



YOUR STUDENT REP
ELECTIONS
MEET THE
CANDIDATES

ucsa.org.nz/election



UCSA

Tumarū
MATAIO
Tumuaki | President

WHY I'M STANDING AGAIN?

Growing up in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, I was raised with the belief that leadership is about service. It is about giving back to your community, lifting others up, and leaving things better than you found them. Those values have shaped who I am today and are the reason I first decided to stand for election as Pacific Representative in 2025. I wanted to ensure Pacific student voices were heard, valued, and represented. More importantly, I wanted students to see someone who looked like them sitting at the decision-making table. Representation matters, not because of a title, but because it reminds people that they belong and that their voice matters.

The following year, I had the privilege of being elected as your UCSA President. Serving in this role has been one of the greatest honours of my life. It has challenged me, humbled me, and strengthened my commitment to serving every student at the University of Canterbury.

This past year has been one of growth. I've developed a strong understanding of how the University operates, how governance and decision-making work, and how effective advocacy is achieved. I've built trusted relationships across the University and learnt that meaningful change doesn't happen overnight. It comes from listening, collaborating, asking difficult questions when needed, and ensuring students remain at the centre of every decision.

What continues to motivate me is not only representing students but inspiring them.

As a Pacific student, a mum, and someone who has balanced study, family life, and leadership responsibilities, I understand that university can sometimes feel overwhelming. There are moments when you question whether you belong, whether you're capable, or whether you can achieve your goals while juggling everything else life throws at you.

I want current and future students to know that your background, culture, or circumstances should never limit what you can achieve. If my journey inspires even one student to believe in themselves and step forward, then I've made a difference beyond any policy or meeting.

Throughout my term, I have worked hard to be an approachable and visible President. Whether it's talking with students on campus, attending club events, advocating in governance meetings, or listening over a coffee, I've always believed that leadership starts with listening. Every conversation has helped shape the advocacy I've taken into the rooms where important decisions are made.

I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved over the past year, but I also know our work isn't finished. That is why I am seeking your support for another term as UCSA President.

This year has given me the experience, knowledge, and relationships needed to continue delivering meaningful outcomes for students. Rather than starting from scratch, I want to build on the momentum we've created and continue strengthening the UCSA as an independent and trusted voice for every student.

If re-elected, I will continue advocating for an inclusive and connected campus where every student feels supported, represented, and empowered to succeed. I want to continue strengthening student wellbeing, enhancing the student experience, supporting our incredible clubs and communities, and ensuring students remain at the heart of University decision-making.

I also know affordability remains one of the biggest challenges facing students. Over the past year, I have strongly advocated for the Government to grandfather the Fees Free policy so current students are not disadvantaged by changes made partway through their studies. This is an issue I remain deeply committed to, and I will continue advocating for fair outcomes that recognise the expectations and commitments students made when they enrolled at UC.

When I first ran in 2025, I simply wanted to give back to my community. Today, that purpose remains exactly the same. The difference is that I now have the experience to build on the work we've started and continue leading with integrity, compassion, and determination.

It has been an incredible privilege to serve as your President. I would be honoured to continue serving you for another term, working alongside you to build a stronger, more connected, and more inclusive University of Canterbury.

Together, we've built strong foundations. Your Voice, Our Promise. Now, let's keep building the future of our student community.
Meitkai
Tumarū



Katie POLMEAR *Tumuaki / President*

Kia ora, ko Katie tōku ingoa. I am a postgraduate student in Media and Communication, and I am running for President of the UCSA because, frankly, students deserve better.

As a proud Māori student, the values of manaakitanga and kotahitanga guide the way I think about leadership. They remind us that our communities are strongest when we look after one another, when we make space for each other, and when we recognise that everyone has something valuable to contribute. Leadership is not about having all the answers. It is about listening, bringing people together, and making sure everyone has a seat at the table, and if there aren't enough seats, finding more chairs.

University is meant to be a place where we discover who we are, make lifelong friends, pull all-nighters we will never admit were avoidable, and occasionally remember to do the readings... (we should all do the readings). But for many students, university has become a balancing act between rent, groceries, work, assignments, and wondering whether buying a coffee this week was a financially irresponsible decision.

Personally, I do not think that should be normal.

I am running because I want a UCSA that remembers who it exists for:

The students, not the bureaucracy.

One of the biggest reasons I am standing is because I believe students deserve a far more democratic Students' Association. Representation should not begin and end at election time, only for students to disappear behind office doors for the rest of the year. A Students' Association should be a living, breathing part of campus life, one where students have meaningful opportunities to influence decisions, challenge ideas, and shape the future of their university.

Representation should not be something that happenstostudents; it should happenwiththem.

UC is full of incredible people. Artists. Scientists. Engineers. Future teachers. Future nurses. Students working night shifts, raising kids, commuting from out of town, or trying to survive another Canterbury winter in a flat that definitely was not insulated properly. We all come to university with different experiences, challenges, and aspirations, but we all deserve a Students' Association that recognises those differences and fights for every student equally. Because at the heart of the UCSA should be one simple idea: students are not just members of this university, they are the university.

I want a UCSA that is bold enough to challenge decisions that hurt students. And if the UCSA won't, then I will. A Students' Association should never be afraid to stand up for the people it exists to represent. I want a UCSA that is transparent and accessible, where students do not have to go searching for clues to understand what decisions are being made or why they matter. Information should not be hidden behind layers of bureaucracy; it should be clear, open, and easily accessible to everyone. I want a UCSA that students actually feel comfortable approaching. I want to be a President who is visible, approachable, and present on campus, not someone who feels distant behind an office door. I want to be the kind of President you can stop between lectures to raise a concern, share an idea, or have a good old complaint about Learn. (I cannot promise I can fix Learn, but I will absolutely listen and probably complain with you.)

I am not running because I think one person can magically solve every problem. If I could, I would probably start with rent prices and assignment deadlines.

I am running because I believe students are strongest when we organise together. Real change has never happened because someone waited for permission. It happens when people come together, share their experiences, and decide they deserve better and that is the kind of UCSA I want to help build: democratic, transparent, welcoming, and unapologetically on the side of the students.

If you trust me with your vote, I will show up, I will listen, and I will fight for our student community every day.

Let the record show, I did want to say something cool, hot and funny but being required to write 600 words made that nearly impossible.

Anyway, **lets declare, Katie Polmear as your 2027 UCSA President.**



UCSA

Taylor ZEEMANN

Tumuaki | President

Kia Ora, everyone! I'm Taylor, and I'm running to be your 2027 UCSA President. Instead of hitting you with a boring manifesto, I want to talk about the real stuff that actually impacts your daily life on campus—because honestly, what's going on.

First up: Why are Otago's library hours outshining ours?

Seriously, why are we being locked out of studying where we want, when we want? The absolute bare minimum should be matching Otago's hours. I want to extend Puaka-James Hight and Central Library hours properly throughout the whole semester—not just during exams—so you can study on your schedule.

Speaking of terrible hours... what is going on with the Rec Centre on weekends?

Why are we forced to wait around until 9:00 AM just to get a workout in? Whether you're an early bird trying to smash out a session or dealing with an insanely crowded gym, opening times should be consistent weeklong. Let's extend hours, make it less crowded so you can train what you want.

Ever wondered where your \$1,100 Student Services Levy actually goes?

Because here's a fun fact: only about 23% of it goes to the UCSA. Most people assume the whole lot goes directly into student perks, but the reality is murky. I want full financial transparency, so you know exactly where your cash is being spent.

Attendance-marked lectures... why are we still doing this?

We should be assessed on what we actually learn, not on whether we filled a physical seat at 8:00 AM. I want a consistent, fair policy across all departments, so you have the freedom to manage your own time without unnecessary penalty points.

The AI nightmare: False accusations & outdated tools

This one really gets to me. Right now, if one department suspects you of using AI, you're basically treated as guilty until proven innocent but in another you get plead your case? To make matters worse, UC and Lincoln are among the last holdouts in NZ still relying on unreliable detection software like Turnitin to flag AI. It's outdated tech and it's stressing students out for no reason. I'm pushing to ditch Turnitin's AI checker and standardize a policy that actually protects student rights and gives you a fair process to defend yourself.

And let's be real... campus parking is a absolute mess.

Finding a park shouldn't feel like winning the lottery. I want to actively push for practical ways to increase student parking and make it way more accessible and affordable.

A little bit about who I am...

For starters, I'm a third-year Civil Engineering student (and I promise that's the only time I'll mention I'm an engineer!). When I'm not practically living in Eng Core, you'll find me helping run UC Civil and Environmental Engineering Society (CivSoc) events as treasurer, or tutoring Māori and Pasifika students through Māori and Pasifika Engineering Students Association.

At the end of the day, my main goal is simple: I am here to help you.

I am running alongside the TVK team. Vanessa is running for VP-Academic and Kyan is running for general exec. Together we span law, commerce and engineering and we hope to best represent all students.

Vote Taylor for UCSA President 2027!!

Your Campus. Your Voice

ALSO RUNNING FOR: TUMUAKI TUARUA AKORANGA | VICE-PRESIDENT - ACADEMIC AND MANGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



Jake HOLLAND

Tumuaki Tuarua Pāhekoheko | Vice-President - Engagement

Greetings! "Cheaper Meats, Safer Streets". My name is Jake Holland, and I am running for Vice President of Engagement for the UCSA. I am a first year, doing a Bachelor of Arts double major of Political Science and Chinese. I am currently a general executive of UC's Socialist Society.

In the past I have represented New Zealand at International scouting jamborees and participated in NZ Model United Nations. I believe that knowledge should be shared to all, and if I feel that something is wrong, I will say it. In my free time, which is slowly dwindling, I enjoy listening to all kinds of music except country, harshly reviewing movies, and playing Minecraft Civilisation events (on God). On a Wednesday night you will find me at the Foundry doing karaoke instead of studying.

I am running because I see ways that the UCSA this year has been lacking in what it should be. It has not been trying to be a union for students, it hasn't been apparent, it hasn't fought tooth and nail for you like it should be. It didn't organise a protest for Fees Free, it spent all of the club grant money before the end of the first semester, and we didn't know because the minutes weren't released for half of the semester. This is not right.

My campaign is split into two halves, the Backend and Frontend. The Backend consists of UCSA policy moving forward, with further transparency, stronger advocacy for Fees Free, and putting the Union back in Student Union.

The Frontend is made up of policies that you will see directly.

I will put a price cap of \$3.50 on sausage rolls, the food that sustains us and should be kept affordable for students, who are struggling in the current cost of living crisis. This may follow to pies and Jumbo sausages roll in the future.

I will also make sure a new zebra crossing or traffic island is put in between the UCSA and Homestead Lane. Students must scramble the street between traffic just to get to Uni. We must stop an accident that will eventually happen.

Along with these two major policies, there will be a new event, known as "UC's Got Talent". There are students and clubs here with skills that don't have many opportunities to show off. This will give them a chance to shine and let students enjoy the things they love on campus.

And finally, Whatever the people want. There are things I most likely forgot or did not know about. I shall listen to you and what needs changed or added.

If you want to ask me anything, just send me a message. Cheers.

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



Riley NEUPAUER

Tumuaki Tuarua Pāhekoheko | Vice-President - Engagement

Kia ora koutou! I'm Riley (he/him), a 4th year postgraduate student, and I'm standing in this year's UCSA election for Vice-President Engagement! I'm currently pursuing my Masters of Policy and Governance, and I'm also deeply involved with the club scene here at UC. Having moved to Aotearoa from the United States in early 2023, I started university with practically zero ties to the area. But I quickly discovered that there were a myriad of opportunities for me to connect with fellow students, engage in community events, and advocate for the causes I'm passionate about! UCSA clubs have been a great avenue for this, and I've presided over several executive teams during my time at UC. These connections are what makes university so special, and I'm excited to bring my skills and experiences to the VP Engagement position to help other students make the most out of their enrolment.

As a club executive, I've continually worked to advocate for real student issues, including alcohol and drug harm reduction, sexual violence prevention, and of course Fees Free. Campus should be a place where everyone feels safe and supported, which is why I'm committed to improving our accessibility and equity resources. With over 20,000 students here at UC from a wide range of backgrounds, it's crucial to ensure that our advocacy works for everyone, not just a select few. Approachable mental health support, safer lighting around campus and halls, more food options for dietary requirements, and appropriate conflict resolution are just a few of the policies I'll continue to promote in office.

When talking about student engagement, you can't forget the fun side of things either! On-campus social events are a core part of the university experience, and should be able to be enjoyed by all students as a way to connect with peers, discover new interests, and unwind from schoolwork. I've already coordinated a variety of events, such as last semester's Fall Festival, and I'm super keen to bring new ideas to the table at the UCSA! From flexible and transparent club support to student feedback that actually listens, I know what's needed for interesting and accessible extracurricular activities.

Whether you're looking for exciting new events, campus support and resources, or just wanting your time at uni to go safely and smoothly, I'll be there fighting for you every step of the way.

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



Dominic
TOLI

Tumuaki Tuarua Pāhekoheko | Vice-President - Engagement

Scooby dooby dooooo (please read my blurb its short :)

Malō e leleiiii fam. My name's **Dominic Toli** and I am running for **Vice President Engagement**, and it would be an absolute pleasure to be your voice on the UCSA exec again next year. Why should you vote for me? Because I listen to concerns and act on your Feedback.

I can back that up too. I was the Pacific Representative on the UCSA this year. I promised to sit on the club grants decisions and ensure a Pacific voice (mine) was there helping make the decisions; I did that. I promised to strengthen Pacific club and UCSA relations, so I held a meeting between the Pacific club execs and the UCSA clubs team.

I also said I would hold a talanoa mai session and act on student feedback – Students wanted a Pacific page in Canta, so my friends and I began Pacific Plugged. Students wanted more posts on UCSA support services so the exec and I created content to display these services on more social media like UC_Pacific on Insta. Students wanted a Pacific Ball, so guess what? It's happening on the 22nd of August (shout out Pacific Clubs and Lachlan)!!

Besides that, I'm a second-year law student and love spending time with family and friends doing whatever. I just came back from Adelaide from a law competition, and plan to watch Spider-Man this weekend. I also just finished a three-week Minecraft phase with Xavier Stack. My favourite place to eat is Nando's, the best movie I watched this year was The Odyssey, and I am a proud son of Tongan/Samoan/European Parents.

This year I am running with a team of other students who are excited to represent you. Vote **CELINE SEBASTIAN** for Vice Pres Engagement, **BOAZ CHAU** for Equity, **JEAN WRAGG** for Pacific Representative and **ZAVIER STACK** for General Executive. We will strive to be the best Exec for you by chasing any crazy monsters you face during study by channelling our inner Scooby Doo!

If you want to know more about me OR have questions about why I'm running, then email me at dto39@uclive.ac.nz or call me at 022395 – just joking, I'm not boutta post my number, BUT I check my emails often, so I'm always down for questions or a chat



UCSA Cathleen WANG

Tumuaki Tuarua Pāhekoheko | Vice-President - Engagement

Kia ora!

My name is Cathleen Wang, and I'm excited to be running for Vice President of Engagement.

I am running with

Tumarū Mataio for President
Beatrix Gilling for Vice President of Academic
Ana Togiāso for General Executive

Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of representing students through the UCSA. Along the way, I have met so many incredible people and had the opportunity to work alongside students, community organisations, and local leaders. These experiences have shown me just how important it is for students to feel connected, supported, and genuinely listened to.

That is why I am running again. I know there is still more we can do to make student life even better. I want every student to feel like they belong at UC, whether that is through making new friends, getting involved on campus, or knowing their voice can make a real difference.

One thing I always remind myself is that everyone in our lives starts as a stranger. It only takes one conversation, one event, or one opportunity to build a genuine connection. Those connections can grow into friendships, support networks, and a real sense of belonging. As Vice President Engagement, I want to help create more of those moments for every student at UC.

My campaign focuses on three key priorities:

- **Building stronger connections with local community boards** to create more opportunities for students to engage with the wider Christchurch community.
- **Making sure student voices are heard in local decision-making** by advocating for student feedback whenever policies or initiatives affect young people.
- **Bringing more study treats, surprises, and fun activities to campus**, especially during busy assessment periods and events, because sometimes a small gesture can brighten someone's day and remind them they're part of a community that cares.

I'm passionate about creating a campus where students feel welcomed, supported, and excited to be involved. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected UC community where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

**ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI TAURITE ME TE ORANGA | EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE AND
MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE**



Srishti

CHAKRABORTY

Tumuaki Tuarua Akoranga | Vice-President - Academic

Srishti Chakraborty
Candidate for Vice-President Academic

Master of Marketing | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha – University of Canterbury

Kia ora! I'm Srishti Chakraborty, an international postgraduate student pursuing my Masters of Marketing at UC.

Moving to New Zealand to begin postgraduate study has been one of the most exciting and yet equally challenging experiences of my life. Like many students, I've had to adapt to a new academic system, navigate unfamiliar processes and build a sense of belonging from scratch. Along the way, I realised that while every student's journey is different, we all want the same thing: to feel heard, supported and represented.

That's why I'm standing for **Vice-President Academic**. To me, this role is about much more than attending meetings or collecting feedback. It's about ensuring that student voices genuinely influence academic decisions. Students deserve to know that when they speak up, their ideas don't disappear into a survey they lead to conversations, actions and meaningful change.

If elected, I'll focus on five priorities:

- **Turning feedback into action** by advocating for regular "You Said, We Did" updates, so students know how their voices are shaping academic improvements.
- **Strengthening academic advocacy** by working alongside faculty representatives, class representatives and University leadership to champion practical, evidence-based solutions that improve the student experience.
- **Making representation approachable** by creating open opportunities for students from every faculty, programme and background to share their experiences and feel comfortable reaching out.
- **Supporting student success** by recognising that academic achievement is strengthened by wellbeing, inclusion and a learning environment where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.
- **Leading with transparency and accountability** through clear communication, regular progress updates and visible representation throughout the year.

Outside the classroom, you'll usually find me exploring Christchurch's cafés, creating lifestyle and food content, staying active or simply chatting with people from different backgrounds. Some of my favourite conversations have started over a coffee or while walking across campus, and they've reminded me that the best ideas often come from listening. That's the same mindset I would bring to this role.

This city has taught me that belonging isn't something we find, but it's something people help create. That's why I make efforts to meet new people, join campus activities and build connections wherever I can.

Therefore, if you believe representation should be transparent, focused on meaningful outcomes, and approachable not intimidating and ever wondered whether your voice really makes a difference at UC, I would love the opportunity to help you prove that it does and would be honoured to earn your vote.

Together let's turn student voices into academic action.

Because every student deserves to be seen, heard and represented.

**ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI TĀURA | POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE, MĀNGAI TĀWĀHI
| INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE**



**Vanessa
DOLLIMORE**

Tumuaki Tuarua Akoranga | Vice-President - Academic

Lousy library hours?

Still attendance marked?

AI, falsely accused?

Is Turnitin crap?

Study spaces non-existent?

These are the conversations that students are having, yet nothing changes.

Hi, I'm **Vanessa Dollimore**, and I'm running for **Vice-President Academic**, alongside Taylor Zeemann for President, and Kyan Simōn for General-Executive.

I am a fourth-year student studying law, political science and history who understands the slightly depressing reality of juggling lectures, assignments, work, and extracurricular commitments. I've experienced the frustrations of inconsistent University policies, limited study spaces, and unnecessary barriers to academic success (despite the amount of money that we all pay to be here!! LLL). Students deserve someone who will take these concerns seriously and push hard for change, instead of rolling over to the status quo.

Library hours should reflect when students actually study. With the cost of living and a hostile job market, students are increasingly having to balance employment and extracurriculars. As such, many students who are unable to study at home are left without a comfortable place to study outside of our library hours. These should be extended.

Similarly, with how busy students are, course **attendance requirements** must be scrapped. If students need to attend to do well, they will. If a student can do well without attending, and completes their assessments well, their final grade should not be penalised.

Regarding assessments, with the rise of AI, students are anxious about being falsely accused of misconduct. This is exacerbated by the process for dealing with AI accusations varying across departments. Further, the Turnitin AI detector seems to be crap. Auckland, Massey and Victoria University have stepped back from using this to detect AI due to its notorious unreliability. Why do we still use it? Students deserve better.

Study spaces are another issue. Finding a seat can feel impossible during the day. Students shouldn't have to spend 30 minutes wandering around campus looking for somewhere to work between classes. Rather than accepting overcrowding as inevitable, the University should make better use of existing spaces. Rooms and areas that sit largely unused, such as parts of the UCSA building or unused lecture theatres, should be opened as study areas during the day.

Picture the beautiful universe of 2027, where you can escape your annoying flatmates at 9 pm on a Sunday to find sanctuary at the library. Picture no course marking your attendance while you work to pay your rent each week. Picture not being scared of a false AI accusation and having a black mark on your permanent record. Picture having a space to study between classes without a trek! Vote **Vanessa Dollimore for Vice-President Academic**, and this could be your new reality.

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



Jae
DUGUID

Tumuaki Tuarua Akoranga | Vice-President - Academic

Kia ora koutou katoa,

My name is Jae Duguid, and I'm running to be your Vice President (Academic) in 2026. I lived in Wellington, Central Otago, and Washington State before moving to Christchurch. I completed my undergraduate study in astrophysics, and have since started my postgraduate work in climate and atmospheric physics. Outside of study I spend my time working as the vice president of the debating society and a UC Fees Free organsier. I deeply believe that academic success does not start in the classroom. It starts with creating an environment that helps you achieve your best. The first priority of the Vice President will always be making sure students at UC have that environment available to them.

I have three key points of focus for 2026:

1. Evidence based AI policy: It is clear by now that, whether we like it or not, AI is here to stay. That means that students need guidance and solutions from the university, instead of leaving individual lecturers to test their own ideas or raising the weight of final exams even higher. I would work towards a consistent AI policy from the university that doesn't hurt student's achievement.

2. No fee increases: It's no secret that financial pressure can drastically hurt academic performance. Over the past few years there has been a sharp rise in costs to students including rent, groceries, and university fees. Students are looking down the barrel of a third consecutive year of maximum fee increases, which is simply not sustainable for many. The removal of Fees Free for new students, especially for those who entered university under the expectation of a free year, has only worsened the cost of living pain. I would directly advocate for no fee increases in 2026, alongside the reinstatement of Fees Free.

3. Transparency: The job of a student union is to represent the student body and make sure the university works for the students. This is not possible if the UCSA is not transparent with the student body about what they do, as well as how and why they do it. I will put clear communication at the forefront, and make sure that you can understand what myself and the UCSA are doing to achieve your interests.

None of this can happen without input from you, which is why I will make sure to regularly meet with and listen to any and all students that I represent. My job is to hear the student voice and make sure that it is fairly represented when decisions are made at the university. I am committed to making a university that works for all of us.

Ngā mihi nui,
Jae Duguid

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



**Beatrix
GILLING**

Tumuaki Tuarua Akoranga | Vice-President - Academic

Tēnā koutou katoa, my name is Beatrix Gilling (she/her), and I am running to be your Vice President Academic because it is stressful to be a student.

Being a student to me means cramming in time to study between a tight schedule of classes and part-time work if you're lucky to have it, and struggling to stretch your money to cover to your bills while not losing your mind. As your Vice President Academic, my main goal is to make studying here as stressless as possible. This means ensuring that if you're struggling with your study you should be able to find out very easily what help you need and you should be able to get that help.

My academic journey has not been the smoothest, I struggled throughout my undergrad, and most recently I broke my arm not long before of semester one this year, needing help is an experience I am very familiar with. I am not an excellent student, I feel grateful to be where I am in doing my Honours degree in Cultural Studies, and I would not be here still if it wasn't for the help I received from lecturers and professors who have looked out for me and sent me to speak to relevant helpful people, and I want all students to be able to receive that help. You should feel supported by your university, no matter who you are or what you are studying.

So, what are my key policies?:

- Academic Transparency; pushing for the processes around academics to be clear and understandable to students, from consistent grading and feedback to the already in progress work to make special consideration clear.
- Accessibility and Equity; ensuring that all students are empowered to learn and engage within their courses, this includes encouraging a range of study spaces on campus to making sure no one is left behind by changes the university is looking into with the rise of genAI.
- A Strong Student Voice; as time goes on the university changes, especially around exams as the university is running out of space and time for our growing student population, I will ensure that you are listened to in these processes and taken seriously. The university is here to help us, and we are the experts on what it means to be a student.

I am proud of the work I've been able to do on the exec so far in 2026, and I hope you will elect me for 2027.

You should also vote for Tumaru Mataio, Cathleen Wang, and Ana Togiaso. Voting is open from Wednesday 12th of August to 5pm on Friday 14th of August.

For Vice President Academic and Postgraduate Representative, vote BEATRIX!!

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI TĀURA | POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE



**Meretitia
ROFFEY**

Tumuaki Tuarua Akoranga | Vice-President - Academic

Kia ora, ko Meretitia Roffey tōku ingoa, he uri tēnei nō Ngāti Porou, Te Arawa, me Ngāti Tūwharetoa anō hoki. I am currently in my penultimate year of a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biochemistry.

He rei ngā niho, he parāoa te kauae, true leadership carries depth, substance, and integrity beyond a title. This whakataukī reflects the kind of leadership I value and the approach I would bring to the role of UCSA Vice President (Academic).

My reason for standing for this role is simple: advocacy. This year, I have had the privilege of serving as Tumuaki Hāumi of Te Akatoki, where I have worked alongside tauira Māori, listened to their experiences, and supported kaupapa that strengthens the presence and voice of Māori students within our university. Through this, I have gained a deeper understanding of the importance of representation, connection, and ensuring that students have someone who will stand alongside them.

The role of Vice President (Academic) strongly aligns with the mahi I have already been doing. At its heart, academic advocacy is about understanding the experiences of students, identifying where barriers exist, and working collaboratively to create positive change. I want to continue this on a wider scale by advocating for all tauira at UC.

I also recognise that leadership is not about starting from scratch, it is about building on the strong foundations created by those who have come before us. There is already important mahi happening across UC to support students, and I want to continue strengthening these efforts while creating new opportunities for tauira to succeed. My goal is to ensure that student voices remain central to decision-making and that the progress already made continues to grow.

As Vice President (Academic), I will focus on strengthening communication between students and the University, advocating for transparent and accessible academic processes, and ensuring student feedback leads to meaningful outcomes.

The Unis uara reflect the values that guide my leadership. Through manaakitanga, I will lead with care and ensure students feel respected and supported. Through whanaungatanga, I will build strong relationships across the diverse communities that make up UC. Through tiakitanga, I will take responsibility for protecting and strengthening the student experience for current and future tauira.

I do not believe leadership is about having all the answers. It is about being willing to listen, learn, and act. I want to bring the same commitment, care, and dedication that I have brought to Te Akatoki into the UCSA, ensuring every student has a representative who will advocate for them and help create a university where they can thrive.

Ngā mihi nui



Celine SEBASTIAN

Tumuaki Tuarua Akoranga | Vice-President - Academic

Scooby dooby doooooo (please read my blurb it is short :)

Namaskaram! Do you want to make sure you are listened to? I am Celine Sebastian, and I hope to be your Vice Pres Academic next year to do exactly that!

I am currently your Law Representative at the UCSA, so I know the processes behind pushing for change in the academic space. Attending various meetings has given me an inside look at what are some of the common problems faced by students in various faculties. As the Law Rep, I collated students' concerns about the Law Faculty and brought it up in faculty meetings. I was also part of leading the International Feedback Session, where I listened to valuable feedback about courses and safety in and around campus.

When I am not attending meetings or lectures, you will probably find me crocheting or listening to South Indian music. I also enjoy making choreographies to dance at events. I am a foodie and will never miss an event that offers free food.

The main problem I would be chasing is the inconsistent availability of past papers across faculties. I will also make sure that students have a fair chance when dealing with issues. Students may find the transition to different forms of assessments challenging, and I will make sure I represent you when important decisions are made. I am also excited to run postgrad feedback sessions to know how student life can be made better for you.

A special shoutout to all international students on the UC campus! It can't be easy studying in another country away from your families! I also aim to accommodate your interests and help with any issues that you face while studying here.

It would be my pleasure to represent you in the UCSA Exec again and do more to help make your student life the best.

This year I am running with a team of other students who are excited to represent you. Vote DOMINIC TOLI for Vice Pres Engagement, BOAZ CHAU for Equity, JEAN WRAGG for Pacific and ZAVIER STACK for General. We will strive to be the best Exec for you by chasing any crazy monsters you face during study by channeling our inner Scooby Doo!

If you feel like you need someone to help navigate student life, text me @celine.sebastian3512 on ig!

**ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI TĀURA | POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE AND
MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE**

**UCSA****Nikita
AGNIHOTRI***Māngai Tāura | Postgraduate Representative*

Kia ora! I'm Nikita Agnihotri, and I'm running to be your Postgraduate Student Representative.

I am currently pursuing a Master of Business Information Systems (Business Analytics) at the University of Canterbury. As an international postgraduate student, I understand the excitement of starting a new academic journey, as well as the challenges that come with balancing coursework, adapting to a new environment, building friendships, and planning for future careers.

I chose to stand for this role because I believe every postgraduate student deserves to feel heard, valued, and supported. Our postgraduate community is incredibly diverse, bringing together students from different countries, cultures, and professional backgrounds. I want to ensure every student has a voice in shaping a university experience that is inclusive, engaging, and rewarding.

I am approachable, committed, and genuinely enjoy listening to people's experiences and ideas. Whether your concerns relate to academics, wellbeing, campus life, career opportunities, or simply feeling connected, I want to be someone you can rely on. Strong representation begins with listening, and meaningful change begins with collaboration.

If elected, I will advocate for improved communication between students and the University, greater awareness of available support services, stronger wellbeing initiatives, more networking and social opportunities for postgraduate students, and increased career development events that prepare us for life beyond university. I will also work to ensure international students feel welcomed, included, and empowered throughout their UC journey.

Being your representative is about more than attending meetings—it's about building a supportive postgraduate community where every voice matters and every student has the opportunity to succeed.

I would be honoured to represent you. If you see me on campus, please stop and say hello, share your ideas, or simply have a chat. Together, let's create a stronger, more connected postgraduate community.

Vote Nikita Agnihotri for Postgraduate Student Representative!

**ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI TĀWĀHI | INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE**

**UCSA****Audi
CHANDRA***Māngai Tāura | Postgraduate Representative*

Kia Ora! My name is Audi Chandra—yes, like the Germany car— and I'm studying Master of Applied Data Science in my first year. I'm from Indonesia and returning to university as a postgraduate after 10 years of working can be very exciting journey but also a daunting one to explore which is why I'm running for Māngai Tāura | Postgraduate Representative.

I believed that my past experience as a President of my bachelor's degree student organization can help other postgraduates in completing their study here while the experiences doing so also help me in growing up. My background as a data scientist also helped me in gathering feedbacks while informing involved teams about the feedback and the solutions.

If elected, I want to hold regular postgraduate forums where taught master's, research master's and doctoral students can raise shared ideas and concerns, directly or anonymously. I will also work with relevant university and Students' Association teams, current postgraduates and alumni to improve existing support for students considering postgraduate study. They deserve honest insight into workload, scholarships, research and career outcomes before making their decision.

For current students, I will advocate for a clearer postgraduate hub where essential contacts, deadlines, funding, events, academic support and opportunities are easier to find. I will also consult students about gaps in journals, databases, software, specialist training and research funding, and bring the strongest evidence-based priorities to the appropriate committees.

I know some of this work maybe already in-progress. I will first listen, review existing initiatives and learn from the current representative. Where something works, I will help maintain and expand it; where gaps remain, I will advocate for practical improvements.

Let me be a service to you guys in reaching your goals!



**Manisha
DUTTA**

Māngai Tāura | Postgraduate Representative

Kia ora! I'm Manisha Dutta, a Master of Marketing student, and I'm running to be your UCSA Postgraduate Representative because I believe postgraduate students deserve more than just a seat at the table we deserve to be heard. As an international student, I've experienced the excitement of starting fresh, but also the challenges of navigating a new education system, building professional networks, and making big academic decisions far from home. That's why I want to advocate for three things that matter: stronger industry connections so we graduate with opportunities, not just qualifications; clearer and more flexible pathways for international students navigating course changes; and fair, transparent processes that ensure research students aren't left relying on a single supervisory relationship when important decisions are made. When I'm not studying, you'll probably find me reading, watching films, exploring the wilderness, trying new food, or just people watching. If you want a representative who listens, speaks up, and gets things moving, I'd love your vote!

**ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI TĀWĀHI | INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND
MĀNGAI TAURITE ME TE ORANGA | EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE**



YOUR STUDENT REP
ELECTIONS



UCSA Priyansha JAIN

Māngai Tāwāhi | International Representative

Kia Ora! I'm Priyansha Jain, and I'm running to be your International Representative. I'm a first-year Master of Business Information Systems (MBIS) student, and like many of you, I arrived at UC with excitement, a few suitcases, and plenty of questions.

Those first few weeks were a mix of excitement and uncertainty. I was learning how everything worked- finding accommodation, navigating university systems, adjusting to a new style of learning, building friendships, balancing assignments, and searching for part-time work-all while being thousands of kms from home. UC has many excellent services, but I quickly realised that knowing support exists is different from knowing where to go, who to ask, or when to ask for help.

That experience is why I'm standing for International Representative. I'm not speaking about challenges I faced years ago-I'm living them right now. I understand the excitement and uncertainty of studying in a new country, and I want to help make this journey easier for current and future international students.

Outside my studies, I enjoy meeting people from different cultures, exploring Christchurch, and helping others whenever I can.

If elected, I will focus on:

- 🌐 **Support Beyond Orientation:** Advocate for regular international student check-ins throughout the semester.
- 💬 **Clearer Communication:** Work with UC and UCSA to identify information gaps and improve access to existing support.
- 🗣️ **Your Voice, Real Outcomes:** Gather feedback, raise concerns, and share updates so students know their voices are making a difference.
- 🤝 **Building Meaningful Connections:** Encourage opportunities for domestic and international students to connect through clubs, volunteering, and shared interests.

My promise is simple: to represent your voice with honesty, empathy, and action.

I'm new here-but I'm here for you. Together, let's make UC feel like home. I'd be honoured to earn your trust and your vote.



UCSA Boaz CHAU

Māngai Taurite me te Oranga | Equity Representative

Scooby dooby dooooo!

你好 (nei hou)!, I'm **Boaz Chau**, and I'm running for **Equity Representative/Māngai Taurite me te Oranga** and **General Executive/Māngai Whakahaere**. I'm a Conjoint BCom/BSci student, majoring in Economics, Finance, and Computer Science.

In my study of both business and science I have learnt just how impactful a little support and belonging can land depending on what faculty you're in. I've seen students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, fall through the cracks simply because no one was advocating for them. That's why I'm running: to make sure equity isn't just a buzzword, but something the UCSA actually delivers on, alongside real, accessible support for student wellbeing.

When I'm not playing football, you'll find me doing the very serious work of doomscrolling with a matcha in hand, occasionally interrupted by fits of reading women's literature. Football taught me teamwork and showing up for people; doomscrolling taught me resilience in the face of overwhelming, mostly bad content, a skill I'm told is highly transferable to student advocacy.

As your rep, I'll focus on:

- Genuine equity initiatives for underrepresented students, not just symbolic representation
- More visible, stigma-free mental health support on campus
- Introducing JOY back into the campus through fun inclusive events

If you've got questions, or just want to chat, flick me a message or catch me on the pitch (or mid-doomscroll). And while you're at it vote for the whole squad: **Dom** for **VP Engagement**, **Celine** for **VP Academic**, **Jean** for **Pacific** and **Zavier** for **General Exec**. Let's make equity and wellbeing central to what UCSA does, vote **Boaz**!

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



**Ryan
EAGLES**

Māngai Taurite me te Oranga | Equity Representative

My name is Ryan Eagles, and I am running for General Executive and Equity Representative. I believe every student deserves to feel supported, represented, and connected within our university community.

Originally from Wellington, I moved to the University of Canterbury to pursue my passion for storytelling and creative media. I am studying a Bachelor of Digital Screen, majoring in Cinematic Arts and minoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Outside of university, I am a competitive floorball goalkeeper representing Canterbury and a recipient of the Queen Scout Award.

Through five years with Scouts Aotearoa, I contributed to initiatives focused on diversity, inclusion, neurodiversity, and gender and sexuality. I have also worked with sporting organisations at community and international levels to help develop transgender inclusion policies and create more equitable environments.

My experiences as a UC student, including navigating significant health challenges, have highlighted the importance of accessible wellbeing support, flexibility, and understanding. As a transgender student, I understand the value of representation and ensuring student voices are heard and acted upon.

If elected, I will focus on:

- Improving student wellbeing and support services
- Strengthening student representation across all UC campuses
- Advocating for inclusive and accessible spaces
- Supporting more dietary-friendly food options
- Improving communication between students, leadership, and teaching staff

Representation is more than listening; it is about taking action. I want to help build a university community where every student feels valued, supported, and able to succeed.

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



YOUR STUDENT REP
ELECTIONS



Māngai Taurite me te Oranga | Equity Representative

Kia ora koutou! My name is Lucy Grant (she/her) and I'm excited to be running for Equity Rep this year!! I'm a second-year Political Science major, a certified Jafa (but Ōtautahi is my new love), a big fan of the underground gig scene and queer friendly spaces. When I'm not locking in on assignments you can find me at the thrift shop scrounging for deals, at a gig night, at work bartending, or debating the political and economic state of the world right now.

I'm standing because all students deserve their voices to be advocated for. I've got experience standing up for student voice from the grassroots level and know the difficulties that many students face being listened to and brought to the table. I want to make sure the UCSA always keeps students first in their advocacy, with a focus on collaborating with underserved communities across campus.

The Equity Rep must be ready to hear from and work with everyone, collaborating to achieve better outcomes and provide opportunities to thrive.

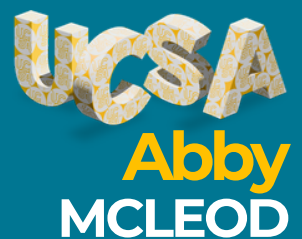
As Equity Rep I will; Advocate for better safe spaces on campus, Ensure our events lineup reflects our diverse student population, Pursue policy change to enable gender neutral bathrooms across older buildings, Maintain a focus on accessible spaces for all, Continue to collaborate with clubs that advocate for students, Always be ready to listen :)

If you see me around campus, feel free to approach me and let me know what you're looking for in your Equity Rep. I feel extremely privileged to be running for this role and hope to bring my energy and passion for platforming student voice.

If you're keen to follow along with my campaign, follow me on Instagram - @LucyGforEquity.

Diva out x

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



Māngai Taurite me te Oranga | Equity Representative

Candidate did not supply a blurb.



UCSA Lincoln MUMUTA

Māngai Pasifika | Pacific Representative

Talofa lava, and warm Pacific greetings friends & fam!

Ko Lincoln Jnr. Mumuta ahau (he/him), a proud Samoan studying Law and Social and Environmental Sustainability. More Māori and Pasifika students are enrolled in university today than at any other point in history.

As our Micronesian, Polynesian, and Melanesian communities continue to flourish, we need strong Pasifika representation now more than ever. To me, community is built on Tautua (service to others), Alofa (love), Fa'aaloalo (respect), and Lotogatasi (unity).

These values shape who I am and how I aspire to lead. As your Pasifika Representative, I will strengthen connections within our community, advocate for greater academic and professional opportunities across all fields, and ensure our voices are heard wherever decisions affecting us are made.

Outside of university, you'll find me championing Pasifika identity. I've served in governance as a Youth Representative on the SPACPAC Governance Board, supporting initiatives for Pasifika secondary school students through Polyfest, careers expos, and speech competitions. As a New Zealand-born Samoan, I'm passionate about reconnecting with my language and culture, earning top placings in national Samoan speech competitions. I also served as Cultural Leader at Rolleston College, currently sit on the Selwyn Youth Council, and serve as a youth leader at my Samoan Methodist Church. Through these experiences, I've developed the leadership, communication, and service skills I believe will help me represent you well.

The strength of the Pacific has always been our people. Together, let's strengthen one another and build a community where everyone is valued, seen, and empowered to succeed without systemic barriers.

As the Māori whakataukī reminds us:

"He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata."

What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

ALSO RUNNING FOR: MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL EXECUTIVE



UCSA Jean WRAGG

Māngai Pasifika | Pacific Representative

Kia orāna kōtou katoatoa and bula vina'a my peoples! My name is Adi Jean Velodroka Teinakore Wragg - yes, it is a tongue-twister, but every name is given with meaning and so I rep it with pride! I am running for the position of Māngai Pasifika - Pacific Representative.

Born and raised in the islands, it definitely took a village to raise me... I was a free child who enjoyed running barefoot through the village, sneakily following my older siblings to the "big people" swimming spots, and fishing for my own snack on the beachside every time my big back wanted a lil munch. I was a menace to my aunts and sisters, but they always returned it with love, and a strict reminder on who I am and what it means to be part of a community.

As Pacific people, we are communal societies, we deeply value our families, land and culture. Which oftentimes contradict the individualistic set-up of western societies like the one we find ourselves in here at university. These issues must be addressed so that we as Pacific peoples are able to excel in every space we find ourselves. I am here to do something for the people who shaped the person I am today. To give back to the communities that raised me and contribute something that would make a genuine difference for us as Pacific people.

Our ancestors were voyagers, and we today can still make waves.

P.S. I am running alongside some amazing people this election so please go and cast a vote for **Celine Sebastian** for Vice-President Academic, **Dominic Toli** for Vice President Engagement, and **Boaz Chau** alongside **Zavier Stack** for General Exec!

Meitaki atupaka and vina'a va'a levu,



**Sean
COLLINS**

Māngai Whakahaere | General Executive

Hey there!

Imagine a semester where your biggest coursework hurdles are addressed before they have a chance to knock you off your game. Now stop imagining – we can make this happen.

My name is Sean Collins and I am running for General Executive | Māngai Whakahaere; looking to represent the engineering faculty. I am a second-year engineering student specialising in electrical and electronic engineering.

I am no stranger to the difficulties and challenges that arise as a result of miscommunication and inconsistency in coursework. In saying this, I feel that these issues are easily avoidable, given this day and age, and something that students shouldn't need to deal with in their day-to-day.

I am a big believer in (but still often struggle with!) creating balance amongst completing coursework, working jobs, maintaining relationships, and participating in the hobbies and activities that keep us happy and healthy. For me, these often end up competing with each other, forcing compromise.

I want to help students be able to achieve a better balance by fighting for clarity in our courses, tackling specific, real issues before they cause disruption, and creating more opportunities for us to connect and gain a greater sense of community within our own immediate cohorts and beyond.

I bring the unique skillset and qualities required to excel in this role. I have great people skills, am an effective communicator, and know how to relate, sympathise, and draw on perspectives outside of my own worldview. I want to put these skills to use for the betterment of the student body as a whole.

My priority is simple: I want university to be an environment where everyone can be and feel at their best, across all facets.

If that's something we agree on... Vote Sean!
#CrackOnWithCollins



**Kyan
SIMŌN**

Māngai Whakahaere | General Executive

Kia Ora, my name is Kyan Simōn, and I am running to be one of your General Executive Representatives on the UCSA Exec. I am a 2nd year Economics and Political Science student, and am running alongside the TVK Team! Student life is not easy; study, work, bills and flatting are constant pressures on students who are trying to perform well in a difficult environment. The job of the UCSA is to make student life as easy as we can, whether that be through welfare, representation, advocacy, or advice. Often people talk about what the UCSA is doing now, and what they would like to change in the future – but very few people realise and want to deal with the existing problems that the UCSA has the power to advocate for now. **NOT GETTING ENOUGH OUT OF YOUR STUDENT SERVICES LEVY?** The UCSA gets only 23.1% of the \$1100 fee you pay every year; the rest is given straight to UC. I will advocate for the UCSA, and therefore students, to see more of the money they are paying for support. **FALSELY ACCUSED OF AI USAGE?** The university does not have a consistent approach to dealing with AI disputes; that needs to change. **NOT ENOUGH TIME IN THE LIBRARY OR GYM?** The UC library and Recreation Centre have abysmal hours during the weekend; I will campaign to extend them – at least to match Otago. **TURNITIN MAKING YOU WORRY ABOUT ACCUSATIONS OF PLAGIARISM?** UC is one of the only major universities that still uses Turnitin, a highly flawed system. I will campaign to change it to something more reliable. The UCSA is the best instrument students have to change and improve their experience at UC. So let's make it work as well as we can – **Vote Kyan Simōn for General Executive.**



UCSA

Zavier STACK

Māngai Whakahaere | General Executive

Kia Ora.
Ko Xavier Stack tōku ingoa, he uri tēnei nō Waikato-Tainui.

I'm Xavier and I am running for General Executive/Māngai Whakahaere. I am currently undertaking a double degree in Law and Arts and wish to bring my experiences to the UCSAexec.

My own journey through university has been shaped by the people around me — the peers, mentors, and friends who backed me when things got hard and helped me find my feet. That fostered support made all the difference, and is exactly why I understand just how much good representation and genuine community can mean for a student's experience at UC.

As General Executive, I wish to bring that same spirit to UCSA: bridging the gap between us students and the upper faculty so uni life can be more than just assignment overload and deadlines. That means pushing for better support and resources, but it also simply means just making uni fun.

I am also very lucky to be campaigning with a very talented team of students, so vote for them too: Vote **Celine Sebastian** for **VP Academic**, **Dominic Toli** for **VP Engagement**, **Boaz Chau** for **Equity** and **Jean Wragg** for **Pacific**.

Ngā mihi,
Vote Xavier



UCSA

Ana TOGIASO

Māngai Whakahaere | General Executive

Talofa lava! My name is Ana Togiaso, and I am running for General Executive/Māngai Whakahaere, alongside Tumarū, Cathleen, and Beatrix.

I am in my 3rd year studying towards a Bachelor of Laws (one more year to gooo). Being President of the UC Pasifika Law Students Society (UCPLSS), I completely understand the struggles that come with law school. Whether it be hefty statutes and case-law we go through weekly or the amount of content we must memorise, this experience I have as a law student equips me to advocate for your needs and challenges. With my knowledge and familiarity of law school, I hope to fulfil the Law Representative role.

If I'm not buried in case-law, you can catch me frequenting Café 1894, trying out new dessert or boba spots in the city or walking around Pacific Development Team events with a camera in hand. As your representative I intend to focus on empowering student's success and wellbeing, advocate for a continuation of Fees Free, providing more opportunities to network with professionals outside of university, and an equitable place of belonging for all students here at UC. I have been fortunate enough to be supported at UC by amazing leaders at UCSA which inspired me to run this year. If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to get in contact with me or look out for me on campus.

Ia manuia, Ana Togiaso :

The Elections

A basic timeline

23 July 2026

Nominations opened and Election Info Session help

30 July 2026

12pm - Nominations closed

4pm - Compulsory Candidate Briefing

3-11 August 2026

Campaigning begins

5,6, & 10 August 2026

Meet the Candidates Sessions

11 August 2026

Presidential Debate

Just before voting opens, Presidential candidates come together for a public debate in the Undercroft.

12 August 2026

9am - Voting is open

14 August 2026

3pm - Campaigning ends

5pm - Voting closes

6pm - Results are announced





YOUR STUDENT REP
ELECTIONS
COME ALONG &

Meet the Candidates - Soapbox Style

11:30AM–12:30PM | 5 August
UNDERCROFT
COMMON AREA

Your Voice, Your Choice!



UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
**STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**
Ākonga tū, ākonga era