Bankstown Student Campus Council
By-Elections for Student Campus Councils & Student Editors
Candidate statements April 2013

Candidate statements prepared by:
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Tahani Husari

My name is Tahani Husari. I had completed my Bachelor of Arts/ Psychology in 2012 and currently I am a postgraduate student and enrolled in Graduate Certificate of TESOL.

I am living a dream within university life and education. During my studying years I volunteered in MATES@UWS program and last year I was a Student Campus Council member and this year I am ASK US Program Assistant. I attended various training and workshops, and received a number of certificates and awards for my positive engagement at university especially for assisting and representing my fellow students.

I speak four different languages; English, Arabic and some French and Turkish. I am a mother of three children. I respect people from different background and beliefs. I have years of experience working in various fields overseas and in Australia.

During my years at university I built mutual respectful relationships with my fellow students, colleagues... [Candidate exceeded word limit]

Murray Robertson

After graduating in 2012 (MA in Cultural and Creative Practice) am continuing this year in the Writing and Society Research Centre. This is my first year as a higher degree researcher.

Becoming loyal to UWS has been a gradual process; now is the time to give something back.

My concerns are for fairness and probity: I abhor racism, weep at religious intolerance and fight for my fellow-disabled: we all have rights and deserve respect.

Our great library can improve, the canteen is vital, campus safety is paramount, Internet access essential, and healthy amenities should support all students.

Activists must demand that we honour our fragile planet, creation, and all of life.

My mass of curly hair belies my advanced age and the hiking boots help my crippled ankle.

Oh yes, when I taught, the kids liked me, particularly the battlers.
James Middleton

I am committed to helping students at UWS gain what they came to UWS for: To get the knowledge and qualifications to work in their field of choice. This can be achieved, in my opinion, by providing:

- Better access to industry placement schemes.
- More resources for students seeking experience alongside their degree.
- Opportunities for internal placements at UWS, especially for research positions.
- The ability to use research experience placements for credit towards their degree.
- Funding for projects that help students with engagement within their field.

Through these points, I hope to foster a more pragmatic approach to helping students; one in which both theory and practice are emphasized in the student learning experience. It is my belief that helping students to obtain a wider range of skills, especially the more practical ones, is an essential part of producing quality graduates at UWS.

Kellee Brower

Candidate did not provide a statement.

Mark Tuton

Candidate did not provide a statement

Dema Chmali

Candidate did not provide a statement
Jacquelyn Dredge

I am a local to the area of Milperra where Bankstown Campus is situated. I attended Picnic Point High and left due to my disinterest in school.

Some 15 years later I began an Undergraduate Degree in Social Science (pathway to early childhood teaching).

My interest in social justice is stronger than my interest in student politics and this drew me to the Bankstown Student Campus Council in 2012.

During 2012 we began a campaign for occasional care facilities. The University has agreed to trial occasional care at Campbelltown, Penrith and Hawkesbury. I began a club called Uni Family Support where we raise issues and advocate for students with families that are struggling to meet the demands of university, work and family.

I am a single parent and have three children of my own and I have a thorough knowledge of the stressors of studying and juggling family and finances. [Candidate exceeded word limit]

Grace Issa

My name is Grace and I am currently doing my Masters degree in Interpreting and Translation at UWS. I believe that higher education provides an expansive range of benefits and opens new doors of opportunity that allow people to fulfill their dreams.

Having a different cultural background and having lived in Australia for a long time, I have developed the ability to understand and tolerate the different views and values of other people. I believe through the effective participation and inclusion of all groups, we will ensure a more fair and homogenous society where multiculturalism is more than an idealistic theory.

I am a very friendly person and exhibit valuable qualities when dealing with my fellow students and tutors. Consequently I am able to maintain diplomatic relations when challenging situations arise.

If elected I will always thrive to do my best and to address issues and matters brought to me... [Candidate exceeded word limit]

Amy McDonald

Candidate did not provide a statement.