in the 2022 Bank, they did not include the problem questions from the previous year's National Competitions. When I submitted the two problem questions to ALSA, I directly asked the ALSA Vice President (Competitions) to include those problem questions and the ones from the previous conferences. I thank her for including *most* of the client interviewing, negotiations and mooting problem questions; however, the Witness Examination bank remains sparse.

Recommendation:

I would recommend future Competitions Portfolios attempt to write two problem questions throughout the year to allow the Director to request access to the bank as soon as possible. This means each portfolio can hit the ground running and continue access to the Problem Questions used in the previous year's national conference.

I further recommend that future Directors of Competitions use the opportunity to ask their ALSA counterpart to include the problem questions from the previous conference, as they are generally of higher quality and require less editing.

For access to the 2024 bank, I have written multiple problem questions throughout my term which are in the Competitions OneDrive, and I give future AULSS Directors of Competitions full authority to submit them on the AULSS's behalf.



AULSS Created Problem Bank

At the beginning of my term, I collated the problem questions I used and/or wrote as the Coordinator of the Open Moot, Novice Moot, and Triversity Client Interviewing Competition.

In total we have contributed 11 Original Problem Questions.

I also established a word document noting when each Problem Question was last used and edited, the field of law it is in, the year level of the youngest competitor in the year it was used, and any notes on errors identified.

My aim is for this to serve as an internal problem bank of edited questions for future portfolios, meaning future portfolios can:

- edit them further to increase the quality (as opposed to directing energies to making the edits we have already identified and fixed again)
- have guidance as to what areas need to be fixed
- have access to problem questions not in the ALSA Bank
- have access to the year level of the youngest competitor to complete the problem question, to guess if their competitors would have seen the problem question before.

Recommendation:

I would recommend future Competitions Portfolios continue this process of collating the good and bad problem questions and identifying for future portfolios what in the bank is good and what is bad. It also ensures that future portfolios have access to the academic-written problem questions which we source.

AULSS Family Law Mediation Problem Bank

Our family law mediation competition has been created by the AULSS, meaning there is no ALSA equivalent. This means we have to either source or write problem questions ourselves, as there is nothing in the ALSA Bank.

In January 2023, I contacted the University of Adelaide Family Law Course Coordinators, Ms Anita Brunacci SC to ask them to write a problem question so that I can establish a Bank for the competition. Anita was kind enough to also forward my email to more practitioners. In total, we received 7 submissions and I thank Anita for assisting in facilitating this.

Recommendation:

I would recommend future Competitions Portfolios continue to contact practitioners to write problem questions for us to expand the Bank, particularly in the area of Property Settlements.

Co-Option of 6 new Representatives

As of the time of elections in 2022, the Competitions Portfolio constitutionally consisted of six representatives. In 2021, the Competitions Portfolio co-opted two additional representatives in Semester 2, and this practice was continued in 2022. However, this practice is unsustainable. Similarly, the Competitions Portfolio has been growing like never before, and now offered a range of competitions like never before.



As such, I proposed to the Executive to co-opt an additional four (4) representatives, allowing two representatives per competition in Semester 1 and a total of ten representatives. Given the intensive requirements of the portfolio in Semester 1, this allowed less stress for my representatives while increasing the quality of the competitions. This similarly allowed us capacity for further initiatives, such as our new Private Law Witness Examination Competition, especially in light of the growing administrative requirements and obligations of our portfolio. I wholeheartedly thank the rest of the Executive for supporting my proposal.

Due to some health issues on the portfolio and the increased number of competitions in Semester 2, I again approached the executive to further increase the number of representatives of my portfolio to ensure the Competitions Representatives had their appropriate and deserved level of support. I thank the majority of the executive for supporting this proposal as well.

This left the portfolio with a total of 12 Competitions Representatives.

Recommendation:

The Competitions Portfolio needs its full portfolio as soon as possible to ensure our timeline is running on time and we are not doing things last minute. Future portfolios need to co-opt any remaining representatives ideally December to ensure everything that needs to be done can be done. I encourage it to be done in the first round of co-option, at the beginning of December.

I think 12 is a good number of representatives, as it allows for 2 representatives per competition in semester 1 if the portfolio decides to run Paper Presentation; however, I recommend future directors of competitions to monitor this number and ensure it continues to meet the needs of the portfolio.

Co-Option Form Change

Unlike other portfolios, the Competitions Portfolio co-opts representatives to fulfil a specific task each semester which lasts the most of the semester. Each Competition requires something different from a Representative to coordinate it well (which I love because each representative brings something unique and valuable to the portfolio!). As such, I felt that a stock standard form for each round does not reflect the needs of our portfolio. Similarly, the questions asked in original form did not fully reflect the requirements of being representative and what I was looking for.

The changes I made to the questions aimed to determine an applicant's personality, to understand their experiences with the portfolio and why they were applying, and to understand where they would fit in the portfolio. I found the questions I changed allowed the forms to better reflect the abilities and skillsets of the students applying.

Recommendation:

I would recommend the 2024 Director of Competitions (and the entire AULSS Executive) review what they need from a co-opted representative and ensure the questions used in 2024 Co-Option Application Forms adequately reflect what they are looking for each round.



Competitions Sub-Committee

I am delighted to say that there is now a Competitions Subcommittee to source volunteers, and provide administrative support on round nights.

This idea expands upon a proposal in the 2022 AGM Report to establish a sub-committee for sourcing volunteers for client interviewing, witness examination, and family law mediation – similar to how the Hilarian sources articles. The purpose for this was to ensure the progress of the night was as smooth as possible and improve the competitor experience, as more people to scan and send scoresheets means competitors should receive them faster. It was also due to the extreme amount of time which Competitions Representatives were spending printing judging materials before the night and scanning scoresheets after the night. For example, there were two rounds in Semester 1 2022 where myself and the other mooting coordinator, Nicolas Reese, were at university from 5:00pm to 2:00am the next day in order to ensure competitors had their scoresheets before they woke up. This is not acceptable, so it is great to have the help to prevent this while still ensuring competitors get their scoresheets on time.

We had a rocky start to the Competitions Subcommittee in Semester 1, as only one of the people who signed up provided administrative support after one round night. The rest did not sign up for rounds further rounds or stay after the round night. I think this was because we did not have one person in charge of the subcommittee and there was therefore a lot of confusion surrounding it.

It worked better when the Subcommittee was delegated to Competitions Representative, as the workload of the Director of Competitions is already quite large, impacting the amount of time that I could commit to it.

A second issue we faced was that, while some of the people who signed up were keen, their acting skills as witnesses were lacking. At the outset, we attempted to frame it as a way to get involved in competitions before competing. However, it worked better when we changed our marketing to make it an opportunity to act and have fun. Targeting those who enjoyed acting in the past made for a more entertaining experience for the competitors.

I would recommend more advertising be dedicated to the existence of this subcommittee as it allows for more people to be involved on round nights.

Recommendation:

I recommend the Director of Competitions continue the sub-committee.

Volunteering Format Changes

In semester 2, we allowed students to sign up with a volunteer who will participate with them each week as a client or witness in the competition. This means that a competitor can sign up with someone they know will be reliable and successful.



This is specifically applicable for **witness examination** or **family law mediation**, as client interviewing is reliant upon the client not having a conflict of interest with one of the two teams they will be volunteering for.

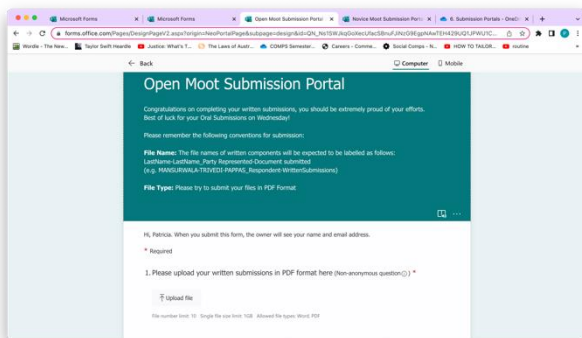
I thank Katie Cooper for her suggestion of this alternative source for finding volunteers. This was implemented last minute in semester 2, meaning there was not much of an opportunity to create advertising surrounding this. Hence, I cannot comment on the potential success of this. However, I would project it would be successful in the future.

Recommendation:

I recommend the Director of Competitions continue this format of volunteering. However, do not expand it for client interviewing.

I think we further need to improve the volunteering system, as we had some complaints regarding the quality of some volunteers. While we have a new insert into the competitions handbook to outline how to volunteer, I think it would be beneficial to run a training session for potential volunteers.

Using a portal for submissions



In 2022, we used a Microsoft Portal for competitors to submit their Letters of Advices when we coordinated the Commercial and Legal Property Law Competition. I found it worked well, so we continued to use it for the written components of our other competitions.

The portal reduces our administrative workload because a coordinator does not have to look through a large number of emails to send out submissions. It also means that competitors can submit early without fear their opposition would receive an advantage.

Recommendation:

I recommend the 2024 Competitions Portfolio to continue to use the portal. I also recommend the 2024 Director of Competitions to continue to check the link works with a Representative using a test document, as this helped me have a sense of security when sending out the link.

Right of Reply in the Open Moot

This proposal comes from the 2021-2022 AGM Report to maximise ALSA readiness for competitors. In our first meeting there was agreement that it is needed in our Open Moot. I thank successful mooter and 2022 Championship Moot Delegate, Harry Passehl, for his contributions regarding how it is run in ALSA.



The rule allowing the Right of Reply has been copied from the ALSA rules to ensure that we reflect the ALSA procedures, allowing our delegates to be as prepared as possible for the National Competitions.

My view of the Open Moot is to prepare competitors both for ALSA and the real world, which is why I am delighted to see it incorporated in our competitions program.

Recommendation:

Divide the time as 35 minutes of oral submissions and students. Competitors must do at least 1 minute of rebuttal, but can allocate a maximum of 5 minutes. A maximum of 4 minutes can be re-allocated to submissions.

Changing the Format of the Novice Moot

In the 2021 AGM Report, the then Director of Competitions, Kelly Elmes, said:

“First Year Moot and Novice Moot are the only two mooting competitions where progression is based on individual performance. The main reason for this is that I believe there may be an assumption that first year law students do not know as many people, and this is usually evident with most students registering without selecting a specific partner for the Preliminary Rounds. I did receive some feedback this year from students who struggled adapting to working with different people every week. This may be an aspect of the competitions that the next Director may want to review.”

A resulting aspect of these competitions which I hate is that the competitors are competing *against* their teammate.

In discussions with my portfolio, we came to the conclusion that the individual format was beneficial in providing an opportunity to work with people with different experiences and allow competitors to gain confidence while developing as an individual competitor. However, the format could also reduce the quality of the submissions before the Grand Final judges, as competitors enter their preparations wanting to beat their teammate, and there is low incentive for the competitor's partners to help them succeed. (For example, a team member is less likely to share case law which they find for the other submission or share a flaw in their team member's submission.)

My view of the Novice Moot is that it is a pathway to the Open Moot. Given that Open Moot is a team competition, I was for Novice Moot to follow a similar format to provide a better reflection of what Open Moot will be like. Furthermore, the aim was for the team format to enhance the experience by allowing both team members to engage with each other openly and collaboratively, with the aim to help the other improve.

I hoped this would increase engagement in Open Moot in later years given the competitors would already have a pre-existing team. I note that one of the first years that signed up and did not withdraw due to the presence of a consistent partner, meaning the team format did have its benefits. Ultimately, however, the high number of first years meant most did not receive the mentorship from students in older years which they could have, impacting the quality of their moots.

Recommendation:



I would recommend future portfolios to consider utilising the team format where there are low registrations and those individuals are high risk of withdrawing; however, I think there is greater opportunity for growth in the individual format. I would recommend reimplementing the individual format of the novice moot, provided registrations are high next year.



Constitutional Amendments

The co-option of additional representatives under cl 18(6) of the AULSS Constitution has been required in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Given the growing nature of the portfolio, and the fact this has been a need for three terms in a row, I submitted a proposal for Constitutional Amendment to increase the number of representatives to be increased from six (6) to twelve (12).

This allows for 2 people per competition in semester 1.

Similarly, one of the biggest issues which I faced this term was that the role of Director of Competitions is very much dictated by the time capacity of past the directors, the past two of whom were part time final year students. Being a third year, this meant the nature of the role was difficult to balance with my academic, professional and personal life, especially as the portfolio is running more competitions than ever before, and requires management of more people than ever before.

To remedy this, we have introduced 2 specialist representatives to help manage the other competitions representatives.

New Representatives

Director of Competitions		
X 12 Competitions Representatives	Intersarsity and External Competitions Representative	Competitions Development Representative
Competitions Subcommittee		

The AULSS Executive expressed concern at calling the new representatives anything other than “representative” at risk of the hierarchy causing a disconnect within the committee. While I do see this perspective, I think this should be reviewed in the future because I question why AULSS members would run for a role with more responsibility in the portfolio without the corresponding title increase. Similarly, there is a lot more representatives in the portfolio compared to others, which is why I think it justifies some form of hierarchy. While the increased responsibility (and therefore exposure) in the portfolio would be a good pathway to the Competitions Directorship, I do not think this is sufficient as they do not have external recognition of their additional responsibilities compared to the general competitions representative.



External and Intersarsity Competitions Representative

- **Semester 1:** Collaborating with the Director of Competitions in selecting teams for the external competitions such as:
 - o Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot
 - o International Commercial Mediation
 - o International Commercial Arbitration
 - o Baker Mackenzie Womans Moot
 - o Maddox UTS Negotiations

- Creating and inviting other universities to compete in our personally run external competitions (for profit, as they would need a registration fee)
 - o Liaising with the Sponsorship Representatives and Treasurer to organise payment and profit from external competitions
 - o Liaising with the Activities Portfolio to possibly include galas for more prestigious ones

- **Semester 2:** Running and preparing training sessions for external competitions and intersarsity competitions which we coordinate in collaboration with other universities, including, but not limited to:
 - o SULS x AULSS Negotiations
 - o Triversity Client Interviewing
 - o Intersarsity Marathon

The External and Intersarsity Competitions Representative deals with anything related to competitions against other universities. Their main focus is ensuring we can foster our relations with other universities, and ensuring that the competitions portfolio makes a profit, without sourcing money from our own students.

Development Competitions Representative

- **Semester 1:** Developing, updating and revitalising the existing educational resources such as:
 - o The competitions handbook
 - o The scoring guide
 - o The video series

- **Whole Year:** Running development sessions including
 - o the come and try day(s),
 - o how to moot sessions

- Liaising with the other Specialist Competitions Representatives to run training sessions for external, intersarsity and ALSA Competitions

- Running competitions focused on easing students into competitions, or into harder formats of competitions:
 - o Novice Moot
 - o Criminal Law Moot
 - o First Year Moot
 - o Private Law Wit-Ex
 - o Mediation

I thank the committee for supporting these proposals.



New Competitions

Websters Lawyers Intervarsity Marathon

In 2022, I jokingly proposed a (slightly unhinged!) competition to the portfolio based off of the idea of a Triathlon. In my discussions with one of the Flinders University Coordinators made the same joke during the 2022 Triversity Client Interviewing Competition. We liked the idea and it became increasingly realistic. Upon my election, we recommenced discussions to implement a realistic form of the competition:

It begins with two teams versing each other in an interview of a client seeking an initial legal consultation on a matter, and two other teams versing each other in an interview of the client on the other side of the matter.

Each team will then submit a letter of advice to the client for review and the top 8 teams will commence a negotiation on the matter. The negotiation will be presumed to fail as the top 4 teams enter a witness examination. The Witness Examination will be presumed to fail as teams will appeal the matter in a moot.

Based upon my research, there is nothing like this competition in Australia, making it a unique offering and extremely exciting to offer to students!

I thank Nicolas Whitrow, my counterpart from Flinders University Law Society, for his collaboration on this initiative. It is extremely exciting to provide this unique opportunity.

This competition has not occurred yet; however, there has been I thank Websters Lawyers and the Law Society of SA for their support. I recommend the Director of Competitions rally the other law student societies as soon as possible and write the problem question as soon as possible.

I am delighted to announce that Websters Lawyers have been confirmed for a 5 year contract for \$3000 to be split between the law student societies to provide this competition to the students. They will provide a paid clerkship to the winners.

I recommend also making the competition an external competition. Since it is unique, other law student societies may be interested in submitting a team.

Private Law Witness Examination

In our first meeting, I put to the representatives my idea to run either a Contractual Law Moot or a Witness Examination in Semester 2. I did not propose that we run both due to capacity concerns for our portfolio. The following is the proposal I put to my Competitions Representatives:

The Arguments For and Against a Contractual Law Moot

The criminal law moot is popular; however, there isn't a semester 2 opportunity for non-criminal cases. I don't want competitors who don't want to face serious issues to feel like mooting is inaccessible to them in semester 2. From my understanding, the First Year Moot used to purely be contractual law, meaning it is completely doable problem-question-wise and engagement wise.



However, it is a consideration that we **do** already have the criminal law moot, so it may be an overly ambitious undertaking to create a new moot. There's also an optics issue: mooting is the more time consuming of the competitions and adding a *third* moot in Semester 2 means a much larger proportion of competitors would be stressfully preparing their submissions at the same time. If potential competitors see too many stressed current competitors in their preparations, they may avoid joining competitions in general. My further concern would be that our program could become dominated by mooting and less attention is given to other competitions.

The Arguments For and Against Witness Examination

There is currently a Semester 2 alternative to all the other ALSA competitions. Therefore, if a competitor misses out, they have the option to do it the next semester. However, this is not the case for Witness Examination, and this reduces our ALSA Competitiveness as our winners for Wit-Ex have less opportunities to practice. Since competitors compete individually, it also means that we have less people to rely upon to judge the semester 1 competition. However, I do note that Witness Examination is one of the more 'intimidating' competitions, which means the competition may have lower engagement from the student body.

Please consider what *you* would like to see in Semester 2 2023.

In response to this proposal at our first meeting, there was general support for a contractual law moot. However, upon reflecting upon the importance of ALSA competitiveness and maximising the opportunities for *every* competition, the general consensus was that Witness Examination was an appropriate introduction. This is especially considering there are less spaces available in the Semester 1 Witness Examination competition, meaning the introduction allows a larger number of students to compete.

To allow students access to a competition with less emotionally-challenging issues compared to criminal law, it was suggested we compromise and run a private law witness examination. This idea received positive feedback because it still provides competitors with the opportunity to implement and develop their oral advocacy skills in a civil setting.

It was acknowledged that the criminal law moot still provides competitors with the opportunity to get vital mooting skills, whereas witness examination would fill a gap in our offerings and provide better preparation for ALSA.

We made the competition "civil law", as opposed to a specific non-public theme, because there are not enough non-criminal problem questions in the bank to establish a theme without requiring future portfolios to write a lot more problem questions. The broader theme means they can rely on the ALSA bank to add to our internal bank of problem questions and they can write a problem questions which are within their skillset.

To make the competition less intimidating, I also proposed to increase the amount of prep time to 2 hours to act as a pathway to the ALSA Competition.

One Timeslot for Competitions

In accordance with an AGM recommendation from 2022, we tried to trial one timeslot in the negotiations competition and witness examination. This did not work due to the



ultimate number of judges we managed to source and the AULSS's general engagement issues at the beginning of the year.

Recommendation:

I do not recommend continuing one timeslot for most competitions, subject to registration numbers, because we have to run multiple competitions on the one night and some competitors may want to do multiple competitions on that night. It is best to ensure we have every opportunity possible for competitors to compete to maximise the opportunities for the best possible team to win (and therefore represent us at ALSA).

In saying that, it was beneficial for our portfolio to have the ability to leave earlier. 9:00pm is too late for the competitors to leave and the competitions team to begin scanning scoresheets.

I would suggest splitting the timeslots to 6:00pm for the majority of competitors, and an additional timeslot of 6:40pm with new judges to begin halfway through the first round. This allows an adequate medium for the competitors and the Competitions team.

Publications:

Competitions Handbook

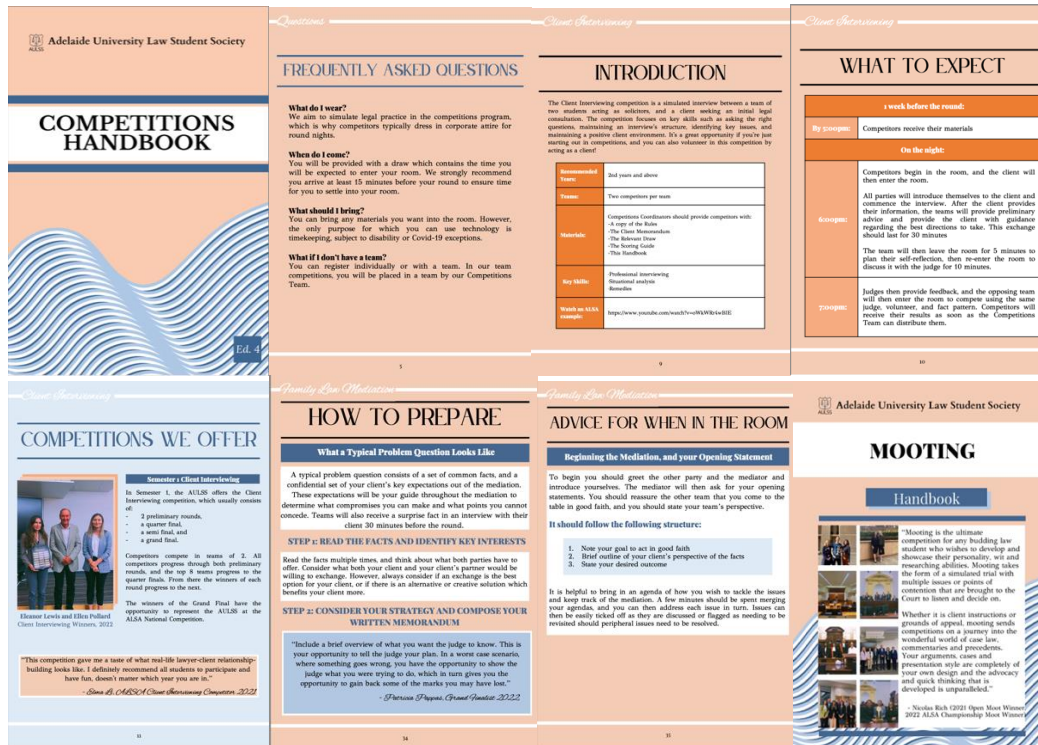
In December and January, we updated the Competitions Handbook to ensure it provided as much support for students as possible, and to include our new competitions. It had not been updated since 2020, so I am thankful for my Competitions Representatives for helping to update it and design it to reflect the size of our Competitions Program.

I designed it throughout our preparation period using Canva, and the colours are now lighter which make it easier to print.

Thank you to the following people for providing advice on competing for the handbook:

- Evelyn Vincin Walker	- Katie Cooper	- Aiden Zeyang Wang	- Annie Yuan
- Harry Passehl	- Ellen Pollard	- Nili McGrath	- Aryan Banerjee
- Sofia Tait	- Gian Luca Stirling	- Nic Rich	- Grace Jin
			- Isabella Burgess





Recommendation:

Review the handbook annually in the preparation phase of competitions, to ensure it does not become outdated as the competitions program expands and develops. I note it is getting quite long. It would be beneficial to split the Competitions Handbook and create handbooks for each competition.

Education x Competitions Advocacy Skills Video Series

In 2022, the Competitions Portfolio and the Education Portfolio collaborated to create a video series for competitors to learn about the key skills for each competition. Thank you to 2022 Directors Celena Le and Bryan Lau for all of their hard work on this initiative. Filming was delayed due to the administrative requirements of updating the Competitions Handbook, the 2022 winners becoming sick and a death in my family at the time filming was planned.

Recommendation:

Some students do not know about our website, so I would recommend future portfolios ensuring students have access to the link to our education resources. I would also recommend creating a new page on the AULSS Website dedicated to our educational resources.

Competitions Scoring Guide Edition 2

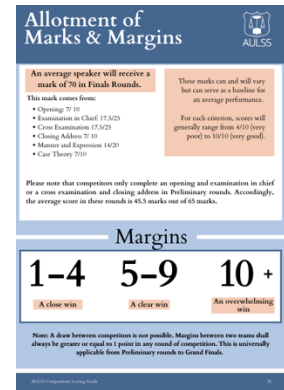
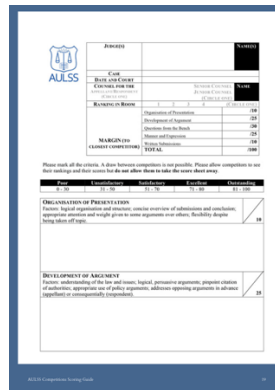
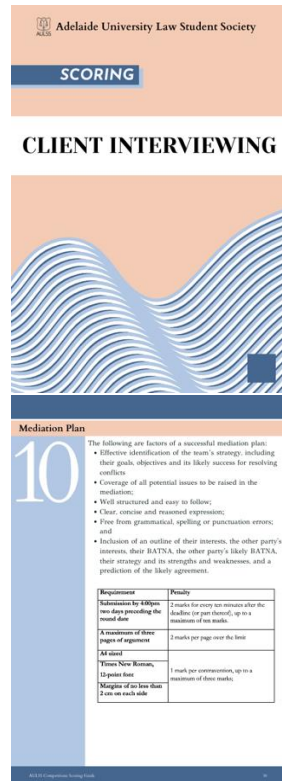
After the success of the Competitions Scoring Guide in 2022, we decided we wanted to update the scoring guide to include the other competitions offered by the AULSS, address some minor inaccuracies, improve clarity in phrasing, add the Family Law Mediation Competition to the scoring guide, and improve its design to limit its impact on the printer toner when we print it for judges (noting that the use of dark colours in last year's guide caused the printer to run out of ink/toner after only a couple prints



session). Its design also matches the Competitions Handbook so they can immediately be seen as accompanying publications.

To provide context for future years, the concept of the scoring guide is that competitors start at 70% in each criteria and they move up as they do things correctly, and down where they do something incorrectly. This is to ensure uniformity, objectivity, and accuracy in the marking.

Aesthetics



Semester 1: Marketing and Engagement:

Given the Competitions Portfolio requires multiple things marketed in preparation for Weeks 1 and 2 (Call for Volunteers, Information Session, Information on what each competition is, Opening of Registrations, Come and Try Day and Close of Registrations), I note the Communications Portfolio has a difficult job to advertise all of them but it is important to ensure each post is adequately spaced out.

I encourage the Directors of Competitions and Communications follow the timeline which I had given to the Communications Portfolio in December 2022, as the structure has been successful in previous years. This means beginning marketing from the beginning of O'Week. I have received feedback from competitors and students who missed out on our semester 1 competitions as they did not see the posts and do not read their emails. This structure was successful in Semester 2.



Semester 1 Competitions Information Evening

Date: Wednesday 1 March

Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Location: Ligertwood 231

Price: Free

In an early 2022 Competitions Meeting, the possibility was raised that the order of the Come and Try Day and the Information Session could be switched so competitors have the chance to learn about the competitions in the come and try day and then ask former winners questions at the night. However, I elected not to do this, as the format of the information night does not accommodate for more quiet competitors who are less likely to ask questions in large groups.

In my view, the information night is great for competitors to get a general idea of which competitions they want to try out, and the Come and Try day should be the main opportunity for students to ask questions.

We had 18 registrations for the evening and a couple people show up without registering.

Semester 1 Competitions x Careers Come and Try Day

Date: Sunday 4 March

Time: 12:00pm – 5:00pm

Location: Ligertwood

Price: Free

Following the positive feedback from the 2021 and 2022 Come and Try Days, the Competitions and Careers Portfolios ran another Come and Try Day in semester 1. Thank you to Director of Careers, Sophie Tait, and her Careers Portfolio for the hard work and assistance in making this day happen.

This day consisted of 4 x 50 minute sessions where participants will have the opportunity to try participating in a condensed and workshopped version of the competition. Past winners assisted participants in preparing for a competition (going through a problem question) and then give them an opportunity to try out a skill. The session times were:

Session 1	12:00 - 12:50
Session 2	1:00 - 1:50
Session 3	2:00-2:50
Session 4	3:00-3:50

It was noted that, last year, a lot of the time was taken by participants reading the materials, which was not useful given the length of the sessions. This year, we also sent the materials to the people who signed up before the day to allow for them to prepare early and maximise the benefit of the session. This was beneficial in helping the representatives gain experience in how to run a round.



We also noted that in 2022 there was reduced engagement and attendance due to Opening Party being the night before. As such, we decided to move it to Sunday. My concern is that this may have impacted the low engagement. I had hoped that this would reduce the people who do not show up as a result of the effects of Opening Party but this was not the case.

Although we had low engagement, I believe this was due to our social media advertising, because the interest at O'Week was disproportionate to the registrations. We had great feedback from those who attended. Unfortunately, it did not result in many more sign ups because most people had already registered. However, we did receive very positive feedback from those who did attend.

Each session followed the following structure:

20 minutes	The past winner taught the students how to prepare and answers any questions. Competitions Representatives also provided a short summary of their competition and key dates. Career Representatives provided a short summary of the applicability of the skills to a future career.
20 minutes	The second 20 minutes was dedicated to running a mini-version of the competition. To fit more people in each room, we established breakout rooms. Hence, one winner could take half of the group and judge while the other stayed in the room to judge. For the moot / negotiation sessions they were instructed to perform on one – two issues to fit it in to the short time. For witness exam they were instructed to skip the opening and closing and to discuss how to use the evidence they got out in feedback.
10 minutes	A final 10 minutes was dedicated for feedback and questions.

Education x Competitions International Student Dedicated Timeslot

I thank our Inaugural International Student Representative, Aiden Zeyang Wang, for his suggestion of this initiative. This event was an extension of our Come and Try Day, and was open specifically to support International Students who wanted to try out competitions.

Unfortunately, it was cancelled due to low interest. However, I encourage future portfolios trying to continue to make competitions approachable for international students. The engagement from international students this year, compared to previous years, however, has absolutely increased to higher numbers compared to what I have seen in previous years. I thank Aiden Wang for his continued support of, and advocacy for, the competitions portfolio for this reason.

Recommendation:

There needs to be more support for competitors going into competitions. My hope is that the Development Competitions Representative will ensure the Competitions Portfolio has capacity to focus on this and therefore increase the calibre of the competitions.

The following are initiatives run by other law student societies which may be beneficial in assisting students:

1. Adding another preliminary round, where students compete for half points



Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students who are new to the competition can make the entry-level inevitable mistakes without it impacting their progression as much 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More workload for the competitions portfolio (although it should be mitigated by the new development competitions representative). - Engagement, as the competitors would unlikely want to continue the competition more than they already do

2. Adding competition-specific 'how to' sessions.

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optional, meaning little to no impact on engagement - Expands on the come-and-try day, meaning there is opportunity for the students to get more one on one time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More workload for the competitions portfolio (although it should be mitigated by the new development competitions representative). - Competitions such as client interviewing would have less content for the sessions

Semester 1 Competitions Registration

Opening Date and Time: Wednesday 1 March at 7:30pm

Closing Date and Time: Monday 6 March at 5:30pm (Mooting and Wit-Ex Extended to Tuesday 11:59pm)

Noting the requirement in each set of the competition rules registrations to be called 2 days before the registrations open, the registrations were opened on the first day of term, being 27 February 2023.

The deadline was because we had a committee meeting immediately after the registrations closed, allowing for convenience for the Competitions Portfolio. However, there were lower than typical sign up this year by the close of registrations. Hence, we extended registration for the Open Moot, Novice Moot and Witness Examination Competitions to 11:59pm Tuesday. Client Interviewing and Negotiations were not extended because both competitions had enough registrants to continue, and further the Client Interviewing materials needed to be released on the Tuesday.



The Statistics

	Successful Registrations	Unsuccessful Registrations	Withdrawals
Open Moot	16	2	4
Novice Moot	16	0	10
Andreyev Lawyers Client Interviewing	34	2	6
Andreyev Lawyers Negotiations	32	3	6
LK Witness Examination	10	0	4
Total	100	7	30

I note that more than one student signed up for **all** of the competitions after the Monday cut-off (with one student signing up for every competition and also signing up to volunteer in every competition). This an unrealistic expectation, which is why I deemed their registration to be unsuccessful in competitions which had closed and were not at risk of cancellation. I would not have deemed any of their registrations successful has some competitions not been struggling for numbers. I note one of the students who were in this position had a history of signing up for competitions and withdrawing. This highlights the importance of a strong marketing strategy and getting as many registrations as possible at the outset. Novice Moot had the highest number of withdrawals, which is normal compared to last year. These people were first years who felt the competition was beyond their abilities.

Recommendation:

1. It is important for competitors to know what they are getting into straight away, which is why I recommend future Directors of Competitions to distribute the competitions handbook in their email announcing the opening of registrations.
2. The students who register for everything almost invariably drop out at the last moment. I recommend adding a disclaimer in future registrations saying it is unrealistic for students to compete in every competition, which is why registrations of students who sign up for every competition will be deemed unsuccessful.



Example: The 2023 Competitions Registration Form



AULSS Competitions Registrations SEMESTER 1 2023

Welcome to the 2023 Competitions Season! Whether you are taking the first step in your competitions journey, or you are a seasoned competitor, we hope you have an incredible experience.

We are delighted to announce that the Competitions Portfolio will be offering the following 5 competitions this semester, with a very strong line up of judges:

1. Andreyev Lawyers Client Interviewing (Tuesdays 6:00pm or 7:00pm);
2. LK Open Moot (Wednesdays 6:00pm or 7:30pm. Written Submissions Due 4:00pm Mondays); and
3. Novice Moot (Wednesdays 6:00pm or 7:30pm. Written Submissions Due 4:00pm Mondays);
4. Andreyev Lawyers Negotiations (Thursdays 6:00pm)
5. Witness Examination (Thursdays 6:00pm);

All winners (except in Novice Moot) will be eligible to represent the AULSS in the National ALSA Conference Competitions, held late July in Sydney. We are also delighted to confirm the Grand Finals of the Open Moot and Novice Moot will be held in the Supreme Court of South Australia.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If you **are** signing up with a partner, **both** you and that partner need to submit a registration form each. If you are not signing up with a team, you will be allocated to one.

Please also note that by signing up for a competition you agree to attend **all** relevant dates and to communicate promptly with myself and the relevant Competitions Representatives when required. You also agree to comply with the rules and the *AULSS Competitions Policy 2023*.

First Years: Please remember that if you sign up for Open Moot or Novice Moot and reach finals you will be ineligible for First Year Moot in Semester 2. Witness Examination is also inadvisable for you to do in your first semester of law school.

1. Full name *

Enter your answer

2. Student ID *

Enter your answer

3. Email address *

Enter your answer

4. What competition(s) do you want to register for? *

- LK Open Moot
- Novice Moot
- Andreyev Lawyers Negotiations
- Andreyev Lawyers Client Interviewing
- Witness Examination

5. Are you signing up with a partner/team? (Teams are not applicable for witness examination) *

- Yes
- No

6. Partner's Name and Student ID

(If registering for Open Moot in a team of 3, please write names and student IDs for BOTH additional members of your team)

Enter your answer

7. If your registration for the above is unsuccessful, would you like a back up competition? *

- Open Moot
- Novice Moot
- Andreyev Lawyers Negotiations
- Andreyev Lawyers Client Interviewing
- Witness Examination
- None

8. Do you agree to follow the rules of the competition and attend round dates? *

- Yes
- No

9. Are you eligible for disability accommodations?

Select your answer

10. What do you feel will be required?

Enter your answer

11. Any Additional Notes?

Enter your answer



Andreyev Lawyers Client Interviewing

Round	Date	Location
Preliminary Round 1	14 March 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 2	21 March 2023	Ligertwood
Quarter Final	28 March 2023	Ligertwood
Semi Final	4 April 2023	Ligertwood
Grand Final	26 April 2023	Moot Court

I would firstly like to thank the coordinators of this competition, Yurui Jiang and Chloe Rungie, for their hard work and effort in this competition.

Thank you also to Andreyev Lawyers for their generous sponsorship of the competition, in particular to Ico Ho for her assistance.

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elma Li • Sophie Perkins • Nadeesha Indigahawela • Leon Kasperski • Bianca Patterson • Sarah Hay • Katie Cooper • Cate Lipsham • Diandra Ciacciarelli
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Alder • Anita Brunacci • Alexandra Harris • Katie Cooper • Cate Lipsham • Elma Li • Claire Victory
Quarter Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Restas • Gavin Davis • Gerry Cawson • Kasia Maczuga
Semi Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jake Walsh • Lucy Bowler
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Russo • Hannah Andreyev • Aleina Dearden



I would also like to thank the following volunteers for acting as clients in this competition:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kush Goyal • Yifan Sun • Liouxeese Hadley • Daniel Scullin • Fionne Chai Ping Ngam • Henry Zampoli
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kush Goyal • Khaira Aziza Nathin • Phileo Petra Simon • Neel Nathani • Fionne Chai Ping Ngam • Henry Zampoli
Quarter Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Zampoli • Kush Goyal • Yifan Sun
Semi Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamish McNamara • Patrick Davidson
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kush Goyal

Winners

Congratulations to Malena Mavrakis and Amanda Hsi for winning the competition!



Andreyev Lawyers Negotiations

Round	Date	Location
Preliminary Round 1	14 March 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 2	21 March 2023	Ligertwood
Quarter Final	28 March 2023	Ligertwood
Semi Final	4 April 2023	Ligertwood
Grand Final	26 April 2023	Moot Court

I would firstly like to thank the coordinators of this competition, Isabella Burgess and Lili Caltabiano, for their hard work, passion, and effort in this competition.

Thank you also to Andreyev Lawyers for their generous sponsorship of the competition, in particular to Ico Ho for her assistance.

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peta Spyrou • Hugo Chapman • Katie Cooper • Sofia Tait • Cate Lipsham • Celena Le
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Gray • Mike Hayes • Dimi Tolis • Nicholas Iles • Nick Stevens • Sofia Tait
Quarter Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Kassapidis • Jake Walsh • Aleina Dearden
Semi Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kasia Maczuga • Dimitri Lyrtzis
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Honour Judge Bochner





Winners

Congratulations to
Madeline Allchurch and
Sam Squeo for winning
the competition!



Open Moot

Round	Date	Location
Preliminary Round 1	15 March 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 2	22 March 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 3	5 April 2023	Ligertwood
Grand Final	10 May 2023	Supreme Court

I would firstly like to thank the coordinators of this competition, Bhoomika Trivedi and Salma Mansurwala, for their hard work, passion, and effort in this competition.

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley Files Julia Arena
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Marcus Ian Thomas
Preliminary Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enzo Belperio Lloyd Wicks
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Honourable Justice Kimber The Honourable Justice McIntyre The Honourable Judge Barklay

Congratulations to the Grand Finalists Harry Passehl, Phoebe Gunn, Angus Thompson, Michail Ivanov, Grace Jin and Kush Goyal.

Novice Moot

Round	Date	Location
Preliminary Round 1	15 March 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 2	22 March 2023	Ligertwood
Grand Final	26 April 2023	Ligertwood

I would firstly like to thank the coordinators of this competition, Evelyn Vincin Walker, Georgia Zhang, and Eton Williams for their hard work, passion, and effort as the Competitions Coordinators.

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eamonn Carpenter Rachel Neef
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danielle Gilby Patrick McCabe
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Honourable Judge Sutcliffe The Honourable Justice Bleby





I congratulate winners, Lauren O'Callaghan and Charlotte Boyd-Turner, for their performance in this competition!

LK Witness Examination

Round	Date	Location
Practice Round	14 March 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 1	23 March 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 2	6 April 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 3	27 April 2023	Ligertwood
Grand Final	11 May 2023	LK Offices

I would firstly like to thank the coordinators of this competition, Harry Passehl and Deeptanshu Sharma, for their hard work, passion, and effort as the Competitions Coordinators.

Thank you also to LK Law for their generous sponsorship of the competition, in particular to Kylie Rankine and Lorraine Wohling for their assistance.

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Practice Round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Voumard • Andrew Culshaw
Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craig Fabbian • Samuel McDonough
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Plater • Jon Lister • Rick Sarre
Preliminary Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Abbot KC • Sean Nottle • Gian-Luca Stirling
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Honour Judge Telfer



I would also like to thank the following volunteers for acting as witnesses in this competition:

Practice Round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marwan Salih • Bhoomika Trivedi • Madeline McShane • Harry Passehl
Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korneliya Somuncic • Salma Mansurwala • Fionne Ngam • Yifan Sun • Daniel Scullin • Kasia Sparrow Sinclair • Korneliya Somuncic
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miriam Pooley • Fionne Ngam • Deeptanshu Sharma • Aryaman Mehta • Phoebe Gunn
Preliminary Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fionne Ngam • Yifan Sun • Deeptanshu Sharma • Aryaman Mehta • Nick Reese • Phoebe Gunn
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phoebe Gunn • Bhoomika Trivedi

Winner:

I congratulate winner, Katie Cooper, and runner up, Cate Lipsham, for their performance in this competition!



International Humanitarian Law Moot (IHL):

In accordance with s 46(a) of the AULSS Constitution, the Director of Competitions has discretion as to which competitions are run by the Competitions Portfolio. We historically have sourced our ALSA IHL competitors from the International Humanitarian Law Moot course run by the university. However, the University decided not to run the competition this year. The university also did not tell me of this decision. I found out about the decision third-hand when the other competitions were about to begin Quarter Finals. We were initially unable to run the competition for two main reasons:

1. We did not have an appropriate timeframe to plan the competition and prepare it to run alongside the other competitions. While Dale was kind to send me a list of students who had excelled in the course previously upon request, many had moved out of the state or which did not have appropriate contact information for, which would make it difficult sourcing enough judges. Similarly, the nature of the Competitions Portfolio is different compared to other portfolios; in that, it requires a lot more intensive work at the first half of the semester and then allows for a break towards the end of the semester. This is important in maintaining the mental health of the portfolio. Running the competition later in the semester would either prevent a member of my portfolio from having this break and given both myself and two of my competitions representatives had deaths in the family it was unreasonable to ask the portfolio to run a further competition.
2. Furthermore, my role as Director of Competitions is to advocate for the best interests of *all* competitors. It has become increasingly clear by the time I was aware the competition was not proceeding that we lacked funds to send the existing competitors with an adequate subsidy which they deserved. Hence, I could not in good faith run a new competition to source more competitors to send to ALSA while also knowing it could be to the detriment of the competitors we already had.

This decision is analogous to the decision of the Competitions Portfolio not to run the Paper Presentation Competition. It would likely have been different had I been aware in December 2022 that the course was not proceeding, as I could have allocated my Competitions Representatives differently and we further had hope the AULSS would be in a better financial position. However, one team who decided they wanted to go to ALSA sent an email to Matthew Stubbs and Dale Stephens to ask them to run the process. Matthew told the AULSS to help with this and kindly offered to pay for registration costs as incentive, addressing one of the reasons the competition could not proceed. I thank Matthew and the Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics for their assistance. We ultimately agreed on a format of competitors submitting written submissions for the problem question competition and the top 2 teams would progress to a selection moot. This was due to the short timeframe we had to run the competition.



Dates

Problem Question Released	Monday Week 11
Written Submissions Due	Monday Week 12
Selection Moot	Wednesday Week 13

The Statistics

Successful Registrations	Withdrawals	Total
8	2	6

The registrations and withdrawals were as expected given the late stage in the semester. Congratulations to Jessica March and Kurt Schenk for being selected, and to Salma Mansurwala and Abigail Douglas for being the runners up. However, I do stress that the AULSS should not be assumed to be in a position to run this competition in the future without consultation. To stress, the fact the competitions portfolio ran the competition this year does not mean that we have agreed to run it in future years. Mooting is a lot of work and can be difficult. I think the status quo of the course being run by the University is preferable compared to the AULSS running the competition, as students get course credit for participating in the moot. This encourages students to try mooting and can then that can act as a pathway to our internal competitions when students find they enjoy mooting. If the AULSS is too willing to run the course any time the university feels they do not want to, then less students will get course credit for it despite the competition format being a large amount of work. This is to the direct detriment of students who want to moot but do not have the time. It also means that the IHL and Open Moots will be competing for participants and we will lose out on good mooters in one competition.

Recommendations:

1. I would not recommend replicating this format in future mooting competitions. Competitors will never win a moot on the basis of their Written Submissions and therefore, in agreement with advice I have received from the more successful mooters on my portfolio, I do not believe they should be eliminated from the competition due to their written submissions.
2. Future Directors of Competitions should expressly confirm with the university if they are running the competition as the course.
3. If the University is not running the competition, and the Director of Competitions decides to run to competition, put one less Competitions Representative on Negotiations and Paper Presentation to allocate two representatives to the competition.
4. Do not run new competitions after the mid-semester break. The administrative toll on the Competitions Portfolio compared to the projected engagement is unjustifiable.
5. It also sets a dangerous precedent to have such different selection processes for ALSA Competitions because it invalidates the effort of the other competitors in the other competitions.

ALSA:



ALSA hosts our national competitions. Pursuant to s 13(3) of the Constitution, competitors who win our Semester 1 Competitions have the right to represent the AULSS in the Competitions at the National ALSA Conference.

In the event that the winners are unable to attend the ALSA Conference, the runner up teams are invited to represent the AULSS at the ALSA Conference.

ALSA Practice Sessions

Before sending competitors to represent the AULSS in the external rounds of the Triversity Client Interviewing Competition and Intervarsity Negotiations Competition, we have often run a practice session. However, we have not done this for ALSA in the past. I wanted our competitors to feel prepared and ready for ALSA, so I set out to make this happen.

As a starting point, all competitors were sent the following proposed format for the session upon their win:

Winners have the opportunity to ask any lingering questions of the coaches. Student coaches to discuss how ALSA works and what to expect.
Winners compete as normal. For Client Interviewing and Negotiations, I set a problem question from previous conferences to practice skills. For Mooting, the teams practiced their oral submissions.
Competitors get to take the full problem question with judging guide home and review (for client interviewing and negotiations). All competitors get feedback from the former ALSA attendee.



- Thank you to Leon Kasperski and Nadeesha Indigwala for participating in this session as coaches for client interviewing.
- Thank you to Hugo Chapman for participating in this session as a coach for negotiations.
- Thank you to Gian Luca Stirling for participating in this session as a coach for Witness Examination.
- Thank you to Nicolas Rich for participating in this session as a coach for Championship Moot.
- Thank you to Deeptanshu Sharma for acting as a client in client interviewing and Witness Examination.

Recommendation:

- I recommend continuing to hold practice sessions for external competitions.

2023 ALSA Competitions

National Competition Results:

I am delighted to announce the following results, and I take the opportunity to congratulate the following competitors for their efforts and successes:

- **Cate Lipsham and Amanda Hsi** placed *Semi Finalists* in **Client Interviewing**
- **Katie Cooper** placed *Grand Finalist* in **Witness Examination**
- **Michail Ivanov, Grace Jin and Kush Goyal** participated in the *Preliminary Rounds* in the **Championship Moot**
- **Jessica March and Kurt Schenk** were the *winners* in the **IHL Moot**
- **Sam Squeo and Madeline Allchurch** participated in the *Preliminary Rounds* in the **Negotiations Competition**.

All competitors involved should be extremely proud of their efforts.

The ALSA Conference and Competitions:

I will defer to the President's report for a discussion of the Conference and its implications to the broader implications for the AULSS to focus on the Conference's impacts on the Competitions Portfolio.

The Price of Registration:

At the outset, I wish to say that I was extremely disappointed by ALSA's price increase of registrations fees to \$730 for early bird, and \$750 for general registration. ALSA, as the national law student *representative* body, should be for all law students, and competing in their competitions should be available to any student who has shown sufficient ability in their law school's internal competitions. Access to ALSA's competitions should not be determined by a student's financial affluence, especially when ALSA should know that students have to fly in from their home state (meaning expenses are already high).



The Subsidy:

My opinions regarding the accessibility of the conference were prevalent through our discussions of the amount we would subsidise the competitions for the competitors. This is noting that the prize of winning a competition (ie: going to ALSA) should be available to the competitors who show the greatest ability in the competition, not the competitors who happen to have the deepest pockets and happen to progress furthest.

I thank Treasurer, Minnah Butt, for engaging in discussions with me before the executive meetings so we could develop a plan and understand the requirements of both portfolios. An unfortunate reality of the ALSA discussions is that ALSA is expensive, and the value we receive in return is not monetary; however, it will always be in the competitors' interests to have the largest feasible subsidy.

The nature of the discussions will always require the Treasurer and the Director of Competitions to negotiate for different interests. I think this is an unsustainable manner of deciding funding for the competitions and only leads to in-fighting on the executive and allows for external motivations to seep into the discussions. This requires the AULSS Executive to plan *much* early into its budgeting for the ALSA subsidy.

Recommendations:

1. Contact ALSA early to see if they can provide indicative costs.
2. The Competitions Portfolio should pursue methods of making money, to alleviate stress on the budget.
3. Continue to seek external funding for the competitors, such as through the University of Adelaide, the Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics, or Sponsors.
4. We need to ask the university for financial assistance. During the Executive Conference, Bryan and I discovered that the other Law Student Societies had financial contributions from their associated universities. Given the value ALSA provides both the AULSS and the University, I would suggest the University should be willing to assist.
5. The President needs to call discussions regarding ALSA funding months earlier than we did in 2022 and 2023.
6. To ensure adequate money is available to sponsor the competitors, I recommend future Directors of Competitions to collaborate with the Treasurer to allocate funds before other portfolios spend money, and to both pursue avenues for the portfolio to make money and to allocate a fair portion of profits from other portfolios to prepare for the subsidy.



Semester 2 Competitions: *Semester 2 Competitions Registration* The Statistics

	Successful Registration	Unsuccessful Registration	Withdrawals
Criminal Law Moot	32	0	4
First Year Moot	21	0	6
Intervarsity Negotiations	16	1	2
Private Law Witness Examination	4	0	1
Family Law Mediation	0	3	n/a
Triversity Client Interviewing	18	1	2
Kain Lawyers Mergers and Acquisitions	22 (9 in Round 1, 13 in Round 2)	1 (1 in round 1)	4
Total	111	6	17

	Successful Registration	Unsuccessful Registration	Withdrawals
Commercial and Legal Property Law Competition	6	0	0
Websters Lawyers Intervarsity Marathon Competition	6	0	TBC
Total	12	0	TBC

Recommendation:

We run many competitions in Semester 2 and this spreads thin the number of competitors per competition. To maximise engagement, I encourage doing the following:

1. Two separate periods of short term competitions, so competitors who want to compete in more than one competition have time to do so.
2. Two separate registrations periods for both of the periods



Mooting Information Session

Thank you to Harry Passehl for coordinating the Mooting Information session in Semester 2. Like in previous years, this session was held online to promote accessibility to those who would ordinarily be unable to attend campus.

Thank you to those who provided advice in the session:

- Harry Passehl
- Phoebe Gunn

I was unable to attend due to being at ALSA; however, I have been informed that there was approximately 20 students in attendance. I am proud to say that the students who attended had substantially higher quality written submissions compared to their counterparts who did not, with some of the preliminary round submissions of first year moot being of a higher standard than Open Moot! This is an estimate to the passion and hard work that Harry and Phoebe put into the session, and for this I thank them for their involvement and congratulate them on their success.

Intervarsity Negotiations

Round	Date	Location
Internal Selection Round	5 August 2023	Online via Zoom
Round Robins 1 and 2	19, 20 August 2023	
Semi Final and Grand Finals	26, 27 August 2023	

I extend a massive thank you to Bhoomika Trivedi for coordinating this competition.

Thank you to

- Floyd Bakewell for judging the in Grand Final
- Peta Spyrou for judging in the External Round Robins
- Sophia Tait, Sam Squeo, Ashleigh De Silva and Amy Lancaster for judging in the Internal Round

Congratulations to Minh Tran and Grace Jin for progressing to the Grand Final against SULS where they were the runners up.

Family Law Mediation

I extend a massive thank you to Salma Mansurwala for coordinating this competition.

Structure

As there is no alternative to the competition format in Semester 1, we elected to include a quarter final in the competition this year. Unfortunately, however, we only had 3 people sign up for the competition and therefore we needed to cancel it. This was possibly due to the workload associated with it, in addition to the family law focus. While family law is a popular subject, it is less popular for a career choice which I think may have impacted engagement. Unfortunately, this competition was cancelled because we only received 3 registrations.



Recommendation:

I note that the competition did not receive high registrations last year either, meaning if next year's director of competitions wishes to cancel a competition there may be merit in cancelling it. However, I hesitate to recommend cancelling mediation because we do not have an equivalent in Semester 2 and I think competitors should at least have that opportunity as they can progress to other competitions such as the Asia-Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition. I would recommend either:

- a) Make the competition more general to include other specialties of mediation (eg: employment) and keep the competition at only 3 rounds; or
- b) Make the competition an external competition. Since it is unique, it provides an opportunity for other LSS/As to compete, increases engagement in the competition, and there may be an income stream available.

Kain Lawyers Mergers and Acquisitions

Round	Date	Location
Letter of Advice Due	Thursday 31 August 2023	Ligertwood
Oral Advice Round	Thursday 7 September 2023	
Negotiation Semi Final Round	Thursday 14 September 2023	
Grand Final	Thursday 5 October 2023	

I extend a massive thank you to Evelyn Vincin Walker and Eton Williams for coordinating the competition.

Thank you also to Kain Lawyers for their continued sponsorship of this competition, their authorship of the problem question, and for their continued involvement with the competition. I know the students have really benefitted from the exposure into Corporate M&As which the competition has provided. In particular, thank you to Brian Young, Navar Amici, and Michael Chrisohoou for the time they have spend judging, providing feedback, and writing the problem questions for the competition.

Structure and Logistics

When choosing dates for this competition, future Competitions Directors should note the following Kain Lawyers expressed an interest in the competition occurring either in Semester 1, or after the uniform clerkship scheme has concluded.

We were unable to facilitate the competition occurring in semester 1 because:

- a) This is our busiest semester, as there are more round dates for 5 competitions. We would not have the administrative capacity to run the competition in Semester 1.
- b) The M&A competition would be competing for registrations with our negotiations competition. To ensure our best negotiators do the Semester 1 Negotiations Competition and go to ALSA, we should avoid different negotiation competitions occurring in the same semester. Alternatively, registrations for M&As competition may be lower as the competitors would be vying to go to ALSA.



As such, the competition was ran in Semester 2. Dates were chosen to avoid the mid-semester break and the Uniform Clerkship Scheme.

At the time of writing this report, the Grand Final has not occurred. However, I congratulate Lucas Michaels, and Emma Coloravic for winning the competition.

Triversity Client Interviewing:

Round	Date	Location
Internal Round 1	9 August 2023	Ligertwood
Internal Round 2	16 August 2023	
Round Robins 1 and 2	23 August 2023	
Grand Final	30 August 2023	

I extend a massive thank you to Katie Cooper and Cate Lipsham for their hard work and dedication in coordinating this competition.

I congratulate Maddie McShane and Harper Robb for progressing to the external rounds to represent the AULSS against the other universities.

I would like to thank the following people for judging in the competition:

Round	Date
Internal Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Hsi • Katie Cooper • Cate Lipsham • Malena Mavrakis
Internal Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Cooper • Cate Lipsham • Larna Jarvis
Round Robins 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aleina Dearden
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diandra Ciacciarelli • Digby Luckhurst-Smith • Akash Jacob-Mathew

I would like to thank the following people for acting as clients in the competition:

Round	Date
Internal Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeptanshu Sharma • Sofia Tait • Sam Squeo
Internal Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamish McNamara • Deeptanshu Sharma
Round Robins 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cate Lipsham
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kush Goyal



Criminal Law Moot

Round	Date	Location
Preliminary Round 1	16 August 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 2	17 August 2023	
Semi Final	31 August 2023	

Thank you to Emily Trieu, Lili Caltabiano and Isabella Burgess for coordinating the competition.

Structure

We elected 4 rounds and no right of reply to provide students with a 'middle ground' low effort option between the First Year / Novice Moot and the Open Moot.

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Passehl • His Honour Geoff Meuke • David Plater • Nakisa Hashemi • Nic Rich
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Culshaw • Catherine Voumard • Jon Lister • Alex Panousakis
Semi Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jasmine Daniel

Congratulations to Evelyn Vincin Walker and Eton Williams for winning the competition.



First Year Moot

Round	Date	Location
Preliminary Round 1	12 August 2023	Ligertwood
Preliminary Round 2		
Quarter Final	22 August 2023	
Semi Final	5 September 2023	
Grand Final	19 September 2023	

Thank you to Harry Passehl and Deeptanshu Sharma for coordinating the competition.

Structure

As my portfolio has a number of strong mooters, I put the discussion to the portfolio as to the number of rounds in the competition. Last year, there was 4 rounds, with the quarter final being removed for the wellbeing of the portfolio. The following is an overview of the opinions on keeping the quarter final:



Keeping the Quarter Final	Removing the Quarter Final
<p>1. Preparation and Development The competitions in the first semester are 5 rounds to prepare students for ALSA and to ensure the candidates who reach the grand final progress due to their talent, not because they had one particularly good round. Keeping the First Year Moot with the same structure assists with preparing students for the workload and ensures that they have the strongest opportunity to develop their skills to the furthest extent possible.</p> <p>2. Retaining Grand Final Judges A good quality grand final means judges are impressed and are all the more excited to return, positively impacting future years.</p> <p>3. Benefits to the Mooting Calibre of Adelaide University Providing more opportunity for students to practice their Mooting skills, meaning the field of more advanced competitions is more competitive.</p>	<p>1. Engagement Mooting is notoriously a lot of work. Keeping the competition as low effort as possible would be beneficial for keeping students in the competition and preventing drop-outs.</p> <p>It was raised that students who did not progress may have their egos hurt, impacting engagement in the future. However, it was noted that the students who did not progress in First Year Moot in 2023 came back with a vengeance.</p>

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Passehl • Angus Thompson • Phoebe Gunn
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malena Mavrakis • Chris Mary
Preliminary Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Jolly • Chris Kummerow • Mark Giancaspro
Semi Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Besanko



Grand Final

- His Honour Chief Justice Kourakis
- His Honour President Livesey

Winner: Congratulations to William Hunt for winning the Competition



Private Law Witness Examination

Round	Date	Location
Preliminary Round	10 August 2023	Ligertwood
Semi Final	17 August 2023	
Grand Final	29 August 2023	

Structure

Due to the limited availability of non-criminal problem questions, we elected for three rounds for this competition to ensure its administrative sustainability.

Thank you to Yurui Jiang for coordinating the competition.

I would also like to thank the following judges for their time and expertise:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Cooper
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Cooper• James Williams
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anthony Hillary

I would also like to thank the following volunteers for acting as witnesses in this competition:

Preliminary Round 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amanda Hsi• Adeline Tang
Preliminary Round 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amanda Hsi• Adeline Tang
Grand Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Cooper

Winner:

I would also like to congratulate Cate Lipsham for winning the competition!



Commercial and Legal Property Law Competition

This competition was begun last year in response to an email which I had sent requesting a judge for the Triversity Client Interviewing.

I noted that engagement was likely lessened last year because it was held in the mid-semester break, which is when there is often a lot of assignments due. As one of my recommendations upon reflection of the competition, I therefore propose that we move the competition to the Mid-Semester Break. A consideration of this move was because the Competitions Portfolio has limited capacity during the semesters for a new competition.

We advertised the competition after the end of the Uniform Clerkship Scheme to maximise engagement, as the students who missed out on the scheme would still be looking to gain experience.

This competition was run in mid-october.

Round	Date	Location
Written Advice Due	October 1	Ligertwood
Oral Due	October 10	Ligertwood
Grand Final Oral Advice	October 11	Ligertwood

Recommendation:

I wanted to run this competition in the mid-year break; however, it would have been difficult to personally run and advertise in addition to the ALSA training sessions. With the addition of the External and Intervarsity Competitions Representative to alleviate workload, I would recommend running it in the mid-year break next year to increase engagement.



External Competitions:

The AULSS has never had involvement in running the following competitions. However, we ran selection processes for the Baker McKenzie National Women's Moot, Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Moot and the Alfred Deakin International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot



The AULSS has no involvement in the Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot. However, in accordance with tradition, I would like to congratulate the following competitors who were involved:

- Elma Li
- Harry Passehl
- Jessica March
- Kurt Schenk
- Malena Mavrakis

The team placed 4th in the Australian National Rounds held at the ANU College of Law in Canberra. They also won the Spirit of the Competition Bear (Pictured Above-Right, with Elma Li!). Every competitor involved should be proud of their achievements.

Well done also to Nili McGrath and Madeline McNeil for coaching the team.

Baker McKenzie National Women's Moot

This competition is run by Sydney University Law Society. The competition was scheduled to be held in person in Sydney, from Saturday 23 September to Tuesday 26 September.

The Competitions Portfolio sourced 1 team out of a maximum of 2 to represent the AULSS and the University of Adelaide for this Competition. The nature of the registration form required the team to outline their experience in mooting, research and oral advocacy to satisfy the competitions portfolio that they could moot to a satisfactory standard in the competition.

Congratulations to Riki Theodorakakos, India Whitton, and Lily Mackereth who represented the AULSS and were semi finalists in the competition! They also won Best Written Memorandum for the Respondent.



Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Moot

This competition is run by Melbourne University Law Society. The Competition was held 6 October 2023 - 9 October 2023. At the time of writing this report, the moot has not been held yet.

Potential competitors were asked to write 5 pages written submissions for the Applicant and 5 pages of written submissions for the Respondent sides of the problem question, to be submitted with an expression of interest form outlining their experience in mooting and constitutional law. The top 2 teams would then proceed to a selection moot judged by Constitutional Law Course Coordinator, and former coach, Dr Anna Olijnyk. I think this format was beneficial because the team selected had an opportunity to practice and gain familiarity with the format for the moot.

Congratulations to Harry Passhel, Phoebe Gunn, and Malena Mavrakis who were selected to represent the AULSS and Adelaide Law School. At the time of writing this report, the competition has not concluded and I am unable to report on their ranking.

Thank you to Adelaide Law School for funding the registration fees for this competition again this year.

Recommendation:

1. I recommend next year's Director of Competitions pursue a more enduring agreement with Adelaide Law School to ensure this continues in the future.
2. I note that I also requested Matthew Stubbs look into making the competition for course credit, as is the norm in many other universities. I recommend the Director of Competitions for 2024 re-affirm their interest in this occurring and ensure it is done.

Alfred Deakin International Commercial Arbitration Moot

This competition is run by the Deakin Law Student Society. The moot was run virtually via the online platform Zoom on 4, 5, 11 and 12 September 2023.

1 team expressed interest in representing the University of Adelaide for this Competition. Congratulations to Hamish McNamara and Elizabeth Chng who were selected to represent the AULSS. Unfortunately, they needed to withdraw for completely valid reasons. We received a full refund for the registration.

Recommendation:

In the past, the selection process for the teams for external competitions have been relatively easy. This year, I raised the difficulty for most expression of interest forms because I believe it is important for the selection process to reflect the standard and workload of the competition. As such, I would encourage for future portfolios to continue this process, as it ensures that the teams who actually want to compete and are willing to put in the effort are the ones who apply, and those students are as best prepared as possible to compete. However, the Directors of Competitions should gauge interest from successful competitors first, as the past two years had easier processes.



Competitions Dinner vs Competitions Drinks:

The 2022 Competitions AGM Report suggested hosting a competitions dinner.

In 2017 the Activities and Competitions Portfolios collaborated to hold a “Competitions End of Season Drinks” night. This could be extremely fun and worth considering, as it would be a great opportunity for the competitors to meet people with similar interests.

After meeting with the executive, either option was agreed to not be profitable and would likely cost students a lot of money to break even in the budget. I did not run either this year because any additional money should be put towards the prosperity of the committee or to ALSA (and beyond that, I think the portfolio should focus on making money from sources which are not our students).

I would recommend, however, pursuing this option in the future (subject to finance).

Awards and Awards Night:

Something the future portfolios can consider is giving awards out at a major event. Future directors should do their own research as to whether the event will receive engagement. However, I would presume that a night celebrating the achievements of successful competitors would be successful. Similarly, my research at the beginning of my term found that some universities do major awards nights which are very large and very classy – similar to the effect of Law Dinner.

However, they are also expensive, and I expect that financing would be an issue. I would place it in the prospectus to see if a firm would sponsor it, and invite the judges from the competitions (and, if applicable, the sponsor firm) to ensure tickets are sold. This opportunity to network should secure more seats from both students and practitioners.

This may also increase the hype surrounding competitions and increase engagement in future years. However, I doubt it would be feasible for the 2024 Competitions Portfolio.

Lessons and Issues:

Mooting:

Situation:

One team had an interpretation of rule 8.4 to strictly prohibit the usage of the legislation. My view is this interpretation is inaccurate and impractical, because there is no practical applications in ignoring an entire aspect of the law (legislation). I view the purpose of the rule is to require students to actually conduct research as opposed to only referring to legislation in their written submissions and building their arguments around statutory interpretation which cannot be predicted by the opposition (as opposed to engaging with case law).

Recommendation:

I recommend rephrasing the rule to reflect this.



Witness Examination:

Situation:

Due to low registrations, we dispensed with the typical format where the competitors only do half of the case and work with a partner to present each half of the case. When I competed, this was helpful in easing me into the competition. However, competitor feedback has said that dispensing with the easier format this year better prepared them for later rounds and ALSA.

Recommendation 1:

I recommend removing the current preliminary round format in future years.

Situation:

We also raised some concern with ALSA this year because competitors were allowed to use technology to construct their materials, but were not given access to printing facilities. This gave the domestic students an advantage. In response to this, ALSA prohibited the use of technology in preparation.

Recommendation 2:

To best prepare students for ALSA, we should allow the use of technology in preliminary rounds but prohibit it in finals rounds.

Client Interviewing:

Situation:

ALSA does a weird format where students progress through the competition on the basis of points. This is unfair because scoring can be very judge-dependant and client-dependant, which is why the AULSS has each judge two teams with the same client and determine who was best.

Recommendation:

I recommend reaching out to ALSA and suggesting they use our structure for client interviewing.



Recommendations for Competitions 2024:

Above, I have made the following recommendations, which I carry and affirm into this section of my report:

1. Review, expand (and if applicable, complete) the educational materials
2. Split the Competitions Handbook to create handbooks for each competition.
3. Make necessary amendments to the Competitions Policy
4. Book the courts early
5. Continue to allow competitors to sign up with their own volunteer. However, do not expand it for client interviewing.
6. We further need to improve the volunteering system. This could be done through a training session for potential volunteers.
7. Continue to use the Microsoft Forms portal.
8. Add a disclaimer in future registrations saying it is unrealistic for students to compete in every competition, which is why registrations of students who sign up for every competition will be deemed unsuccessful.
9. Distribute the competitions handbook in their email announcing the opening of registrations.
10. Expressly confirm with the university if they are running the IHL Moot as the course.
11. Do not run new competitions after the mid-semester break. The administrative toll on the Competitions Portfolio compared to the projected engagement is unjustifiable.
12. Run uniform selection processes for ALSA
13. Continue to run training sessions
14. Contact ALSA early to see if they can provide indicative costs.
15. The Competitions Portfolio should pursue methods of making money, to alleviate stress on the budget.
16. Continue to seek external funding for the competitors, such as through the University of Adelaide, the Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics, or Sponsors.
17. We need to ask the university for financial assistance. During the Executive Conference, Bryan and I discovered that the other Law Student Societies had financial contributions from their associated universities. Given the value ALSA provides both the AULSS and the University, I would suggest the University should be willing to assist.
18. The President needs to call discussions regarding ALSA funding months earlier than we did in 2022 and 2023.
19. To ensure adequate money is available to sponsor the competitors, I recommend future Directors of Competitions to collaborate with the Treasurer to allocate funds before other portfolios spend money, and to both pursue avenues for the portfolio to make money and to allocate a fair portion of profits from other portfolios to prepare for the subsidy.
20. Make contact with the other law student societies for Triversity competitions as soon as possible and write the problem question as soon as possible.



21. Make the Intervarsity Marathon competition an external competition. Since it is unique, other law student societies may be interested in submitting a team.
22. Next year's Society should pursue a more enduring agreement with Adelaide Law School to request they continue to pay registrations continues in the future.
23. I note that I also requested Matthew Stubbs look into making participation in the Sir Harry Gibbs competition be for course credit, as is the norm in many other universities. I recommend the Director of Competitions for 2024 re-affirm their interest in this occurring and ensure it is done.
24. Consider shortening the Semester 2 Competitions Season
25. Some Competitions should be held in the mid-year break
26. External competition selection should reflect the standard of the competition, interest in competing, and the attached workload
27. The Director of Competitions should review and edit all the rules before they are given to the competitions representatives to edit.
28. Remove the current witness examination preliminary round format in future years and keep it individual throughout.
29. To best prepare students for ALSA, we should allow the use of technology in witness examination preliminary rounds but prohibit it in finals rounds.
30. Reach out to ALSA and suggest they use our structure for client interviewing.

In addition to my recommendations outlined above, I have additional recommendations outlined below.

New Shields and Trophies

I note that our Novice Moot and our Semester 2 Competitions still currently do not have any prizes. This was something that I looked into in the beginning of my term but did not complete for the following reasons:

1. The expense to buy x11 shields was unjustifiable given the amount of money the Competitions Portfolio makes. This is especially noting the continued cost of getting the shields engraved each year.
2. There is limited space in the trophy cabinet for 15 shields.

Competitors deserve recognition for their achievements regardless of when they occurred, which is why future directors should consider buying one trophy each year so that we can spread the financial impact on the society.

I would recommend the AULSS pursue sponsorship for more shields. There is precedent in doing this because a former First Year Moot Shield appears to have been sponsored by the John Bray Alumni Network, and a former Client Interviewing Trophy appears to have been sponsored by Lynch Myer.



Improving Capacity

Officially shorten the season of the Semester 2 Competitions to 1-4 weeks.

I gave each Competition Representative in charge of the competitions a say in the length of each competition and the day it was held. My belief is that competitions are busy enough to co-ordinate, and the hope with this was to help the Competitions Representatives to balance their role and their lives.

I think, however, Semester 2 needs to be as short as possible for the well-being of the portfolio. Semester 1 can be extremely draining and I think the portfolio would benefit from the shorter season. I note that other Competitions Portfolios across the country run each competitions as a one week event. I do not think this would be beneficial for our semester 1 competitions. However, I do think there is merit in running some of the semester 2 competitions in this format.

Additional Competitions

If the 2024 Competitions Portfolio does have capacity, the following are the new competitions which I considered throughout my term:

Contractual Law Moot

I will defer to my reasoning above as to the benefits of this competition (See section 'New Competitions – Private Law Witness Examination'). I think there is great merit in adding this competition, and considerable interest. However, I would stress that a future Director should absolutely consider the capacity of the portfolio and ensure that they have a focus on **all** competitions, not just mooting.

Sponsored Competitions

Sponsored competitions such as the *Kain Lawyers Mergers and Acquisitions* and *Commercial & Legal Property Law* and *Websters Lawyers Intervarsity Marathon* competitions are a great opportunity for students to gain insight into the reality of practice in a field of law they are interested in. They also serve great opportunity for the firms. This is firstly in terms of gaining publicity for their clerkship program, as personally I never know firms unless they have some level of engagement with the AULSS. Secondly, this is in terms of the competition format, which allows firms to test students in scenarios common in practice, and therefore assist them with hiring or clerkship programs. I would recommend a future Director of Competitions either:

- a) Advocate for similarly administratively easy formats; or
- b) Focus on seeking sponsorship for the competitions we currently have.

Offering a "make it yourself" option in the Prospectus will be beneficial in increasing the Competitions Portfolio's financial contribution to the society. Competitions, from a business standpoint, provide the following value to sponsors:

1. Between 4 and 9 weeks of continuous marketing and exposure to students
2. Naming rights and mentions in our social media posts congratulating the winners (their banner and logo included)
3. Opportunities to interact directly with our strongest competitors (ie: students they would want to hire as clerks because they are dedicating their free time to develop their skills and learn how to become a good lawyer)



The sponsorship money of such competitions could further be allocated to sending the winners of the next year's competitions to the national ALSA conferences.

First Year Competitions

At the beginning of my term, I considered adding an additional first year negotiations competition. It was also raised by one of my Competitions Representatives later on in Semester 1. The Flinders University Law Student Association currently runs a first-year client interview which I find a very interesting initiative, and there is typically strong interest from eager first years.

It would give first years the opportunity to meet each other in their first semester, which is needed. It will also provide students with a nice introduction to competitions without the surprise of how much work goes into mooting. However, my concern is that there is not capacity in the portfolio to run the competition. Similarly, first years have the ability to join the current Negotiations and Client Interview Competitions. Personally, I did both in my first year and enjoyed competing against later years. It was also a consideration that first years typically sign up by themselves, meaning it would reduce the ability of the portfolio to provide partners for older students who sign up themselves. As such, I felt the benefits were not large enough to warrant a new first year competition.

If, however, a future Director decided to run another first year competition, I would recommend the Witness Examination Competition. At present, it is perceived as too intimidating to the older years and this may help to reduce the fear and increase engagement in the competition for the future (in an analogous manner to mooting).

I note that in the implementation of any of these competitions, balancing student engagement and the Director and Representative's mental health and wellbeing is paramount, as is improving the portfolio's capacity.



Thank You:

I wish the 2024 Competitions Portfolio the absolute best of luck with their term. It will be busy, but it is ultimately so rewarding. I would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who has supported and contributed to the Competitions Portfolio in 2023.

Thank you to our sponsors: Andreyev Lawyers, LK Law, Kains Lawyers, Commercial & Legal and Websters Lawyers. On behalf of the AULSS Competitions Portfolio, we really appreciate your support of extracurricular legal education and your contribution to student development.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a competition, either as a competitor, a volunteer, a coach, a judge, or as a problem question author. You are all what makes these competitions happen, and what makes our competitions culture so great at the AULSS. I'm proud to have seen you progress and develop your ability as advocates. Thank you to the rest of the AULSS Executive: Bryan, Felix, Minnah, Hamish, Eleni, Tony, Soph, Natalie, and Henry. Competitions could not have succeeded without your continued support.

And finally, most importantly, thank you so much to my Competitions Representatives. Bhoomika, Cate, Chloe, Deeptanshu, Emily, Eton, Evelyn, Harry, Isabella, Katie, Lili, Rui, and Salma, thank you for the work you have done this year. It has been an honour to have known and led a team of such amazing people, and to have watched each and every one of you grow, develop, and thrive throughout the year. Thank you for everything you have contributed and for how hard you have worked. Congratulations on everything you have achieved in the Competitions Portfolio, and I can't wait to see what you all achieve in the future.



Patricia Papathanasopoulos
Director of Competitions
6 October 2023



Education Portfolio Report

Director: Eleni Sarantou (Co-Opted Semester 1) & Tony Tu

Representatives: Eleni Sarantou (Resigned Semester 1)
Navah Heidari (Co-Opted Semester 2) and Alannah Begbie (Education Representatives)
Leah Schlein (Mature Aged Representative)
Aiden Zeyang Wang (International Student Representative)
Tammy Tran and Laila Dinan (First-Year Representatives)

Summary

It has been a privilege being the Director of Education this year. This year was my first year on the AULLS, and taking up Directorship part way through the year was daunting and challenging at times, but I felt excited to build upon the excellent work of the outgoing Director, Tony Tu. I would also like to thank last year's Education Director, Bryan Lau, for his continuous support and guidance this year.

Despite our challenges this year, the Education Portfolio has had a strong year and has achieved a great deal.

By the end of this year, we will have published two guides, established a tutoring platform, held the first-year elections, ran a successful mentoring programme, hosted numerous educational seminars, and collaborated with many exciting external associations and corporations such as the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association ('HAL') and LK Law.

We have received excellent feedback from students, and I feel immensely proud of my Representatives and I and of what we have achieved as a team.



First Year Guide



The First Year Guide is an annual publication of the Education Portfolio and aims to give first-year students guidance in starting law school. It provides information on first-year courses, where the students can access helpful services, and information regarding the First-Year Representative positions.

This year, the guide was managed by Tony Tu, who did an excellent job.

Due to the excellent work of previous Education Directors, the guide only required a little updating, besides adding four pages and updating general things such as dates and advertisements for events such as LawBall. I especially want to thank Leah Schlein, who went above and beyond her role and utilised her marketing skills gained from previous roles.

For the first time this year, we included a recommendation for appropriate behaviours, highlighting to students what behaviour would and would not be tolerated at university.

Inflation this year meant that we printed 25 fewer guides than last year, yet it cost us \$89 more. However, the guide did increase by four pages.

I want to acknowledge the Director of Communications, Henry Allen, who did a fantastic job designing the guide to be aesthetically pleasing and engaging, and Bryan Lau, who assisted the Education Portfolio greatly in creating this guide.

Suggestions

Tony created the guide this year; thus, I was not involved in any of the executive decisions regarding the guide, nor did I liaise with Bowden Printing.



From my part in creating the guide as a Representative, I suggest starting on the guide as early as possible. Even when only grammar and minor changes are being done, the guide is an immense job that requires a significant time commitment, which should not be underestimated.

AULSS First Year Mentorship Programme

The annual AULSS First-Year Mentorship Programme pairs a first-year student with a more experienced student in their third to final year of study. Starting Law School can be a daunting experience, and first-year students have appreciated the opportunity for guidance and support. Tony set up the programme, which was subsequently continued by myself and the rest of the Education Portfolio.

Mentees were paired with mentors on a first-come, first-served basis through a holistic approach combining double-degree matches and shared interests. We received a total of 50 mentee applications and 28 mentor applications. We emailed the proposed timeline for mentoring created by Byran last year (pictured below) to provide the mentors with some structure for the programme.





While the programme was successful overall, we had issues with mentees / mentors needing to be more responsive to emails. Unresponsive students were tracked down using social media, which was not ideal, as it was incredibly time-consuming. If the mentor / mentee were still unresponsive, an email was sent out informing them that the pairing would be severed. The mentee / mentor would then be paired again.

Despite some issues, it was a successful programme that many students appreciated. Below is a review of the programme by first-year student, Tammy Tran:

‘My mentoring experience has been very helpful this year. I have been able to receive guidance and support for when I am feeling overwhelmed with my workload. This support has allowed me to gain confidence in my law degree. Having a mentor has helped me gain a greater awareness of events which has allowed me to improve my



engagement with others studying this degree and my cohort. My mentor has motivated me to take opportunities to meet new people and to assist with settling in. Through this program my knowledge and understanding of how the campus operates has widened allowing me to balance various components of my life better. My mentor has given me an insight on their first-year experience, allowing me to navigate tasks and to not be discouraged by shortcomings.'

Suggestions

I encourage future Education Portfolios to continue the programme. While I did not set up the programme, I have several suggestions.

Firstly, I suggest not asking students if they prefer how many mentees their mentor has. This question was included in this year's Google form, resulting in most students requesting to be a sole mentee. This was not feasible as the mentees outweighed the mentors almost 2 to 1. As such, I would omit that from the survey and instead emphasise in the emails that students are free to meet separately or in a group, depending on their preference.

Secondly, I sent emails to check in on mentors several times a semester. I recommend continuing this, as mentors came to me more freely with issues than if they had to start the conversation themselves, allowing the issues to be quickly resolved.

First Year Drinks Night

Date: Friday March 10, 7pm-12am.

Venue: Atlantis Bar & Lounge.

Cost: \$5.

The first-year drinks night, organised by Tony and held in the courtyard of Atlantis Bar & Lounge, provided a great start to the year for the Education Portfolio and the first-year cohort. Fortunately, with wristbands, Atlantis allowed us to accommodate students under 18.



Unfortunately, we had some issues with engagement, and thus, sales were down from last year. As a result, we posted on the First Year Facebook page and enlisted the help of the first-year coordinators to make announcements in their respective subjects, providing details about the event and highlighting the advantages of participating in first-year social gatherings. Despite low registrations at the start, we ended with a decent turnout of approximately 100 students and sold 117 tickets.

The night was a great deal of fun, and it was great to meet so many new students! I want to thank Tony for organising the event.



Suggestions

I highly recommend running the event again next year. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students who attended, with many of them sharing that they had established new friendship circles due to their participation in the first-year drinks night.

I also recommend spending some time brainstorming how to market the event more effectively to first year student in order to have greater attendance at the event.



First Year Election

Nomination Period Open: March 15.

Nomination Period Close: March 22.

Candidate Statements Published: March 31.

Voting: April 4-6 (inclusive).

Announcement of Results: April 7.

Each year, the Education Portfolio holds an election to welcome two first-year students to the committee. The election this year occurred at the time of Tony's resignation, and as such, Bryan assisted the Education Portfolio in running the election.

This year, we had a decrease in the number of candidates, which was in line with a fall in engagement across the Society. Despite this, we still had a few candidates - 5 in total. Students were required to write a candidate statement to express their interest in the positions, which was then compiled into a Candidate Guide and distributed to students via email.

Preferential voting AEC style as per Federal and State Elections was used to determine the outcome, and Alannah utilised her election experience to count the votes.

As a result of the election, we welcomed Tammy and Laila to the committee.

I want to thank Bryan for facilitating the election and Alannah for counting the votes.

Suggestions

This year, voting times clashed with one of our events (AGLC Seminar). Due to the tight schedule and the resignation of Tony, we were unable to change this. As such, to target voting turnout, I suggest organising the election in a week with the least number of events.



Problem and Short Answer Question

Date: Wednesday March 29, 1pm.

Venue: Ligertwood.

Cost: Free.

This event aimed to provide students with foundational skills in tackling and answering law problem-style questions and was run by Tony Tu with assistance from Leah Schein. I want to thank Director of Competitions, Patricia Pappas, for hosting this seminar.

The seminar was run in two parts. First, the students were introduced to the basics of problem and short answer style questions and were given general tips by Patricia, a high-achieving student. Following her presentation, students were presented with printed copies of both a credit standard and high distinction standard torts assignment. They were asked to discuss the differences with the rest of the group. The exercise aimed to demonstrate what a high distinction problem style assignment looked like and to teach the students why it was a high distinction.

Suggestions

Given the positive feedback, I suggest running the event again next year. My primary suggestion would be to advertise the event as early as possible, as late advertising resulted in only about twenty attendees.

AGLC 4 Seminar

Date: Wednesday April 5, 11am.

Venue: Ligertwood.

Cost: Free.



This event was in collaboration with the Law School's very own Paula Everett, the wonderful ABLE liaison librarian. This event aimed to give students an in-depth introduction to legal referencing.

We had a turnout of approximately 30 students, which was great. The seminar structure differed slightly from last year as it had previously included a legal research component, which was removed this year to create a separate specific legal research event. The new format worked well, allowing Paula to go in-depth with AGLC 4 for the entire hour.

I want to thank Paula for running such a great event!

Suggestions

I suggest that the next Education Director keeps the seminar as a solely AGLC 4 seminar.

Exam Prep 101

Date: May 17, 10 am.

Venue: Napier 208 Lecture Theatre.

Cost: Free.

The Exam Prep seminar was my first event as Director. The seminar aimed to prepare students to sit their first Law School exam. We had approximately 30 registrations and 25 students attend.

This year, we decided to keep the approach done last year, a more informal question-and-answer seminar rather than a formal presentation. We had two panellists this year in comparison to last year's three. Our presenters were Nadine Ingham (highest achieving student in last year's international law exam) and high achieving student Director of Competitions Patricia Pappas. The conversation was led by myself until the students felt comfortable enough to carry the seminar with their own questions.



Overall, the feedback for the seminar was positive, and students were highly engaged with the presenters.

I thank our panellists for taking the time to present at this seminar.

Suggestions

My suggestion for next year is that the event be rerun with two speakers instead of three, as it allows them to go into greater depth.

Education x Careers Headstart Seminar

Date: May 25, 6pm.

Venue: College of Law, 19 Grenfell St.

Cost: Free.

The Headstart Seminar was a collaboration between the Education and Careers Portfolios. The seminar was primarily for 1st to 3rd-year students and aimed to introduce them to the opportunities available to them early in their degree.

The seminar introduced students to the vast array of opportunities they can undertake while at law school to help progress their careers. These avenues included participating in AULSS competitions, volunteering at justice centres, and student leadership roles, among many others.

Director of Careers Sophie Tait organised our wonderful presenters, who included Celena Le, graduate at HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, Annie Yuan, final year student and law clerk at Piper Alderman, and Nadeesha Indigahawela, previous Education Director and associate to the Honourable Justice Bleby at the Supreme Court of South Australia.

Attendance at the event was up from last year, with approximately 30 students attending.



I would like to thank Sophie, Director of Careers, for helping to organise the event and the College of Law staff for allowing us to use their space.

Suggestions

The seminar was held at the College of Law offices on Grenfell St. I recommend that it be held there next year to help maintain the AULSS' relationship with the College and as it was a comfortable central location.

LK Legal Research

Date: August 9, 12 pm.

Venue: Ligertwood 5.04.

Cost: Free.



As aforementioned, we severed the 'AGLC 4 & Legal Research Seminar' into two separate events this year. The LK research seminar covered the legal research portion of the original seminar.

The seminar was held in Ligertwood 5.04, and students were seated facing the front around tables pushed together to form one long table. Students were given two documents: an advertisement for their coveted 'A Day at LK' and a highly detailed document outlining the session's agenda whilst also acting as a take-home resource that students could refer to later on. LK also generously provided lunch for students.

The presenters were senior associate Courtney Chow and associate Sean Pettingill – both 1st Class Honours Law School Alumni from the University of Adelaide who also work closely with law students in the LK Clerkship and Graduate Program. They were



incredibly engaging and approachable presenters, creating a safe and comfortable environment for students to engage with them and ask plenty of questions.

The event was well attended, with over 30 students attending, which can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the time of the event (noon) was an asset. Many students were already on campus at that time, and thus, it was convenient for them to attend. It was also good to have a sponsored event that was not after hours. Secondly, in line with the time of the event, it was also likely enticing to students that lunch was provided. Finally, LK sponsoring the event was likely a factor, as I had students comment that they attended to learn more about 'A Day at LK'.

Overall, this was a successful event that was highly appreciated by students as well as a good sponsorship source for the AULSS.

Suggestions

Next year's Director should reach out to LK early in the year to try and rehost the seminar. I also suggest that the seminar be held at noon again.

However, I suggest the next Director works with LK to shorten the seminar. It went for 1.5 hours this year, which was too long. Fifty minutes to an hour would work well.

Education x AALA Dumplings and Drafting

Date: August 16, 6 pm.

Venue: Ligertwood 5.04.

Cost: Free.

The Drafting and Dumplings Seminar is a collaboration between the AULSS and the Asian Australian Lawyers Association (AALA), introduced by last year's Education Director, Bryan Lau. Due to the positive feedback from last year, we decided to rerun the event this year.



The topic for the event was changed this year. Last year, the focus of the seminar was on drafting contracts. Edwin Fah, the host of the event, wanted the direction of this year's seminar to focus more on the fundamentals of legal drafting. He had reflected upon last year and felt that a sole contract law seminar would not be helpful for students, as contracts are rarely completely drafted by one person from start to finish.

Edwin spoke about the most common errors made by new graduates. He emphasised the importance of writing with intent and provided general tips for drafting standard legal documents such as client letters.

Edwin was an engaging speaker, and his thoughtful quizzes helped reinforce his presentation. He was also a pleasure to work with and indicated that he would be keen to make the seminar an annual occurrence.

The dumpling component enticed students to attend a seminar after hours. We catered with Joe Dumplings in Bowden, who were exceptionally responsive and even delivered the food to campus for us.

The event was a success, with over 30 attendees. The inclusion of dumplings in the name of the event was likely enticing to students.

I want to thank Edwin Fah for hosting such an insightful seminar and Bryan Lau for creating such a beneficial event.



Suggestions

My suggestions for next year are to host the seminar again and to keep the same caterers.

I also suggest moving the seminar to the first semester. Doing so would even out the number of events in each semester and allow for the AALA and HAL seminars to be sufficiently far away from each other.

Lastly, it would be good to encourage other AALA members to attend to allow for the event to have a networking component.

AULSS x Law Society of SA x College of Law x Leo Cussen Centre for Law GDLP Networking Night

Date: October 4, 6.15 pm.

Venue: Ligertwood 5.04.

Cost: Free.

The GDLP Networking Night is a seminar and networking opportunity that aims to introduce students to each of the three South Australian GDLP providers and aid students in determining which programme would suit them best. For the first time, the event was sponsored by all three GDLP providers and raised \$2500 for the AULSS in sponsorship.



This year, the event was hosted similarly to that of last year. Each provider was allocated fifteen minutes to give a short PowerPoint presentation. Following the presentations, students could ask the providers more specific questions at their stalls.

In the past, Leo Cussens was allowed to attend the event and give a presentation without paying the \$1,000 sponsorship fee. Understandably, the other providers felt this was unfair. Consequently, Leo Cussens was required to sponsor the event this year if they wanted to attend. There was a great deal of pushback from them, and they cited that they were not required to pay in the past. After some negotiations, Leo Cussen agreed to

enter into a special deal in which they paid a half-price fee of \$500. While not ideal, this is more than Leo Cussens has paid in the past and thus was a good starting point.

Although there were a few hiccups, including the caterers forgetting some of the food, the night was overall successful. We had 44 registrations and approximately 35 students in attendance.

I want to thank Navah and SJE Representative Jennie for their help in setting up and running the night and Alannah for her assistance in providing food to students and setting down the room.



Suggestions

For next year's Education Director, I suggest keeping the location as 5.04, as it is easy for law students and providers to find and is big enough to have each provider set up a small stall.

However, I suggest coordinating with the other Portfolios to ensure no concurrent events are held in 5.05, as the two rooms only have a thin wall of separation. This year, a competition's grand finale occurred concurrently with the networking night in 5.05. The networking portion of the event is inevitably loud and thus impacted the competition's ability to function at times, which was not ideal.

Secondly, I suggest approaching Leo Cussens early in the year and increasing their sponsorship fee to \$750. I hope incremental increases will help Leo Cussens adjust to their new requirement to sponsor the event.

Lastly, I suggest keeping the same caterers, Saigon Vietnamese Rolls in Toorak Gardens. Although there was a slight mix-up on the night, they provided fresh and delicious food and graciously gave us a small discount.

First Year Camp

Date: March 23-24 2024.

Venue: Adare Camp, McCracken.

Cost: TBD.

This year, First Year Representatives Laila and Tammy worked diligently to plan a camp for first-year students. Initially, the camp was planned to run from September 16-17, but unfortunately, due to a short advertising period, the camp was rescheduled to March for the incoming 2024 first-year cohort.



Although their plans did not come to fruition this year, they have created an excellent blueprint for next year's Director, who will have the summer break to ensure it is advertised effectively.

Despite the change in dates, the camp did not cause any budget losses. The bus company (BUSES R US Adelaide) allowed us to cancel our booking, and Adare allowed us to adjust our dates.

The camp is scheduled for March 23-24 at Adare Camp in McCracken, adjacent to the township of Victor Harbor. Adare has been a pleasure to work with and were understanding regarding the change of dates. The campsite includes access to the private commercial-sized kitchen and the Bethany dorm hall, which sleeps 60 people. It is close to the amenities of Victor Harbour and is a short walk from the beach. It is a perfect location for a camp.

I want to thank Tammy and Laila for their hard work in planning the camp. I cannot wait to see their hard work come to fruition in March!

Suggestions

As mentioned, the camp could not proceed as we needed more time to advertise it properly. As such, I suggest working with the Director of Communications as early as possible to allow for an extended advertising period.

Reflections on Law School & Legal Practice With The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher Kourakis

Date: October 12, 6 pm.

Venue: Ligertwood Moot Court.

Cost: \$10.

At the time of this report, the event has yet to occur.



The Reflections on Law School & Legal Practice Seminar is a new initiative created by the Education Portfolio this year. It is a collaboration between the AULSS and the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association (HAL). As a HAL member, I wanted to host a seminar collaborating with HAL to introduce more students to the association, especially since joining legal associations was highlighted as important in the Head Start Seminar.

The seminar will be hosted by the national patron of HAL, the Honourable Chief Justice Christopher Kourakis and will run in two parts. The first part of the night will run in a question-and-answer format, and students will have the unique opportunity to pose questions directly to the Chief Justice. The second half will be a networking opportunity where students can connect with their peers, members of HAL, and the Chief Justice. Catering from Diaspora Kouzina will be provided to facilitate networking.

I want to thank past Education Director and current HAL chair Peter Tantalos for helping organise the seminar and Chief Justice Kourakis for being our host.

International and Mature Aged Student Events

Over the course of the year, International Student Representative Aiden, and Mature Aged Student Representative Leah, hosted 4 events. These events were marketed as informal 'get to togethers' that aimed to connect with international and mature aged students who may feel isolated at university. The events provided opportunities to make new friends with like-minded individuals.



Aiden's first event was an informal dinner at Remy's Pizza Bar in Rundle Mall on May 14th. The event was free for students, who were provided with a free pizza dinner. This event was lots of fun, and it was great to meet so many new faces!





Aiden's second event of the year was a drink night at Marrymakers Roof Top Bar on September 10th. The event was free, and students were provided with one free drink. While I could not attend due to illness, Aiden ran the event excellently, and the students had a great time.

Aiden did a fabulous job organising international events this year, and I cannot wait to see what he brings to the role next year.

Leah's first event of the year was an informal coffee catch-up on February 24th. It was great to meet the new students, and Leah did a great job organising the event. The university does not provide a list of mature-aged students, so Leah has spent the year meticulously collecting and documenting students' details. She has excelled in her role, and mature-aged students have appreciated her warm and inviting approach.

Leah's second event for the year was a mature-aged brunch at Lot Fourteen on May 5th. The event was free, and students were provided with a free breakfast. While I could not attend due to other commitments, Leah and the 11 other students who attended thoroughly enjoyed the catch-up.



Electives Guide

The Education Portfolio has been working to update the 2021 Electives Guide this year. The revised guide will feature student testimonials, giving students an honest insight into the elective from a student who has completed it before. The testimonial will also rate their enjoyment and workload to help students choose the most suitable electives for them.

At the date of this report, this still needs to be completed but it is a work in progress and will be released to students before enrolment opens in early December.

Suggestions for 2024

This year has seen unprecedentedly low engagement across the portfolios. As such, my main piece of advice for next year's Director is to start on tasks as early as possible. This will allow you to maximise attendance even within a climate of low engagement.

As for events, if you create a new initiative, it might be worth running only some of the current education events. Attendance drops severely when students are overwhelmed by events. As such, do not feel pressured to run every event, every year.

Lastly, I recommend contacting firms and associations to sponsor more education events. LK sponsoring the legal referencing seminar in the second semester improved the event's quality as they brought expertise and provided catering.

Conclusion

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of the Education Portfolio this year. It has been a privilege to work with such motivated and passionate individuals. I look forward to publishing our Electives Guide soon and hosting our last Education event on October 12th.

There were so many amazing people who helped the Education Portfolio thrive this year. Firstly, I would like to thank Tony Tu, for his guidance and fabulous ideas this



year. Without his initial direction and ideas, the Education Portfolio could not have achieved what it did! I would also like to thank Patricia Pappas, whose patience and guidance helped me settle into my new role quickly.

I would also like to thank the executive, who welcomed me warmly into their team. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

Lastly, I could not end this report without thanking my team - Leah, Alannah, Navah, Laila, Tammy, and Aiden, who have all been fantastic support this year. I could not be prouder of all their hard work. I sincerely wish them all the best with their futures.

Best of luck to next year's Education Portfolio – I cannot wait to see what you achieve!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Sarantou". The letter "E" is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. The name "Sarantou" is written in a cursive script below the "E".

Eleni Sarantou

Director of Education

7 October 2023



Social Justice & Equity Portfolio Report

Director: Hamish McNamara

Representatives: Angela Carlisle, Holly Saberton, Lydia Mel, Jennifer Lamb, (Semester 1), Duaa Junaidy (Semester 2), Valentino Esposito (Dec 22'-March 23'), Kanella Miahopoulos (Semester 2), Xavier Mackie (Semester 1).

Introduction

Stepping into my capacity as Director of Social Justice & Equity, I quickly learnt that the mandate of this portfolio was significant and that this position allowed the Director to place their efforts into aspects which they felt more strongly towards and for me that was advocacy. I strongly believe as do my Portfolio that the AULSS has a significant base to reach its members and that this platform should be used to bring forth conversations about social justice issues and be used to advocate for those who are not always heard.

This year I set out to build upon the objectives of my predecessors to ensure that the work of this portfolio was taken seriously and the impact of it's work among members was recognised. As I conclude my time as Director, I fundamentally believe we have achieved this objective as reflected throughout our projects like delivering an AULSS statement of support for a 'YES' vote in the 2023 Referendum, ensuring that the free period product program achieved longevity and through bringing forth conversations about access issues in tertiary education.

The presence of this portfolio and subsequently, its effect among our members has been elevated and is distinguishable from past year's. I strongly believe it is the passion, hard-work and deep conviction towards social justice issues is what enabled my Portfolio to succeed throughout 2023.



Portfolio Governance

Portfolio Composition

Prior to the 2023 Special General Meeting, each Director was afforded the opportunity to express their views as to whether the portfolio size and composition was suitable for their needs. Those who sought to expand their portfolio's put such motions to the executive and subsequently the committee. In my capacity as Director, I was not of the opinion that the portfolio required further expansion and that to do so would be counterproductive and likely further burden a future director.

Unfortunately, throughout 2023 there were instances where the Queer Representative and Aboriginal Representative positions were vacant for an extended period. This was the result of both an early resignation and an individual not fulfilling their role per the responsibilities set out in the AULSS Constitution. I am of the belief that due to the enthusiastic and dedicated nature of the remainder of the portfolio neither of the responsibilities of each respective member were neglected. However, representation is an important facet of our organisation, especially in our Portfolio, therefore, I hope to see these positions no longer left vacant in the future.

Constitutional Changes to the Portfolio

Prior to the SGM I had brought forward a motion to the Executive to alter the title of 'Aboriginal Representative' to 'First Nations Representative'. This change was made to reflect current understanding of appropriate language when referring to Australia's First Nation's people. This is a developing area of terminology, and I would encourage the future executive to keep up to date with culturally and socially appropriate titles for its specialist roles.

When commencing my Directorship, I was adamant that the obligation upon this Portfolio to fulfill the sporting function of the AULSS was inappropriately placed. The work of social justice and equity portfolio is centred around social justice and equality and to facilitate wellbeing alongside our primary function is not only onerous but 'off brand' to the remainder of the Portfolio's work. Subsequently, with the support of the Executive, discussions were had as to where the sporting function would be best positioned in the AULSS. Taking into consideration the burden of fulfilling such a program, it was the Executive's view that this obligation to complete sport shall be removed from the Constitution entirely. This allows the AULSS and in practise its directors' discretion to decide when they want to undertake sporting activities.



Outlaws Program

The 'Outlaws Program' which had been created during a previous term was not active throughout 2023. This was primarily due to

a) the absence of a Queer Representative, the inability to access the social media pages of the Outlaw accounts; and the inappropriate title given to the program.

I would encourage a future director to reengage with the idea of facilitating this program; However, I am of the strong belief that the values and conversations that would be had with such a program were fulfilled in the existing SJE Program. Further, if the Outlaws Program was to be revived, I would highly encourage the Executive to reconsider the name given to the program to be less controversial and more equitable.

Portfolio Relationship with Faculty

Throughout my term as the Director of Social Justice & Equity, our portfolio has developed comprehensive relationships with members of faculty. These relationships have allowed us to facilitate events, resource-pool and advertise to a broader market. I am a strong advocate for collaboration between the Adelaide Law School and the AULSS, and I would strongly encourage future directors to maintain strong ties that have been forged during this term.

Heart to Heart Campaign('H2H')

As part of facilitating events relation to enshrining a First Nations Voice to Parliament, the Social Justice & Equity Portfolio often worked alongside the H2H Campaign. Led by Cornelia Koch, the H2H Campaign is a student facilitated groups whose goal is to provide accessible educational tools to assist parties make an informed choice throughout the Referendum Season. Cornelia and her team have been instrumental in allowing us to facilitate several of our events and has provided to be a mutually beneficial relationship for marketing, networking and more. The relationship forged between the AULSS and Cornelia's team I can confidently say has led to some terrific events for students and I commend her work throughout the year.

Respectful Ligertwood Committee

Throughout 2023, I worked alongside Dr. Jessica Vixen-Wilksh (Lex Salus) and Dr. Laura Grenfell to facilitate a range of equity and wellbeing events. Generally, the event expenses between the two bodies were split evenly and we would work collaboratively to source materials and to staff event. Together, we collaborated to celebrate 'Wear it Purple Day', 'R U OK Day' and an upcoming 'Stress-Less Event' slated for end of Semester 2. This relationship has been mutually beneficial for both the AULSS, and Adelaide Law School initiatives and I encourage the future Director to continue building on this relationship.



SJE Portfolio Online Presence

AULSS Social Justice Volunteering Board

Updated regularly, keep an eye out for ways in which you can give back to your community, while gaining invaluable skills! For any questions please contact socialjustice@aulss.org and check out the opportunities below!



Community Justice SA



Young Workers Legal Service



JusticeNet SA

Volunteer board

Created by 2021 Director of this Portfolio, the Volunteering Board on the AULSS Website is used to feature volunteering opportunities that exist within the Adelaide legal community. When I stepped into this role, the Volunteering Board have not been updated for significant time. The Portfolio updated the board once throughout this year and I thank both Dua Junaidy, Social Justice & Equity Representative and Samantha Kuan, IT Representative. I believe the board could receive more attention from a future director and the scope can be widened to include legal volunteering opportunities external to Adelaide whose eligibility is targeted at Undergraduate Students.

SJE Articles

Throughout 2023, less emphasis was placed on the publication of articles than in past years. Two publications were sent to *The Hilarian* and are currently featured on the AULSS Website. I thank both Jennifer Lamb, SJE Representative and Gavin Choong, of the National Grata Fund for their contributions. I would advise the future Director to determine at the start of their term that if they intend on publishing these articles throughout the year to find an outlet with greater exposure and traction to maximise their effect.



Advocacy

Advocacy and public interest events ran throughout the entirety of my term as Director. Our overarching theme for the year was the Referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament; However, we also brought forward discussions through our events on issues such as Neurodiversity, LGBTQIA+ Issues, Pro Bono, Legal Assistance, Humanitarian Aid, cultural and social diversity within the legal profession and Disability and access challenges in education. These events unlike fundraising ran throughout the entirety of the term.



Enshrining a First Nations Voice to Parliament Seminar with the Honourable Kyam Maher

The first advocacy event we held for the year was titled 'Enshrining a First Nations Voice to Parliament' Seminar. For this event, we had invited the Honourable Kyam Maher, current Attorney-General of South Australia to present a lecture. As the member of Parliament who introduced a First Nations Voice Legislation in South Australia, being the first state to do so in Australia he was in a great position to provide insight to our students about the opportunities. The AG spoke of his experiences throughout the dialogue and consultation stages prior to introducing the principal legislation and alluded to the challenges the campaign for 'YES' would experience in the Federal Referendum. Attendees were afforded the opportunities to ask questions of the Minister and overall was a robust event.

This event was highly successful, having over 55 attendees spanning across faculty and undergraduate attend. This record attendance was the highest the AULSS has experienced for a non-sponsored event in over three years and provided great momentum for the year. Organising this event was relatively simple, predominately liaising with the administrative staff of the officer. The AG is a very engaging public speaker whose willing schedule permitting to provide his time to speak to students so I would encourage the 2024 Director to reach out to him if desired.





'Diversity in the Legal Profession: Remembering George Duncan' Seminar

On the 51st Anniversary of Dr. George Duncan's death, the SJE Portfolio brought our local community together to discuss diversity as a factor in the legal profession. This Seminar brought together a diverse panel who provided robust conversation for attendees on issues such as the state of LGBTQIA+ Issues over the years and areas of reform we as a profession should be looking forward to now. The Panel consisted of Heather Stokes, Prominent Criminal Defence Lawyer and Trans Advocate, John Williams as Director of the South Australian Law Reform Institute ('SALRI') and Magenta Stoba, Student Representative.

Consistent with last year's event that possessed the same structure, the Student Representative Council ('SRC') held a memorial and afternoon tea prior to the Seminar. Having the two events run alongside one another boosted attendance and complimented the discussions held as part of our event.

I would strongly encourage next year's Director to continue to honour the legacy of Dr. Duncan and continuing to bring forth conversations about diversity as a factor in the legal profession. Further, I would like to thank Angela Carlisle and Lydia Mel for facilitating this event in addition to our panellists for sharing their experiences.

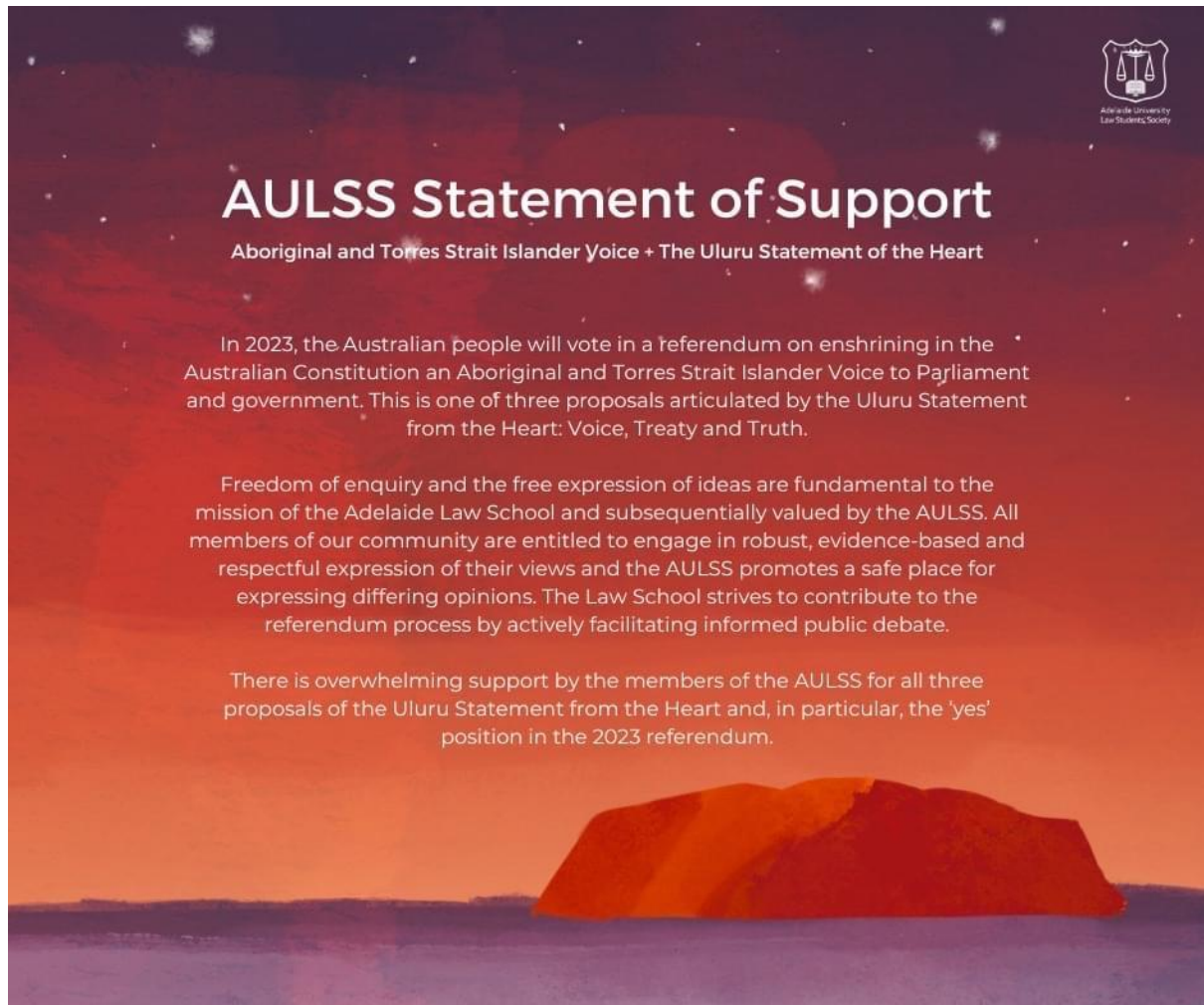




IDAHOBIT Day

On the 17th of May, the SJ&E Portfolio recognised the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. These celebrations were held in conjunction with the Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ('GEDI') Initiative led by Anne Hewitt. This event included a performance from undergraduate students from the Elder Conservatorium, free cupcakes for attendees and built chain links to hang in the Nexus Building Foyer. It is my observation from this event in addition to others highlighting LGBTQIA+ issues that we facilitated, that these events are incredibly important for our members especially to be seen within our community. I would encourage the next Director to continue collaborating with these initiatives throughout the university and continue to demonstrate allyship by ensuring the university is a safe, inclusive, and accepting place for all students.





Developing a 'YES' position for the 2023 Voice Referendum

As Director of this Portfolio, I strongly felt that we as a society had an obligation to use our platform to bring awareness and show support for the 2023 Referendum process. Publicly expressing the support of AULSS Members was a significant step and likely would not have been feasible if the Adelaide Law School were not also planning on adopting similar measures. The above statement was adapted from the position that the Adelaide Law School delivered on the 6th Anniversary of the Uluru Statement of the Heart.

In the drafting of this position, the Executive were conscious of the fact that our membership is diverse and that there may be alternate opinions within the community that should be respected. We strongly believed that whatever statement would be created should support an open environment for robust debate and education to occur. The process for reaching this position involved bringing forth the discussion and subsequently a vote before the executive prior to bringing the motion to adopt the above statement before the Committee. When this motion was presented to the Committee, the motion carried with no abstentions or objections for AULSS Members.





6th Anniversary of the Uluru Statement of the Heart Celebrations

In late May, the SJ&E Portfolio in collaboration with the Adelaide Law School convened to recognise the 6th Anniversary of the Uluru Statement of the Heart and National Sorry Day. As part of this event's celebrations, we heard accounts from a range of Guest Speakers including Uncle Rod who had delivered his 'Welcome to Country'.

The keynote was delivered by Michelle Hopkins, a SA Government Department Director and X Women who shared her confronting experience as both a child and again as a young mother as a person who experienced the consequences of the 'Stolen Generation'.

Both the Adelaide Law School represented by the Dean of Law, Judith McNamara and the AULSS, represented by me, publicly delivered comments on the upcoming referendum. Both commentaries indicated each respective organisations support for adopting the Uluru Statement of the Heart in full, specifically the 'YES' position for the 2023 Federal Voice Referendum.

This was a monumental achievement not only for the AULSS but our wider community to show our support for such an important issue within Australia's social discourse.



'Disability, Neurodiversity & the Law' Seminar

On the 1st of August 2023, the SJE Portfolio facilitated 'Disability, Neurodiversity & The Law' Seminar. Organised by SJE Representative Jennifer Lamb, this event aimed to bring awareness and prompt conversations about the challenges facing people with disability and those who are neurodiverse in both an educational and legal profession context.



The format of this Seminar was a panel discussion including Paris Dean, Barrister at Victoria Square Chambers, Natalie Wade, Founder of Equality Lawyers, Dr. Peta Spyrou, Academic and Lawyer and Laura Oliphant-wright, Student Representative. This was a highly successful panel discussion which is largely due to the broad range of perspectives that formed part of the panel. The conversations that were discussed included the lived experiences of people living with disability working in the legal profession, the challenges of neurodiverse persons in tertiary education, the current flaws in discrimination legislation and subsequently areas of reform.

Surrounding this event, their offline conversations with faculty as to how we can make our assessments and coursework broadly more approachable for neurodiverse individuals. I strongly believe that by facilitating this event has gone a long way in prompting conversations regarding accessibility within our own community.

I commend Jennifer for efforts in arranging this event as it brought forward discussions of inequity with are often absent within our professional space. For the next Director of this Portfolio, I would highly encourage them to look back at the successes of this event and the awareness it subsequently brought and incorporate some form of ongoing advocacy within the space. I am also of the opinion that the student advocacy that could take place regarding these issues are those a future Education Director should pursue.





'Pro Bono, Legal Aid & the Law' Seminar

On the 22nd of August, the Social Justice & Equity Portfolio hosted 'Pro Bono, Legal Aid & the Law'. It was my intention when facilitating this event that students would be exposed to how public interest law operates within the Australian legal system and what opportunities exist for young lawyers to give back to the community via the profession.

The panel for this seminar stemmed from backgrounds across the public interest law spectrum from Low-Bono-Legal Aid. Panellists for this event included Alice Rolls, Head of Strategy at the National Pro Bono Centre, Lucinda Byers, Chief Legal Officer at the Legal Services Commission, Matt Simpson, Director of the Accessible Justice Project and Principal at LK and Barb and Maria of Women's Legal Service

Issues that were addressed as part of the panel discussion included the current pro bono environment and the challenges of the 'Missing Middle' who are not eligible for legal aid but are not in a financial position to seek paid legal assistance. The ways in which the private sector can be motivated to do more pro bono work and areas of reform were also addressed. Following the event, students were provided educational materials from the Australian Pro Bono Centre and were given the opportunity to network with the panellists. For those students interested in gaining volunteering experience, Women's Legal Service were taking registrations for their next pool of volunteers.

I strongly appreciate the contributions of this panel and I would encourage next year's director to facilitate a similar event next year.



Diverse Legal Societies Webinar

The concept of this event was originally brought to me by the current President of the AULSS, Bryan Lau who envisioned a way to celebrate different cultures within the profession. When workshopping this event, consideration was given as to making it more an industry networking night where prospective graduates could discuss with each respective societies representatives about the benefits of getting involved.

There were several factors which hindered our ability to host this event in the 'Industry Networking Night' format. The first being that a conflicting AULSS event was being hosted on the same evening that we had advertised to panellists which may have affected attendance if we proceeded with this format. Secondly, due to the limited presence of diverse societies within South Australia, it was unlikely that many societies' would be able to logistically get representatives to physically attend. Finally, the cost of facilitating the networking night was taken into consideration. Unfortunately, the previous Executives of the AULSS had adopted an approach when working with certain NFP legal groups that they do not pay any sponsorship to attend. I strongly believe this is an outdated practise and is not fair on the AULSS especially considering these groups attending the events will likely benefit from membership.

To troubleshoot these challenges, the Portfolio decided to host the event online, therefore, accommodating interstate attendees and removing cost barriers. Attending organisations for this event included:

- Filipino Australian Lawyers Association ('FALAW')
- Asian-Australian Lawyers Association
- Law Society of South Australia
- Pride in Law

Unfortunately, this event did not have great engagement when compared alongside our other events for the year. The representatives of each respective society spoke about benefits of membership in their respective portfolios and why young graduates specifically, will benefit from industry support. I thank Angela Carlisle, Dua Junaidy and Lydia Mel with their support in bringing together this event.

The concept of this event will require workshopping before it is facilitated in 2024. I would encourage the next director to work alongside the executive to determine the appropriate format and overarching 'goal' of this event before re-attempting it.



SJE X Careers: Careers in International Law Webinar

The 'Careers in International Law' Webinar is a forthcoming event facilitated by the Director of Careers, Sofia Tait and I. When workshopping this event, it was our intention to deliver an event which met a previously uncovered aspect of law by the AULSS. At the time of writing this report, the panellists for this event are still being finalised; However, it is our intention to bring together individuals from the humanitarian aid-public international law space including the Australian Government and Australian Red Cross. We chose to adopt a webinar format for this event so we could attract a broader range of panellists outside of Adelaide.



180DC x ABSS x ASA x AULSS 'Social Impact Careers Night'

This collaborative event is set to occur on the 11th of October and is being facilitated by 180 Degrees Consulting, the Adelaide Business Student Society, the Adelaide Sustainability Association and the AULSS. This event was pitched to us by 180DC who were seeking to facilitate an event tailored for individuals with an interest in social purpose and would like to pursue a career in this space. Panellists for this event are not necessarily legal profession specific but are beneficial perspectives to students for where they can take their career outside the law and have a positive impact on the community.

Fundraising

In past years, the SJ&E Portfolio have chosen to place significant times and efforts into the fundraising aspects of this portfolio. It was my early observation that these events such as bake sales were physically taxing for representatives especially considering they did not yield huge fundraising amounts. I had set the goal at the start of the year I wanted to run less fundraisers but still reaching the fundraising amount raised by my predecessor in 2022. In the past, fundraising efforts have been dedicated towards Justice Net's Walk for Justice Initiative alongside other charities. It was our early decision, that any fundraising efforts raised this year, would be donated to Walk for Justice exclusively.

In 2022, the fundraising total of the SJ&E Portfolio was matched by the AULSS; However, that did not occur in 2023. Taking this into consideration the amount raised compared to last year was almost 50% higher than last year across two fundraisers as opposed to four events last year.

SIZZLE 4 JUSTICE

Our first fundraising event for the year was a BBQ which was where we raised the greatest proportion of our fundraising revenue for 2023. Much to my early surprise, the AULSS or YouX do not own their own BBQ Equipment and hire in from Olympic Party Hire when they require these products.

As part of the BBQ, the Portfolio sold the usual suspects in addition to LSL Cards which has just been launched. Revenue from this event exceeded \$500.00; However, due to the cost of hiring equipment, overheads were high. We were able to access a YouX grant which assisted in covering these expenses.

Later in the year I learnt that the Adelaide Law School has the 'Lex Salus BBQ' which has not be used for several year's because they cannot keep gasoline cannisters on premises. This BBQ is stored in the Foyer storage facilities and I would encourage you to reach out to the Lex Salus Coordinator regarding its use. Alternatively, I do believe it is worth the financial investment of the AULSS, if it were to purchase its own BBQ for future event use as it would limit overhead expenses and reduce time organising hiring equipment.



Bake 4 Justice

The second fundraiser held was a bake sale which we made the strategic decision to facilitate in two locations to maximise on foot traffic exposure. However, due to the point of time in the semester, the Ligertwood Building was quitter than usual and therefore, impacted potential sales. The second stall was held in the Hub and generated the majority of revenue; However, there was another bake sale occurring at the same time which hinder sales in addition to a YouX members lunch.

I would encourage the next Director if considering a fundraiser like this to facilitate it in the Hub where there is far more exposure but to find a way to determine whether the space is going to be occupied by any competing clubs. I thank Holly for organising these two stalls and for organising leftover baked products to be donated to the Hutt Street Centre.



LSL Contributions

This year an arrangement was made between the Vice-President and I that a 10% of LSL sales would be contributed to SJE's fundraising efforts. In 2023, 68 cards were sold and therefore, \$68.00 was raised for SJE. If this arrangement continues next year, I will strongly encourage the next director to seek a greater amount from this arrangement (i.e. 25%).

Walk for Justice 2023

The two fundraisers in addition to the LSL contributions and donations from the wider community totalled over \$1,644. This amount did not comprise of any form of 'matching donation' from the AULSS that had occurred in previous years. This contribution to Walk for Justice 2023 was the second highest university organisation (1st being the Adelaide Law School with a donation of \$1,713).

The culmination of our fundraising was the walk itself which commenced at Adelaide Oval and concluded at Adelaide Zoo. I would like to extend a broader thank you to those within our community who contributed financially or chose to walk with the AULSS as part of Walk for Justice in 2023. I would encourage next year's Director to consider forming a team with the Adelaide Law School to combine fundraising efforts.



Wellbeing

The AULSS Period Product Program

The AULSS Period Product Program was initiative adopted at the end of 2022, where the Portfolio would purchase sanitary products and place them within the female identifying bathrooms within the Law School.

This year it was the objective of our portfolio to transform this idea into a more accessible and sustainable program that could achieve longevity and form part of the AULSS agenda long-term. At the start of the year, the Portfolio sought funding to assist in the expenses of operating this program. We were fortunate enough to receive a small grant of \$200.00 to fund the initiative from Anne Hewitt, in her capacity as Coordinator of the GEDI Initiative. Although, this amount assisted us cover a portion of the expenses, I was aware that we would need to look for a more feasible, long-term solution.

In early April of 2023, I reached out to the Health and Wellbeing Team based in Lvl 6 of the Adelaide Hub Central. Having knowledge that they were looking to adopt a university-wide initiative to supply free period products, I advocated for this to encapsulate the Ligertwood Building.

In early May, we had secured an ongoing allotment of period products for use in the Ligertwood Building therefore, removing the cost barrier that would have hindered the AULSS long-term. We are now receiving temporary measures from central wellbeing in the form of re-stocks of Taboo Period Products whilst they look to develop a long-term model that doesn't require as much manual restocking.

Having achieved longevity of this initiative, I am happy to safe that access to free period products have become far more accessible and sustainable for our community.

I have immense appreciation for Chelsea, Jacquie, Amy, and the wider Health & Wellbeing Team as if they were not involved, these efforts would not have been achievable. Further, I thank Jennifer Lamb for maintaining the program throughout the year with the restocking of the bathrooms.



The AULSS Period Product Program moving forward

As part of the relationship forged with Central Health & Wellbeing, the Ligertwood Building is likely going to be installed with a vending machine which will replace the temporary measures currently in the bathrooms. The vending machine will feature several products allowing users to select to products most suitable to their own personal needs.

We have been fortunate enough to have been involved in the consulting process for this next phase including the designs of the vending machines. It is my expectation that these machines will be installed in mid-late 2024.

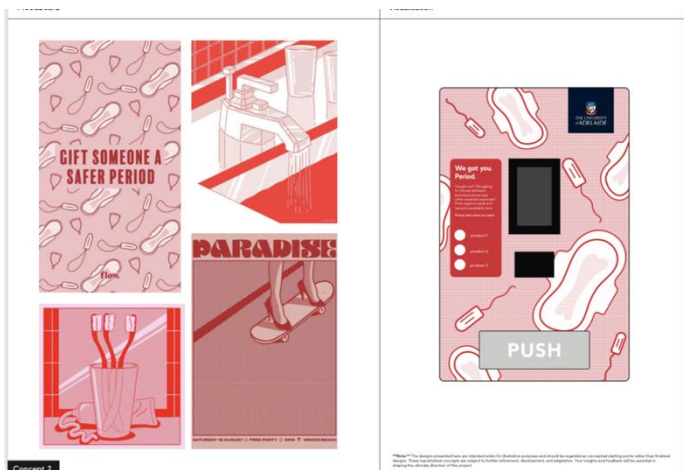
The work on this program has been comprehensive and has taken a significant portion of the Portfolio's times and efforts and we have been rewarded through the success of the program. Taking this into consideration, I strongly encourage next Year's Director to continue with the momentum developed and not slip on the work has been done.

Australian Law Societies Association ('ALSA')

The work of our portfolio in the advocacy leading up to and delivery of the AULSS Period Product Program was recognised by ALSA as '2023's Best Health & Wellbeing Initiative'. This award serves as further motivation for our portfolio to continue to advocate in this area and I hope that this will inspire the next director to do the same.

Sexual Health

As part of the offering extended by Central Health & Wellbeing, the Portfolio has begun stocking Condoms and lubricant within the bathrooms. An issue we have encountered is that when the products were placed in the male-identifying bathroom they were misused and therefore, are only stocked in the female-identifying bathrooms. I encourage next year's director to find a solution to this issue.



SPORT

At the commencement of my Directorship, I was very adamant that the responsibility to deliver a sporting program to AULSS Members was a burden that had been incorrectly placed on the SJ&E Portfolio. However, with the SGM held on the opposite end of the year, we were not able to avoid these responsibilities. I would like to extend my appreciations to Jennifer Lamb for liaising with our external stakeholders and members to deliver our sporting program.

SEMESTER 1 SPORTING

In Semester 1, students were able to participate in an extensive program of team sports. This offering included Soccer, Basketball, Ladies and Mixed Netball and Badminton and were playable at Unley and ARC Campbelltown facilities. The administrative burden of organising this program is significant and if it were to run again, I would encourage the Director to ensure that all communications between sporting groups with the teams occur external to the Portfolio. The program was beneficial and enjoyed by our members with one team electing to continue as a team outside of the AULSS in Summer Netball. If any member of the AULSS Executive intends on facilitating such a sporting program, it is our Portfolio's recommendation they do so at LifeBeAt Unley due to their comprehensive and friendly administrative support.

Inter-society soccer

During Semester 2, the AMSS facilitated Inter-Society Soccer on the 11th of August which was a Friday Evening. The event brought together a range of societies and was sponsored by Redbull Events and Marketing. With the removal of the sporting obligation from the AULSS contribution, I foresee this style of once-off collaborative sporting events to be the new norm for the AULSS due to the smaller administrative and cost burden.

2023
AULSS

SJE PRESENTS...
SOCIAL SPORTS

	INDOOR SOCCER	BASKETBALL	LADIES' NETBALL	MIXED NETBALL	BADMINTON
LOCATION	UNLEY/IMMANUEL				ARC CAMPBELLTOWN
REGISTRATION	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	
GAME FEE	\$69	\$69	\$69	\$69	\$5 (pp)

SEASON DATES:
 INDOOR SOCCER: 16th April to 28th - Finals in Late September
 BASKETBALL: 16th April to 26th - Finals in Late September
 LADIES' & MIXED NETBALL: 16th April to 28th - Finals in Late September
 BADMINTON: TBD

DAYS AND TIMES:
 INDOOR SOCCER: Mon-Thurs 6-11PM, Sundays 2:30-10:30PM,
 BASKETBALL: Tuesdays (Mens) Tues 6-11PM, Sundays (Mixed) 2:30-10:30PM
 LADIES' NETBALL: Mondays to Wednesdays 6-11PM
 MIXED NETBALL: Wednesdays & Thursdays 6-11PM, Sundays 2:10-10:30PM
 BADMINTON: Thursdays 9AM - 12PM

More Information visit: <https://www.lifebeatunley.org/>
 More Information on Badminton: <https://www.arccampbelltown.com.au/>



WELLBEING EVENTS

The SJ&E Portfolio facilitated a range of wellbeing centric events predominately in Semester 2 when we were no longer fundraising for Walk for Justice 2023. The majority of these events were in collaboration with the Respectful Ligertwood Committee, and I wish to thank Dr. Jessica Viven-Wilksh and Dr. Laura Grenfell for their contributions.

Stress-Less Semester 1

During Semester 1, the SJE Portfolio collaborated with the Activities Portfolio to facilitate a wellbeing centric event. The day consisted of puppies, free baked goods and mocktails delivered by the amazing Red Bull Team. The SJE Portfolio also organised large format games i.e., Jenga from Olympic Party Hire for the event.

Stress-Less Semester 2

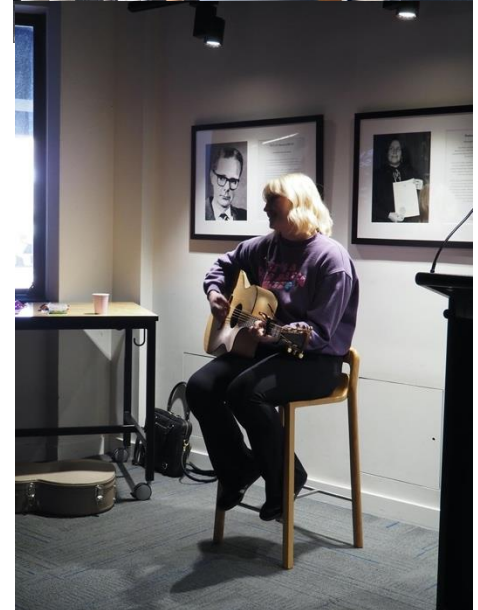
The second stress-less event is yet to have occurred at the time of writing this report. This time around we will be working with several members of faculty to facilitate a day focussed at reducing stress and providing a 'break' for our members. This will include a gardening workshop, games, baked goods, and table tennis.

Wear It Purple Day

The SJ&E Portfolio in collaboration with the Respectful Ligertwood Committee facilitated 'Wear It Purple Day'. This is an important celebration recognising the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ Youth which is especially pertinent in a tertiary education context. The event included a speech from the Dean of Law in addition to a performance from the Elder Conservatorium. The event included polaroid cameras and free baked goods as part of the celebrations. I thank the contributions of the Elder Conservatorium and the members of the SJE Portfolio who assisted in this event.

R U OK Day

On the 14th of September, the SJ&E Portfolio collaborated with the Respectful Ligertwood Committee to deliver R U OK Day. The event included a coffee cart that provided free coffees (paid for by the Respectful Ligertwood Committee), baked goods and mental health resources supplied by UofA Health & Wellbeing. Both the Student Life Booth and the Table Tennis were enjoyed by students. I thank the contributions of Chelsea and her 'Wellbeing Warriors' for their assistance in facilitating this event and the members of the SJE Portfolio who assisted in this event.



Comments on 2024

As alluded to in my introduction, being the Director of Social & Equity, you possess a broad mandate to deliver a significant portion of the AULSS' functions. With the removal of the sporting obligation, I suspect the next Director will be positioned well to focus on the social justice and access issues more freely without this burden.

I would strongly advise the next Director of this portfolio to adopt an overarching theme for their term which for me was the education campaign on 'The Voice'. Doing so will provide a clarity in your pursuit and ensure you can lead your portfolio through your vision. Taking into consideration the substance of this report, I would conclude that much of what will inform the next steps for the Director will be based of the outcome of the 2023 Referendum, the infrastructure approval of period product vending machines and as always, the social discourse.

I look forward and am excited to see the work of the next Director who will be positioned well to succeed due to the hard work and passion of this year's portfolio as demonstrated through our events and initiatives. It is my greatest desire that the dedication, persistence, and hard-working nature shown this year will continue next term to continue bringing forth conversations and advocating on issues of accessibility, equality, and justice.

Conclusion

Since its creation, the SJ&E Portfolio have played a fundamental role in the operations of the AULSS. I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to work alongside my team to facilitate educational events addressing social justice issues relevant to our members. For me personally, I step away with many features of which I am proud for including the AULSS adopting a 'YES' position on the 2023 Referendum and the sustainability of the Period Product Program. None of this would have been achievable without the endearing support and loyalty of the Social Justice & Equity Portfolio.

Hamish McNamara

Director of Social Justice & Equity

09 October 2023

