

To: Massey University Students
From: MUSAF Board
Date: December 2021
Re: Progress Update

The Massey University Student Associations Federation (MUSAF) board structure has been formally adopted.

The MUSAF board will collaboratively govern the student services delivered by the 10 student associations in 2022.

Context

MUSAF has been working throughout 2021 to respond to Massey University's request for a single Service Level Agreement (SLA) proposal. The SLA is a contract between Massey University and the student associations. The SLA funding enables the associations to deliver services to students.

Historically, there have been 4 SLAs, and as a result, significant differences in the way services are delivered to students. In addition, the current SLA model does not provide funding to Māori and Pasifika associations in the same way that funding is provided to the general associations.

MUSAF became an incorporated society in 2006. As an entity MUSAF has been somewhat inactive for many years but was 'resurrected' in 2021 in response to Massey University's request for the general associations to submit a single proposal to govern the delivery of student services.

In August, MUSAF shared a proposal outlining how student services could be collaboratively governed. It was proposed that a single board (MUSAF) would govern student services and work to achieve the outcomes sought by Massey University as they relate to the single service level agreement.

Specifically, the outcomes are to:

1. Investigate and implement centralised services with a view to reducing costs and/or enhancing student services and experiences.
2. Deliver equitable services for all students.
3. Review the area of 'representation' to ensure there is equity and pay parity across associations.
4. Streamline reporting procedures

Feedback

Collectively the student associations received 76 responses from students with 66% of student responses supporting the proposed governance structure. In addition, the student executives, elected to represent the interests of students, reviewed the feedback, and made the appropriate amendments to ensure the board could effectively govern student services in 2022.

Throughout the MUSAF revitalisation process we have committed to creating a truly Te Tiriti-led student organisation, the first in Aotearoa. We have embedded this commitment in the governance of MUSAF, with 50% of votes on the Board assigned to Māori associations. This change recognises and upholds the mana of tangata whenua.

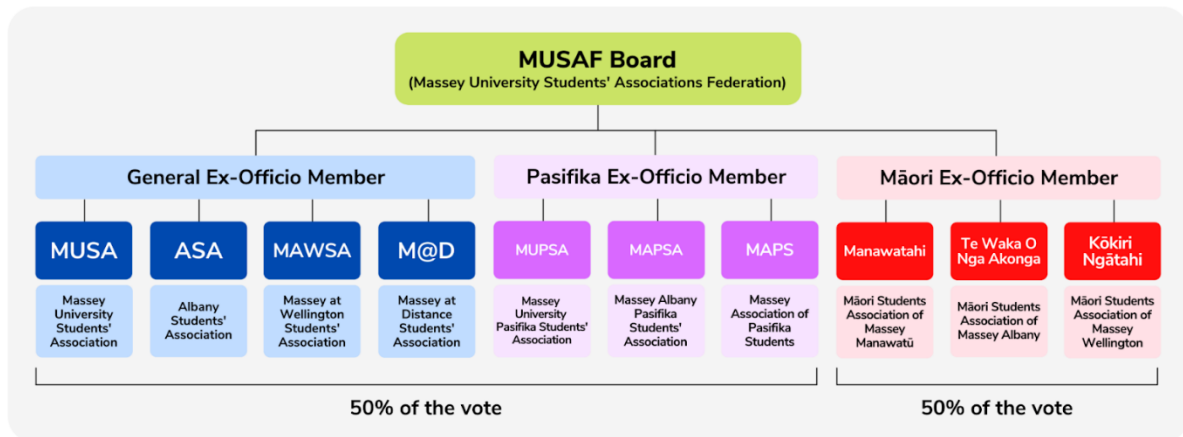
We heard that the voices of Pasifika students weren't represented enough. MUSAF recognises that Pasifika have a unique heritage as immigrants to Aotearoa and as a collectivist culture that has faced severe discrimination from the Dawn Raids to how they engage in education. We worked through student feedback in partnership with Pasifika representatives and are pleased to confirm that Pasifika now have four seats on the MUSAF board.

We recognise that we haven't empowered the voice of students with disabilities. We are committed to not tokenising communities and want to work with all groups of people to ensure we represent all student voices. In 2022 we will be partnering with the National Disabled Students' Association to make sure that we embed best practice and make informed decisions. We can and will do better.

We also recognise that we haven't done right by our Massey rainbow whanau. We must do a better job to empower rainbow voices at the University. Next year we will be working with the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations Rainbow Committee to understand what strong LGBT+ representation looks like and how we can best support the rainbow community.

MUSAF Board Composition

The governance structure below has been formalised and implemented. Board members have been appointed and inducted and the board held its inaugural board meeting in October.



The composition of the Board includes the elected presidents (or other delegated elected Exec member) of the four General, three Māori and three Pasifika associations. Additionally, the board membership includes one ex-officio past president from each member group (General, Māori and Pasifika) who will remain on the Board in 2022. The purpose of including past presidents as ex-officio board members is to provide stability and continuity to a board that will change annually as new student execs are elected.

Our commitment to you

MUSAF is committed to engaging with students throughout 2022. Your ideas and feedback will help shape the delivery of student services in the future. Please keep an eye out for opportunities to speak with elected student representatives, invitations to attend feedback sessions or to complete online surveys/forums.

New board members will take the helm in 2022 and we will introduce them to you once they formally commence their roles in 2022.

Ends