

". . . Over a number of years the University has provided ongoing funding support and assistance to the Student Guild however with the implementation of a USQ-wide Services Funding Agreement which came as a result of the Student Guild reviewing its operational business interests it was determined by the Guild that better efficiencies and value for service could be given.

Under advice from the Federal Government on how universities should use monies collected under the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SA Fee) it was appropriate that the fee best serve all of USQ students. USQ is located in three regions, Toowoomba, Fraser Coast and in the south-east Queensland growth corridor of Springfield. With a student enrolment of more than 27 000 students almost two-thirds of the student population base study on-line, by distance education or through education partners in a number of overseas countries. All students no matter where they study should be treated fairly and equitably in the services they can access as part of the SA fee.

Any spending and allocation of the SA Fees is determined in association with USQ and a USQ Student Forum group - formed from a pool of democratically elected student representatives from various University committees, including members of the Student Guild and USQ Student Representative Councils. The USQ Student Forum meets three times per year to review student needs and priorities and to discuss how SA Fee is spent in accordance with national protocols and guidelines given to the university by the federal government.

In line with its reporting processes the University has established an online site whereby the public is updated on SA Fee allocations. To date all allocations of the SE fee have been of a non-commercial nature and targeted specifically at student services and amenities related to:

- o health and welfare
- o orientation and support
- o student development and enrichment, and
- o student assistance programs.

This site has been well received by government and USQ student organisations and is available at <http://www.usq.edu.au/current-students/opportunities/student-representative/student-forum/funding-priorities-themes>

As the Student Guild is a separate entity to the University it is not appropriate for the University to make any comment in relation to Student Guild processes and discussions however in light of the review undertaken by the Guild it was determined that the Guild relinquish a large part of its food and catering services. As part of those negotiations the University, together with the Student Guild and its management worked jointly to move to a better business operations' model which allowed the Guild to continue to commercially operate the health, recreation and sports centre.

From 19 January 2013 the University has put in place transitional arrangements in order to ensure that catering services continue to meet the ongoing needs of students and staff until proper tendering processes are complete and commercial operators are in place. These interim costs are being met from USQ's centrally funded budget and are totally separate from SA Fees.

The University will continue to work with the Guild regarding services provided to USQ students to ensure that the needs of students, the community and the University are able to be achieved.

The new Guild model has enabled the Guild to be more able to respond to the needs and wants of the student body."