



# **BEST FACULTY SOCIETY APPLICATION**

**SCIENCE UNION**

University of Western Australia



**2022**



# COMMITMENT

## THE EDUCATION COUNCIL

In 2022, Science Union was honoured in our position of being a continued, active member of the UWA Student Guild Education Council. At our core, Science Union's role as a Faculty Society is to **improve educational outcomes** for students studying science at UWA and **bridge the gap** between students to clubs to academic boards. Our determination to assist students' educational experience is demonstrated by our **ongoing and consistent attendance** at Student Consultative Committee, Education Council meetings and our monthly comprehensive and transparent reports written and shared to the Council and other Societies. During council meetings, Science Union has been actively involved in discussion and in offering and receiving advice to ensure that all students studying under the Faculty of Science benefit from our participation in the Education Council.

## UWA STUDENT GUILD

Our commitment to the Guild is evident through our many collaborations with Guild departments

- 'What Your Parents Didn't Teach You About Sex' Workshop during Sex Consent Respect Education Welfare (SCREW) week - **Access and Ethnocultural Department**
- Spec-Con and UAAP workshop - **Access Department**
- Scientific Writing Night - **Postgraduate Student Association**
- **PROSH**

## CLUBS AND FACULTY SOCIETIES

Science Union is the second oldest faculty society and has run as a successful not-for-profit organisation **since 1924** with over **5000 members**. While much of this success is due to several intra-club strengths, we also believe our collaboration with other clubs and Faculty Societies is one of our defining and strongest features.

- **Industries Nights** or 'get a job seminars' with Health Students Society (**HSS**), Students of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (**SNAGS**), **CHeMnBiO**, **PsySoc** and University Physics Society (**UPS**).
- Social Outreach for first year students with social clubs, **Leisure** and **University Craft Brewers' Association**, and fellow FacSoc University Engineers Club (**UEC**).
- Study nights: human biology with **PHAC**, (2) chemistry with **CHeMnBiO**, (2) biology and environmental with **Zoology**, psychology with **PsySoc**.
- Scientific Writing Night with **Science Communication Society**
- Open Mic Night with **Postgraduate Student Association**.
- **TEDxUWA Salon: STUDENT1101** - Science Union had a stall alongside other cultural and volunteering clubs, showcasing UWA's diverse club scene to new students.
- **STEM Fest** for **National Science Week** with **CHeMnBiO**, **PsySoc**, **PHAC**, **PESA**, **UWA Robots Club**, **UWA Photography Club** and **Computer Science Students Club**.

## UNIVERSITY RUN SERVICES

**Barry J Marshall Library:** With the restructuring of the libraries this year, Science Union has worked to further develop our long-standing relationship with the Barry J Marshall Science Library. Through continued contact with their team and regular meetings with our Education Vice-President we have been able to enjoy a mutual relationship of support, including a collaboration on our semester one “**Scientific Report Writing Night**”, “**Fresher Amazing Race**”, and Semester Two **Food Bank**. Throughout the year we’ve also worked together to advertise each other’s events and initiatives and to ensure science students can access **low barrier study spaces**.

**Science Student Office:** Throughout this year we have worked incredibly closely with the science student office, we have worked collaboratively to devise new strategies on **student engagement** and on how to serve the changing needs of science students and to advertise each other's **events and services**.

## UNIVERSITY BODIES

**UWA Alumni:** Throughout the year, Science Union’s Externals Portfolio and larger society worked closely with the **UWA Alumni Department** to connect students with UWA Graduates looking to inspire the next generation of **STEM professionals**.

**Convocation:** We participated in several meetings with convocation and discussed strategies to continue science students' participation in the university post-graduation and how to use convocation’s records to further establish **Science Union’s Alumni** basis and gain further contacts for our **industries** and **career events**.

# REPRESENTATION & POSITIVE EDUCATION OUTCOMES

## FIRST YEAR HANDBOOK

The first-year orientation handbook is an annual tradition that Science Union has steadily maintained for over a decade and is the **most comprehensive guide** found at O-Day. This year’s updated handbook introduced university clubs, Guild departments and important locations on campus. It included a ‘meet your exec’ section which introduced first year students to this year’s executive members to create **approachable faces for new students**. QR codes were available on ODAY and it is found on our website to ensure that the handbook is both **accessible** and **environmentally conscious**.

## FIRST YEAR STUDENT PANEL

First year can often be an incredibly daunting time, we participated in a **biannual orientations panel** in order to help first year's entry into the university. We did the first semester panel with fellow science clubs Zoology and SNAGS and we were invited back in second semester to present solo. We encouraged students to **get more than a degree** out of their time at university and give them hot tips and tricks both related to their degree and to their experience as a student.

## SCIENCE STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM

We want all students to be able to have their anonymous say when it comes to their **education** and the **universities facilities**. As such we have promoted a science student feedback form which is pinned at the top of our primary social media: Facebook. We use this feedback to assist our knowledge of the changes occurring within the many science schools and to provide individual **personalised assistance** and **resources** to any students who may be struggling.

## SCIENCE PRESIDENTS FORUM

This year we chaired and operated a science president's forum consisting of: **WAMSS, UEC, HSS, SNAGS, PESA, PMSS, CHeMnBiO, PHAC, Zoology, PsySoc, Woolnough Society, Maths Union, UPS and OSWA**. Whilst each subject is incredibly varied, Science Union endeavours to promote **interconnectedness** and **collaboration** between all STEM majors. The forum functioned as a space to promote the interests of science students, run collaborative events and inform all science clubs of activities of the **Board of health and life sciences**. The key to our success as a representative body is leading **interconnectedness** and **open communication** with all the faculty societies and clubs pertinent to science as we recognise and aim to facilitate both the **overlapping and unique aspects of STEM subjects**.

## FACULTY RELATIONSHIP

Science Union is the chosen student delegate for the **board of health and life sciences**. Science union advocates for the **changing needs of students** and ensures all the changes endorsed by the board are for the **benefit of science students**. We work together with all the science related clubs to relay information to and from the Board to ensure that both **science education** and **resources** pertinent to their education are up to scratch.

## SCHOOL MEETINGS

In addition to our position as delegate on the Board of health and life sciences, Science Union has also been present in several school level meetings particularly **Brand / Marketing / recruitment** and **Community outreach and engagement committees**. Science Union has often acted as a first point of contact for university bodies, and we work closely with the **Science student office** particularly with the **student experience committee** and their **international student representative**. Furthermore, Science Union has supported small science clubs with their endeavours on their school boards particularly in advocating for **fair and equitable honours entry for psychology**.



# EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS TO BENEFIT STUDENTS

## INDUSTRIES NIGHTS

Over the year we have engaged with speakers from a range of STEM fields including psychology, biomedicine, computer sciences, agricultural sciences, chemistry, geology, pharmacology, toxicology, as well as many more. Throughout the year these **industry professionals** took part in our series of industry nights, engaging in a **panel discussion** and Q&A with attendees in each field. By engaging with these professionals, we have strengthened both Science Union's and students' connections to people in the field they aspire to work in the future, increasing their **post-graduation connections and prospects**.

## NETWORKING EVENING

The annual networking evening is another instance in which Science Union offers students a unique opportunity to engage with some of Western Australia's most successful and prominent scientific figures. Special guests at this year's event included Rebecca Fitzpatrick, a prominent employee in the **office of the CEO of Therapy Focus WA** and practicing Psychologist, Dr Neil Robinson, **Forrest Fellow with the Fluid Science and Resource research group**, and **Professor Barry J Marshall, Nobel Laureate**, esteemed intellect and UWA alumni.

## NEWSLETTER

This year saw the continuation of the Science Union Newsletter, a bimonthly article detailing Science Union **announcements and events** – as well as those of our **sponsors** – for Science Union members and the wider science community. The newsletter provides updates concerning committee and society matters to members in an **accessible manner**. This year our Newsletter focused on **visual engagement**.

## SANTOS SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

We have long been annual participants in the Santos Science Experience, a UWA-run event that runs across multiple days during the summer break to engage students from Years 8-10 to garner an interest in **STEM subjects**. This year we were able to hire multiple VR Headsets from the **UWA Alumni Fund** and guided students through **3D Altered Reality** models of **chemical structures** and **interactive anatomy**.

## SPONSORSHIP

This year, Science Union has pursued sponsorship opportunities with **Fraser's GAMSAT** and **GradReady**. GAMSAT is renowned for being an expensive and difficult process, by partnering with these companies, Science Union members were able to provide **access to expensive courses at heavily discounted prices** making the expertise of these professional groups accessible. Science Union was also proud to be a recipient of a **GRILLD local matters campaign** and to collaborate with several **new external bodies** including, **The Court Hotel** and **Magnet House**.

# WELLBEING

## VOLUNTEERING CRAWL

Volunteering Crawl was reinstated this year and is an event open to the wider UWA community to come along and get transcript recognized volunteer hours. This year we attended **WA AIDS Council** and **St Bart's transition housing**. Being able to contribute to the wider community is something we take pride in and contributes to the student's wellbeing as they get a **well-deserved break from university pressure** and can feel good about **helping people in need**.

## 'LOVIN' FROM THE OVEN'

Ronald McDonald House Charities is an international **not-for-profit** organisation that provides **accommodation for rural families with sick children at the QEII centre**. The charity invites volunteer groups to come and prepare lunch for the ~60 families housed there at any given time. Science Union regularly volunteers at the 'Lovin' from the Oven' sessions, **covering the cost for all ingredients**. This semester we received a certificate of appreciation for our continued commitment.

## ALTERNATIVE CONTACTS FOR EVENTS

After receiving feedback from previous years, Science Union acknowledges that not all students' next of kin are **appropriate emergency contacts** for them when attending social events for varied reasons (e.g., travel barriers, difficult relationships). Therefore, this year we **implemented a system** for all attendees of our events to nominate an additional contact who they feel would be a safer option if an incident were to occur. Our job as event organisers is to ensure the **safety of our patrons** and this has provided another method for us to do so.

## MARKETING INITIATIVES

This year, our new Marketing portfolio allowed us to be even more involved in important dates and Guild weeks, especially those pertaining to welfare. For these instances, we had crafted up engaging and educational facts, related to science and beyond, which were shared to our social media sites.

- **Harmony Week** - Must Try Foods from Around the World: included regions presented less in mainstream media to ensure our post was inclusive for our students of all different ethnicities.
- **Earth Day** - #InvestInOurPlanet: promoted environmentally sustainable behaviours that students could adopt on and off campus.
- **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia** - Celebrating and recognising LGBTQIA+ scientists and their contributions to scientific literature.
- **NAIDOC Week** - 'Australia's First Scientists': The First Nations people shared in our post are UWA alumni, allowing us to highlight figures in science who are relevant to our community and therefore more impactful and inspiring to our students.
- **R U OK? Day** - Shared informational posts from the official Instagram page to our students to advocate for mental health visibility.

## HYPER

HYPER is the **only on-campus end of exams party** being run this year and is a collaboration between us and social club Leisure. With student DJs, staff and **student priced** drinks, it provides an **affordable** night available to a wide range of students on campus. With this event we hope to help **revitalise the spirit of campus culture** and **encourage students to come to campus**.

## SPORTS CARNIVAL

Our Sports Carnival fundraiser for **Relay for Life** was a great success. The event saw a large turnout of fresh faces, who donated to participate in interactive games. Along with being a successful fundraiser, this event was a great way to **support the mental and physical wellbeing** of students in a **low barrier** way. On top of this, the event was a great example of a wholesome social event **accessible to those who do not drink**.

# INNOVATION

## AMAZING RACE

As our annual Camp was unable to run due to COVID-19, we innovated an **Amazing Race** event to allow **first year students** to meet other first years and **experience university culture**. The event brought teams of students to popular locations around campus and promoted **team bonding** through interactive challenges. This proved to be an extremely successful event that had **low cost and travel barriers** and **familiarised** first years with the campus, the club and, most importantly, each other.

## SPEC CON & UAAP EVENT

While we have long had an **Access Representative** on the Equity & Diversity portfolio, this year a similar position was added to the **Education Subcommittee** to ensure students are adequately **represented** regarding their **academic rights** across all facets. Through this new position we were able to develop the '**Education1001: Spec-Con, UAAP & More**' event which allowed us educate students on the different pathways they can follow to ensure their rights are upheld.

## SUBCOMMITTEES & BALL COMMITTEE

As the representatives of science within the university we have encapsulated this **diversity in science** through our subcommittees.

- **Education** - has a representative from each school of science in order to raise detailed and up to date concerns of each subject
- **Welfare** - represents marginalized groups on campus and promotes understanding of issues unique to those groups and to the intersectionality that exists between them
- **Industries** - represents educational outcomes and the options for science students upon graduating the university
- **Social** - promotes interconnectedness, campus participation and 'getting more than a degree' out of one's experience within the university

The social subcommittee is a new addition to science union this year which was introduced in order to assist in running our **large-scale social events**. In addition to this we also introduced a ball committee consisting of members of our committee and subcommittees.



## MARKETING PORTFOLIO

2022 marks the inception of our Marketing portfolio through which we've had several major achievements.

- Transformation of Science Union Facebook, Instagram and website to more cohesive, **recognisable and accessible** platforms, following the **UWA Accessible Clubs Guide**.
- Facilitated the enhancement of Science Union's social reach:
  - Increased utilisation of Instagram following trends to better suit incoming students
  - Revitalisation of LinkedIn page to support our Externals Portfolio. Allowing us to **maintain connections with professionals**
  - Running stalls on Oak Lawn to maintain **personable, face-to-face interactions** with students on campus.

In comparison to 2021, our **engagement statistics** have seen drastic improvement this year.

- On Facebook, our visits have increased by 80% and new likes have increased by **46%**.
- Our Instagram engagement has **drastically improved** in reach (**38%**), visits (**75%**), and new followers (**38,000%**)
- On LinkedIn, Science Union has seen an impressive year.
  - Our **visitor metrics** have all increased: page views by **165%**, unique visitors by **132%**, **clicks to our website** by **1,000%**, and new followers by **25%**.
  - Our interactions have also increased: reactions increased by **1,860%**, and 3705 impressions, 2177 unique impressions, and 527 clicks were seen over the year.
  - In comparison to clubs with **similar audience pools (WAMSS, UEC, HSS)**, we have seen **7.8% - 162.2% more followers** and **168.9% - 706.7% more organic engagements**.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Science Union is a unique faculty society. We are not supported by mass amounts of corporate funding and our schools are all unique, diverse and sporadically placed across campus.

Despite this we stand among, work alongside and often outdo our funded counterparts. We take the time and effort to ensure all science students are interconnected and we ensure that we cater to undergraduate, postgraduate, onshore and offshore students.

We prove student engagement, educational advocacy and commitment to the university is possible through a love and dedication to the club and the subject one studies.

On behalf of Science Union's committee, subcommittee and all our members – thank you for allowing us to be a welcome part of education council this year and thank you for taking the time to read and consider our application.



**2022 PRESIDENT**