

AGM 2024

CEO Report: Jo-Hill Ismail



Background

We are a small team working diligently to make sure that every student has a great time and feels safe at AUT.

We try our best to intervene to help you get things straightened up if you are having difficulties. Our role is to be the voice of students here at AUT. If you are having a rough time, have a complaint, or feel as though being a student at AUT has not met your expectations in any way, we are the team who will do our best to step in and get things patched up.

AUTSA Divisional Updates and Highlights

Advocacy

Our team is dedicated to providing support to students undergoing challenges across AUT. Caught cheating on exams? Need help challenging your grades? Problems with your landlord or employer? Problems with a lecturer or AUT Staff Member? We help with all of it, with a commitment to respect, kindness, confidentiality, and professionalism. Our role is to be the people in the students' corner when things get difficult. Even if it is something that we cannot help with (such as legal advice), we can point you in the direction of people who can and can work with the University to try to help students get the outcomes they need.

Tautoko

Waiwhero – Dignity Packs

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of the Waiwhero Dignity Packs initiative. These packs aim to support our students by providing essential hygiene and sanitary products, promoting dignity and well-being on our campuses. The positive response has been overwhelming, and we continue to ensure that all students have access to these vital resources.

All Day Brekkie – Now Available on All 3 Campuses

Great news for our early risers and late starters! The All-Day Brekkie is now available on all three campuses. This initiative ensures that every student can start their day with a nutritious meal, no matter their schedule. We are excited to see this program's impact on student health and well-being.

Kete – The Unveiling of Our New Walk-In Pantry and Kete Food Parcels

We are proud to unveil our new walk-in pantry, Kete, which offers students an opportunity to use their agency to pick and choose items of food that will nourish them through times of hardship. We also now have food parcels available on all campuses. This initiative is designed to support students facing food insecurity,

providing them with essential groceries and helping to alleviate financial stress. The walk-in pantry is a testament to our commitment to student welfare.

Vouchers – Financial Hardship Support

This year, we have received 578 applications for financial hardship support and have distributed \$50,000 in assistance. This means we have provided an average of \$86 per person, helping to alleviate financial burdens and support our students in times of need.

Clubs

Continued Growth and Exciting Events

Our club community is thriving! With 103 clubs affiliated, 10 dis-affiliated, and 2 new interest groups formed, our students have more opportunities than ever to engage and connect. This year, we hosted two Clubs Expos, featuring over 100 stalls across a 3-day period during O-Week, showcasing the vibrant student life at AUT.

Club Grants and Events

We are pleased to report that over \$25,000 has been awarded in club grants, supporting student-run initiatives and fostering a dynamic campus environment. Additionally, our student clubs have hosted over 200 events this year, enriching the AUT experience for all.

Spirituality

SpiritFest

We are currently getting ready for SpiritFest 2024, set to be our biggest and best yet! This 3-day event takes place across all three campuses, offering full-day activities that celebrate and explore spirituality. We are excited to bring this enriching experience to our students.

Graduation Events

Our graduation events are more vibrant than ever, featuring lolly leis and a cultural spirituality collaboration with AUT. These celebrations honour our graduates and highlight the diverse spiritual traditions within our community.

Spiritual Club Events and Chaplain Support

We continue to support spiritual clubs and provide opportunities for students to connect and explore their spirituality. Our dedicated chaplains, who volunteer at AUT, play a crucial role in this support network, offering guidance and a listening ear to our students.

EAC

Reactivating Our Volunteers

We are excited to announce that 80 new and wonderful students have joined our volunteer programme! Fully trained by both Events, Student Communities and Tautoko, these champions will assist in events, support Tautoko initiatives, and be vibrant members of the student communities' team. Their enthusiasm and dedication are sure to make a significant impact.

Events

Hikuwai Sessions

As part of the O-Week offerings for students we once again offered a free concert for students to attend as part of returning to campus in the summer. The concert was hosted close to Vesbar and attracted around 250 – 300 students as we had student acts as part of the line-up.

Rere Vibes

Partnering with AUT's Māori Department for the second year, we assisted in organizing Rere Vibes, an event featuring music and stalls to celebrate Māori Language Week.

Our team provided support by assisting with set-up, creating site maps, and onboarding vendors onsite. The event attracted over 1000 students throughout the evening.

AUTSA Ball (2023)

The Annual AUTSA Ball is always a hit for students. Taking place in the breath-taking Auckland Museum the ball saw over 300 students purchase tickets and attend a luxurious and fun event which allowed students to have another memorable experience to add to their university journey.

This year (2024) we are planning a ball to be remembered for many years to come!

Media

In 2023, AUTSA played a pivotal role in enhancing communication with the AUT student body. Effective communication is vital for fostering an informed, engaged, and connected student community. Our efforts to promote AUTSA's products, services, and events were robustly supported by our printed and digital media initiatives.

Printed Media



Our fortnightly Debate Magazine continued to thrive, earning accolades, and increasing student contributions under the editorship of Sam Clarke.

Distributed across all three campuses. This year, we delivered 12 issues each fortnight during Semesters One and Two, featuring an array of content including campus news, student views, feature articles, reviews, photography, and illustrations and content relevant to AUT's diverse student population.

Debate occupies a unique position within AUTSA. While it is an integral part of our offerings, it maintains editorial independence. We take pride in its role in holding both AUTSA and AUT accountable, ensuring transparency and integrity. Debate's

success was highlighted at the annual Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA) Awards in 2023, where it won in four categories: Best Cover, Best Feature Writer, Best Reporter, and Best Humour/Satire. Additionally, it was the Runner-Up for Best Politics Coverage. These accolades reaffirm Debate's status as a leading student publication in New Zealand.

Digital Media

Digitally, we effectively communicated through our AUTSA website and various social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram. These channels allowed us to disseminate key messages to AUT students and other relevant stakeholders, promoting AUTSA's events, products and services. Social media has proven to be a vital platform for engaging and encouraging two-way communication with students.

In 2023, we saw a notable increase in likes and followers across all our social media pages. These channels were effectively utilised to disseminate essential information, including Presidential Updates and general Student Updates from the SRC. They also served to promote key events such as O-Week, REO Week, and the AUTSA Elections. Additionally, we engaged students through giveaways and competitions, while also gathering valuable feedback via direct messages, polls, and comments on our posts.

Our social media engagement is a testament to our commitment to maintaining an open line of communication, ensuring that we not only share information but also listen to and value student input.

Overall, our student media efforts in 2023 have strengthened our connection with the AUT student community, fostering a more informed and engaged student body. This year (2024) we are on track to surpass the Digital Media stats and take it to new heights. Surpassing the Digital Media stats and reaching new heights will be a significant achievement for AUTSA in 2024

Vesbar - your fun and friendly student bar on the City Campus.

Catch up over a cold one!



Feel free to pop in for a cold one, chill out with friends, or to enjoy our weekly events! We welcome all students, staff, and the public - must have ID upon entry (Drivers Licence, 18+ Access card, Passport, International ID accepted)

AUTSA Lodge

This year, AUTSA decided to sell the AUTSA Lodge due to its underutilisation. Feedback indicated that the lodge's remote location made it difficult for students to access, which posed significant challenges for both AUTSA and the property's upkeep and maintenance. Consequently, the decision was made to sell the lodge, with the proceeds being redirected towards future student needs.

Summary

AUTSA is having an active and impactful year. The association is dedicated to enhancing student life through various initiatives and services aimed at supporting and representing students.

Overall, AUTSA's performance demonstrates a strong commitment to enhancing the university experience for AUT students through representation, support, and engagement.

Navigating through a recession and increased costs for food and services while still achieving satisfactory financial performance is a notable accomplishment. AUTSA is satisfied with its financial performance for 2023.