

UATSIS - TEQSA

Memorandum of Understanding



Australian Government

**Tertiary Education Quality
and Standards Agency**

Me

- Immediate Past President and Founder of UATSYS.
- Studying at the University of Melbourne.
- Completing a Bachelor of Arts – Philosophy and English.

UATSI

- Established in 2017.
- Peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students.
- Grassroots organising/University advocacy/consultancy/lobbying.
- Current National President is Braedyn Edwards.

MoU Context

- UATSIS, being so late to the party, was one of the last peak student bodies to enter into an MoU with TEQSA.
- Around the time that the student advisory council first met (late Feb/early March 2018), UATSIS and TEQSA decided we would enter into an MoU together.

MoU: Areas of Cooperation

- “TEQSA and UATSIS agree to cooperate in ways including, but not limited to, the following:
 - To exchange non-confidential policy documents about their approaches to accreditation, quality assurance and regulation;
 - To the extent permitted by law, to enable dialogue and information sharing to assist the parties to perform their functions. The parties acknowledge that TEQSA’s capacity to disclose information about entities regulated by TEQSA is restricted by Division 2 of Part 10 of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011*; and
 - Other means of cooperation agreed between the parties from time to time.”

MoU Completion

- Back and forth from Feb/March to July.
- Signed MoU in July – Myself and Anthony.

Success! Key Principles

- Power balancing.
 - Mutual respect.
 - Sincerity.
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- What did it look like during the TEQSA-UATSIS MoU process?
 - How can you ensure you gain this principle in your process?
 - How can you ensure you keep this principle in your process?

But, first, a quick acknowledgment:

- These principles can be difficult to capture in a presentation.

Sincerity

- **What did it look like during the TEQSA – UATSIS process?**

Taking our questions and concerns seriously. Asking questions. Approaching negotiations with passion and goals in mind. Both parties taking first steps.

- **How can you ensure you gain this principle in your process?**

Receive questions with openness and ask questions with sincerity. Approach the project with passion, work to set goals. Take first steps.

- **How can you ensure you keep this principle in your process?**

Incorporate sincerity into your review process.

Mutual Respect

- **What did it look like during the TEQSA – UATSIS process?**

Treating each other as professionals. Treating each others as equals (power balancing). Not being condescending. Prioritising each other.

- **How can you ensure you gain this principle in your process?**

Treat each other with respect. Think to yourself – how would I talk to this person if this were another staff member I was working on a project with? Or if this was another student I was working on a project with? But don't treat those thoughts as supreme, sometimes common sense might call for some adjusting. Don't continuously reschedule meetings.

- **How can you ensure you keep this principle in your process?**

Keep yourself accountable.

Power Balancing

- **What did it look like during the TEQSA – UATSIS process?**

A free flow of information back and forth. Meeting on neutral ground. Openness.

- **How can you ensure you gain this principle in your process?**

Spend some time raising ignorance's and cover any gaps in knowledge. Try and conduct the business of the process on neutral ground. Be open about your thoughts on the process.

- **How can you ensure you keep this principle in your process?**

Set up a grievance process.

Overall

- Keep these three principles in mind when you act.
- Take these three principles seriously – set up feedback or grievance processes for them.