

President's Report

Scope of this report

This report will address matters arising in the period February 2020 – July 2020, relating to:

- i) The society as a whole, including governance, direction and strategy; and
- ii) The direct responsibilities of the President (where relevant).

1. Semester 1 In Review

I would like to thank the 2020 LSS Committee for a fantastic first semester in these challenging circumstances. The LSS has shown itself to be incredibly flexible and adaptable to the ever-changing circumstances brought by COVID-19.

I am extremely proud of the hard work that everyone has put in throughout the first and second half of the year. Clerkship Evening was a great success with around 200 students in attendance. A huge credit goes to the Careers team for putting on an absolutely massive and successful Clerkship Evening together and adapting to the new technology, supported by the entire LSS Committee.

COVID-19

COVID-19 has brought unprecedented circumstances that the LSS has never faced before. The approach taken by myself and the LSS has been one of flexibility and adaptability. We have pushed through the tech challenges and all the other difficulties that come with an entire law school cohort absent from campus. It has been absolutely inspiring to see how resilient the team has been adapting and still putting out fantastic events to engage students during semester 1 including:

- Clerkship Evening was moved online.
- Careers Workshops were all moved online.
- All guides published on our website.

A lot of events were postponed to Semester 2 (addressed below) due to the initial uncertainty of campus closure and further the focus on transitioning to an online Clerkship Evening took up a lot of LSS time and resources.

2. Reform

I Vice-President (Sponsorship)

A really key reform that I have been looking forward to implementing this year is the transition to a Vice-President (Sponsorship). The great work of the Finance team and the FYO Henry has brought this vision to life. The role is intended to reduce the burden for future LSS Presidents especially over the Summer break and to take responsibility of sponsor relations throughout the year. It is important for the President to be able to concentrate on the direction of the Society, and Sponsorship took up a disproportionate amount of time. It is also a much more consistent model and approach with many other LSSs. This role will be

implemented in 2021 elections with the hope that COVID-19 subsides and we have more stability to facilitate this transition effectively.

II Equity Portfolio

We have continued to work on developing the equity portfolio. We have discussed and are keen to implement different initiatives to engage students in contemporary topics of law reform and disadvantage in the law. This include ideas of an essay competition and a debate.

3. Partnerships and Maintaining Relationships

I University Groups

We have continued to maintain productive working relationships with PARSA, the International Law Society, Law Revue and the Women in Law Organisation. However, with COVID-19 there has been a drop in engagement across the board (presumably as events are cancelled and initiatives adapted or postponed).

We did not affiliate with ANUSA this year due to unclear and shifting standards for constitutional amendments.

There are now talks among several faculty societies including the LSS to collaborate on an online trivia event that will aim to bring together students across all disciplines in friendly competition.

We are in discussion with Law Revue to establish an acquittal process for the use of funding.

II Sponsors

We continue to maintain productive and meaningful relationship with our sponsors. This year we established relationships with 4 new sponsors which has been highly beneficial for all parties.

The new firm visit initiative has seen a very strong uptake by students and firms which is very exciting, and we continue to explore its future if the current situation persists.

Due to COVID-19, I have negotiated ad hoc arrangements throughout the year (something we haven't done in the past). There was a very positive response to this, and includes:

- Ashurst sponsoring the ANU-USyd Commercial Law Moot;
- Herbert Smith Freehills sponsoring a Careers Workshop;
- Social media posting rights for firms.

I have also been more flexible in light of COVID-19 to give additional social media posts as the need arises.

I proactively organised a refund/credit for different sponsored events when campus was closed.

Sponsorship in 2021 will be uncharted territory to navigate in light of COVID-19. I will be in consultations with the 2021 President in due course on approaching this period. The strong relationship with sponsors this year will, however, hopefully alleviate the challenges moving into 2021 sponsorship.

III *ALSA*

The next ALSA council will be in December and this will focus on handover. The AGM was held in mid-July with myself and Vice-President (Administration) Khashif in attendance. ALSA competitions were also run online.

Discussions earlier in the year with ALSA also led to the establishment of the inaugural ANU-USyd moot. This moot aims to connect ANU and University of Sydney law students through a friendly mooting competition and strengthen these ties across our law student body.

IV *ANU CoL*

This year we have had a very productive working relationship with the law school. There is a strong communication channel with the Dean this year where any major issues facing law students can be discussed.

I have also worked on strengthening ties with the CoL Marketing Team and have seen a very positive relationship develop in promoting events and initiatives. As part of Open Week, I have been invited to speak about my experience in law and also the LSS and the initiatives that we run.

The LSS has also extended some funding to initiatives run by the members of the law faculty for the benefit of international students to ensure support for valuable initiatives run supporting the transition to studying in Canberra.

4. Semester 2

We have moved many events to semester 2, and this will be further discussed by each VP. Broadly speaking, the major events are Law Ball and elections.