

College Representative Council – Minutes

6pm, Wednesday 4th September 2013, ANUSA Boardroom

Attendance List:

Executive

Aleks Sladojevic- President

Tasman Vaughan – Vice President

Sophia Stanley– General Secretary

Amy MacKinnon– Education Officer

General Representatives

Eric Chan

Vincci Lee

Sam Duncan

Lucy McFarlene

Mark Jehne

Michael Harrison

Milly Cooper

College Representatives

Charlie Carroll- CBE

Jennifer Darmody -CBE

Laura Wey - Science

Zaiga Thommon – Science

Andrew Welch - CECS

Melanie McLeod - CASS

Nick Horton – CAP

Ross Tan - CAP

Item 1: Meeting Officially Opens and Apologies

Meeting Opens: 6:08 pm

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

General Secretary acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ruohan Zhao, Jess Bolton, Stacely Little and Caroline Skinner.

Item 2: Minutes from the Previous Meeting including Matters Arising

MOTION: That the minutes from CRC 6 be accepted

Moved: Charlie Carroll

Seconded: Milly Copper

Motion: Passed

Item 3: Reports and Matters Arising

3.1 Executive Reports

3.1.1 President [Reference A]

Sam Duncan: Congratulations on the successful Student Assistance Launch

MOTION: That the President's Report be accepted.

Moved: Charlie Carrol

Seconded: Amy McKinnon

Motion: Passed

3.1.1 Vice President [Reference B]

MOTION: That the Vice President's Report be accepted.

Moved: Nick Horton

Seconded: Michael Harrison

Motion: Passed

3.1.2 Education Officer [Reference C]

MOTION: That the Education Officers Report be accepted.

Moved: Charlie Carrol

Seconded: Lucy McFarlene

Motion: Passed

3.2 College Representative Reports

3.2.1 College of Science Report [Reference D]

MOTION: That the College Science Report be accepted.

Moved: Charlie Carrol

Seconded: Sam Duncan

Motion: Passed

3.2.2 College of Asia and the Pacific [Reference E]

MOTION: That the College of Asia and the Pacific Report be accepted.

Moved: Charlie Carrol

Seconded: Aleks Sladojevic

Motion: Passed

3.2.3 College of Arts and Social Science [Reference F]

MOTION: That the College of Arts and Social Science Report be accepted.

Moved: Andrew Welch

Seconded: Jennifer Darmody

Motion: Passed

3.2.4 College of Business and Economics

3.2.5 College of Engineering and Computer Science [Reference G]

MOTION: That the College of Engineering and Computer Science Report be accepted.

Moved: Michael Harrison

Seconded: Nick Horton

Motion: Passed

Item 5: Items for Discussion

5.1 ANUSA Facebook Update

At the start of the year the ANUSA Facebook page had had just over 3000 likes. At the start of the year ANUSA's aim was to get it to 4000 likes. We have just reached 4444 likes.

Item 5: Date of Next Meeting and Close

The date of the next CRC is scheduled to occur in Wednesday 16th October, 6pm, ANUSA Boardroom.

Meeting Closed: 7:23pm

Reference A

PRESIDENT REPORT

Aleks Sladojevic



CRC 7 - Minutes

ANU Budget Proposal

Update – Student Forums

On 16 August, the University hosted an undergraduate forum with the aim to discuss concerns and suggestions about administrative processes within the University. The forum was attended by the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Pro-Vice Chancellor Student Experience and the Executive Director of Administration and Planning.

The turn out at the forum was quite low, and a group of about 10 students wanted to focus the discussion on the changes to tutorials that have been proposed in CASS. There was very little discussion around administrative reform within the University. One student raised issues around delays in communication around administrative enquiries as well as problems arising from paperwork being lost.

At this stage, it looks like another forum is being organised for 5pm on 12 September in order to discuss issues, concerns and suggestions relating to Study Abroad programs. More information will be posted on the ANUSA website when it becomes available.

For more information on the proposed budget changes, please see the Formal Change Proposal, available at:

http://budgetsolutions.anu.edu.au/files/2013/07/Change-Proposal_Budget-Challenges_FINAL.pdf

The University is also still receiving suggestions and feedback via email to budgetsolutions@anu.edu.au

Staffing Related Matters

Legal Officer

Michael is going to start undertaking various learning modules on Migration Law in order to bring him up to speed with the current law and issues around student visas. Michael is currently averaging about 8.5 new legal matters each week and in his words, 'demand for the service is well and truly there'. About 66% of the legal service is being used by individual students with the other 33% going to support clubs, societies and student groups. The service is currently being used equally by undergraduate and postgraduate students, and about 70% of the individual advice services are being provided to international students.

Michael has identified three areas he would like to see progress on in the next 6 to 12 months; they are:

- Legal education – particularly around the start of semester and for international students
- Advocacy around international student access to permanent resident status
- Advocacy around the terms and conditions of accommodation agreements.

University Committees

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Review

Our CASS representatives emailed the ANUSA submission in response to the outcomes of Phase I of the BA Review to the Dean and Associate Dean (Education) of CASS. We are currently monitoring developments in Phase II of the Review. I will also be making a submission in the coming weeks to the DVC Academic, highlighting some of my concerns and suggestions about the review process more generally.

Student Experience

The next Student Experience Committee is scheduled for 19 September. I will report on matters discussed at the SRC meeting on 25 September.

UniSafe

The next Unisafe Committee meeting is being held on 30 August.

Education Committee

The next Education Committee meeting is taking place on 30 August. One of the important points of discussion will be the SELT results from semester one this year.

Research Committee

I was unable to attend this meeting, however, the ANUSA Vice President, Tas, attended in my place and he will be able to report on the discussions and outcomes of the meeting.

Mental Health Working Group

The Mental Health Working Group is meeting fortnightly and things are progressing very quickly. An audit of all mental health services and programs available at the ANU is currently being chaired by Laura-Anne. I am helping to process the information that has been supplied in response to this audit. I am also currently working on a draft Mental Health Framework for the ANU that is based on the framework recommended to Canadian post-secondary institutions by the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Other areas of work include:

- A review of online support groups and resources, including social media
- An audit of student spaces on campus
- Looking at staff and student networks on campus
- Examining the viability of getting a Headspace on campus
- Developing working outcomes for the next 12 months which will be presented to University Education Committee

Campaigns and Advocacy

Review Committee – Proposed Changes to Tutorials in CASS

In response to proposed changes to the lecture / tutorial form of course delivery that were put forward by the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) at the beginning of this semester, the University has established a Review Committee to examine the proposed changes.

CASS has been asked to provide the Review Committee with evidence to demonstrate:

- Alignment of the proposal with University education strategy, Group of Eight and national trends in humanities and social science delivery, and University academic quality assurance practices, as expressed in rules, policies and procedures;
- Sound academic and corporate governance of the proposal, as demonstrated through documentary evidence showing consultation and approval through existing CASS governance structures, clear project management and clear and persuasive evidence base, consideration of risks, and consultation where needed with other parts of the University;
- Robust corporate strategy for the initiative, as demonstrated through evidence of resources planning, including physical and virtual infrastructure needed;
- Effective communication of the project, as demonstrated through evidence showing consideration of impact and consultation with key stakeholders; and
- Sound management of human resources for the project, as demonstrated through evidence of planning for staff development, including any changes needed in recruitment, retention and promotion activities.

I have been receiving feedback from students to email address, sa.president@anu.edu.au. Submissions to the Review Committee close at 5pm on 30 August so please encourage your CASS peers to provide feedback on the proposed changes by then.

All students are invited to make a submission to the Review by emailing andrew.smith@anu.edu.au. Submissions close at 5pm on 19 September. ANUSA will be making a submission before then.

Student Assistance

Student Assistance Unit Launch

The long-awaited SA Unit launch is this Thursday 29 August from 11am in Union Court. There are going to be stalls for the Counselling Centre, Disability Services Centre, ANU Sport, Psychology Clinic and Headspace. The aim of the day is to promote the various Student Assistance services we provide at ANUSA, as well as the legal advice service. We will be serving soup and hot chocolate for lunch, there'll be a number of visitors from the University as well as RSPCA puppies and live music.

It is so important that we ANUSA representatives there to not only help out, but to help promote the various support services we provide at ANUSA. The day will coincide with the Suicide Prevention Day campaign we are running with the Centre for Mental Health and Research.

We need volunteers from 9am onwards, so please email Sophia at sa.gensec@anu.edu.au if you're able to help out!

Other Items

Surveys

The academic probation survey has now closed. I will be working with our Student Assistance Officer, Laurin, to analyse the data and present the results in a report format which will then be transmitted to University Education Committee.

Laurin and I met with PASS (Planning and Statistical Services) last week to discuss the ANUSA Survey, which we would like to run from 1 to 25 October. Unlike previous surveys, this survey focuses more on the services, campaigns and initiatives run by ANUSA, and areas of improvement that can be made going forward. We will be using Survey Monkey to run this survey and we will also be offering a prize draw for students who complete it.

Reference B

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Tasman Vaughan



CRC 7 – Minutes

National Day of Action Pollie Crawl

This rally was a failure due to low levels of attendance, and was called off. Perhaps everyone was all rallied out after the Education Action Group's tutorial cuts rally?

iPhone App

We are currently working with the Registrar's department to develop an ANUSA component of the iANU app. We are working with them to get all the key features we requested, including the polling app. The iANU app may also feature a security feature and an on campus communication tool.

Programs and Courses

The new study@ is available to test on ANU grounds currently. It will go live before Open Day. The first of multiple development phases, it is looking quite good.

OGM

The OGM went well and we maintained quorum. However, lots of reps weren't there. This isn't acceptable.

CASS Education Committee and CASS cuts

Ruhan and I attended the CASS ed committee on 26 August. The DVC-A attended to take feedback from the committee about the review of CASS forums. It was a bit frustrating that no acknowledgement of budget was included in the documentation in the agenda. I brought this to the attention of the committee and no answers or justifications were forthcoming. The misinformation surrounding the changes in CASS continues unfortunately.

UniSafe

This committee has been reestablished after being forgotten for a few years. The committee is chaired by the Director of Residential Campus Communities, Luce Andrews, and focuses on increasing safety on our campus. There are representatives from Security and all Residential Colleges, as well as various other University staff such, such as the Director of HR.

Key issues discussed so far include lighting on campus, new systems for increasing security on campus, especially at night time, unisex bathrooms and mobile telephone coverage on campus. One big initiative that is being considered is a campus security app that would enable students and staff to easily contact security in an emergency situation. The system has been successfully used at other universities.

Campus planning

I attend both Campus Advisory Subcommittee (CASC) and Campus Planning and Development Committee (CPDC). These committees deal with improving and developing our campus. In comparison to other years, its been a quiet year for development on our campus. Nevertheless, major projects that are under

development include the Centre for China and the World (located behind Law School), the new Laurus Wing Development which is between the current Laurus wing and BnG, and various grounds redevelopment, including around Coombs.

My particular interest has been with the Laurus Wing development. I have been pushing to ensure that there are more common spaces and that the design of the rooms is better than the previous Laurus development. The building is passively cooled, rather than air conditioned, and whilst this is environmentally positive, I am working to ensure that the windows can be opened sufficiently to make sure this system actually works.

Student Space

Student Space now has free tampons and other sanitary items! Thanks to the Women's Department for the inspiration. We also have phone chargers for hire and new board games coming soon. The second hand bookshop has been reorganized by the student space staff to ensure that the system works more efficiently and books shown as available actually are. A big thanks to the student space staff for their hard work.

Access and Equity Committee

As the name suggests, this committee deals with access and equity issues at the university. Issues that have been discussed have been equal pay for women at the university, disability access, mental health and social media policies for the university. Beth Ritchie, ANUSA Womens Officer, recently presented at the committee. The push for unisex bathrooms on campus also emanates from this committee and the committee is hopeful that there will be some developments in this area very soon.

Reference C

EDUCATION OFFICER REPORT

Amy Mackinnon



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Mental Health Committee

The Mental Health Committee has set a date for Universal lunch hour which will be in the first week back of term 3 (26th of September) and will be focused broadly on getting students to focus on their mental and physical health and welfare. I am currently working to put into action the ideas that were raised at the last meeting including:

- Live acoustic music during the event
- Study Packs
- Bringing back the massage therapists that were very popular during O-week
- Raffle of “fresh food boxes” from the food co-op
- A healthy alternative to a BBQ
- Puppies
- Alpacas

The mental Health guide will be launched at this event and the mental health committee will be aiming to recruit more members and publicize the work that has been done by ANUSA in the areas of mental health and student welfare.

Education Committee

Due to illness on my part and activity regarding the CASS tutorial cuts I have been unable to convene the ANUSA Education Committee since its first meeting this semester, the education committee will however reconvene in the first week of next term (Wednesday the 25th of September).

Over the last 9 months the Education Committee has been going through an ongoing process of growth and change to help develop a sustainable model for education activism at the ANU. Over the next couple of weeks I will be working with the education officer-elect to help reinvigorate its fall in numbers since it assisted in the formation of the Education Action Group. The aim of this process will be to make the Education Committee as accessible and diverse as possible. We will be putting a public call out for committee members in the next couple of days and will be actively trying to engage with students who have previously not been involved with ANUSA. We will also be working to develop a roadmap for the committee for the next 18 months.

Politics in the Pub

Politics in the Pub was a great success, in spite of the fact that the Canberra Liberals failed to send a candidate (with three weeks notice of the event) over 150 people in attended leaving standing room only in the ANU Bar. Both the Greens and Labor provided two candidates and fielded a range of questions from the audience.

For this event I aimed to provide alternatives to the usual offerings of beer, cider and more beer that has previously been on offer at previous politics in the pub events. We ordered pizza for the attendees and although I didn't anticipate the number of people that would turn up and only ordered enough pizza for about half the number of attendees it was well received and provided an alternative for non-drinkers, reinforcing ANUSA's commitment to provide events that cater the widest range of students possible.

CASS tutorial cuts

Submissions have now closed for the Vice Chancellors review process. Please see Alek's report for further updates.

Ruohan, Mel, Tas and I will be endeavoring to meet with all the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) course representatives over the next couple of weeks to make sure there is a strong show of opposition against the tutorials cuts within SPIR and at the upcoming course representative meeting.

Federal Election

Due to the current economic climate and a trend of hopelessness on both sides of politics neither Labor or the Liberals have announced any substantial higher education policy in the lead up to the election. Never the less ANUSA will be holding an election themed universal lunch hour tomorrow – the time this report was written plans were still being finalized. In the absence of substantial policy announcements on education this lunch hour will be primarily focused around engagement.

Reference D

College of Science Report
Zaiga Thomman and Laura Wey

National Science Week - It was a great success. We organised a massive barbecue to complement the stalls that had been set up by science societies. Students could play various sciencey carnival type games and go in the draw to win a myriad of amazing prizes. Graham Walker presented an amazing science show that drew a huge amount of students to the amphitheatre.

Science Course Rep Meeting - We ran a meeting to talk to the science reps about our proposal. We gained heaps of great feedback and all in all they seem really supportive of the changes and the support that these changes will hopefully provide. We have collated this information and will present it and our draft proposal to our Ed Comm meeting on Monday.

Science Course Rep Wattle Page - There is talk about developing a science course rep wattle page to provide course reps with support and ideas on how to collect feedback and how to interact with their lecturers. We will find out more about this in the next couple of weeks.

Things that are happening:

Course Rep Proposal - The proposal is going to the Science Ed Committee and after that we will collect feedback and make appropriate changes. Sometime later this semester we will send it out to students to give them a chance to comment and to both promote the changes and the course rep role more generally.

Science Careers Fair - The Science Society is doing a great job organising the careers fair. It will take place on the 8th of October at 6:30 at University House.

Reference E

College of Asia and the Pacific Report
Nick Horton and Ross Tan

Course Representatives:



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- 18 Courses officially represented (30 reps in total)
- Met with 9 representatives Thursday 29 August 12-2pm
 - Catered: Andrew Walker came and had an informal chat with the course representatives, and made it clear that with the changes to the College's model of administration and service delivery (standardizing processes and bringing everything up from a school to a College level), the Course representatives are a crucial link in the interactions between Student body and College leadership. He also made it clear that these changes to the College are a collaborative process that will require the kind of student engagement and leadership that the system of course reps offers.
 - We were able to collectively brainstorm some great ideas about the role and what kind of issues we can represent for students to the College administration.
 - We can use this network of course representatives to increase our reach and "brand recognition", as well as boost the number of likes on our Facebook page.
 - They all seemed very receptive to the idea of a more formalized and standardized system of course representation/student leadership and very keen to get involved and develop creative solutions to problems faced by their classes.
- The next step is for us to contact them with our contact details, encourage them to like our facebook page, create a Facebook Community of CAP Course Reps and arrange another meeting for next term
- Eventually, we'd like to put together a more formalized guidelines booklet like the Student Volunteers booklet produced by Bournemouth University

Consultation Hours:

- Still nobody comes, but we have postered around Baldessin Precinct Building and we can use the Course reps to spread the word
- We didn't hold the Consultation Hours last week due to the ANUSA elections

College Board Meeting:

- Nick attended the College Board Meeting as the ANUSA representative on Friday 16 August
- The meeting structure was a lot less formal than CAP EdComm meetings and was very interactive and engaging. With only one position for an undergraduate student on the Board, though, it was suggested that both ANUSA CAP reps sit, as well as having positions for the President of the College of Asia Pacific Students' Society (CAPSS) and 10 rotating "observer status" seats for random students enrolled in CAP courses.
- College Education Plan (EngageAsia):
 - A discussion was held regarding the College's 2020 vision, and the following points were raised:
 - Connecting undergraduate students with wealth of research expertise
 - Course representatives system accords with education plan focus to keep track of quality of educational and student experience
 - International student mobility experiences – broadening to English-language opportunities in line with development and internationalization of foreign universities (e.g. Global30 Program in Japan; Liberal Arts/Studies Programs in Korea)
 - Benchmarking against world-class institutions
 - The College is having a serious discussion about the new PhB program from next year, and some student submissions about the pastoral experience in Science and other Colleges would be great (Action Item?)

CAPEC Meeting 2/09/13:

- CAPEC Meeting was held Monday 2 September
- Will raise issues about credit transfers for overseas language study and the potential for more advanced language courses (e.g. Business Chinese, etc)

CAP Student Centre:



- Next meeting will be held on 24 September

Reference F

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE REPORT
Ruohan Zhao and Mel McLeod

CASS EDUCATION FORUM



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- On Wednesday the 28th of August ANUSA hosted a forum to discuss the situation surrounding changes to teaching methods in CASS. Dean of CASS, Toni Makkai, and DVC Academic, Marnie Hughes-Warrington, were both present to answer questions. Turnout was relatively high – more than 60 students were present.
- Students asked a variety of questions, but the bulk were aimed at questioning why CASS would move away from tutorials with students expressing very strong opinions in opposition to forum style teaching in place of the current lecture/tutorial model.
- Both Toni and Marnie were adamant that lecturers will retain the freedom to choose how they teach their courses. This line was stated countless times throughout the session. However, towards the end of the forum questions became more pointed – specifically focusing on SPIR’s announcement to drastically reduce the school’s part-time teaching budget (the budget from which tutors are paid) – and neither Toni nor Royston could guarantee that SPIR lecturers (or those from any other school) will have adequate money made available for them to run tutorials, should that be their preference.
- Toni and Marnie stressed that the budget is tough, but maintained that a move to forums was pedagogical and not the result of budget pressures. However, this still seems to contradict with the reality of the situation.
- There was also many references made to the apparent ‘autonomy’ of the schools to decide how to spend their budgets. They may indeed be autonomous and responsible for their own affairs, however in the forum this came across as a convenient way to shift blame.
- Overall, the forum was a success in allowing students to connect with senior staff who are playing a key role in the tutorial/forum issue. That said, no guarantees were made that there will be funds made available for tutorials to continue to be run in all courses in which they run currently so no real headway was made.
- A big thank you to Aleks, Tas and Amy for all the work they put into the forum, and extra thanks to Aleks for the countless hours she is putting into the Review of the process surrounding the changes.

CASS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

CASS had an education committee meeting on Monday the 26th of August. The most important points were:

- **Current CASS Tutorial Review:** Marnie Hughes-Warrington came to the meeting to discuss with the committee their thoughts on the way CASS has handled the tutorial situation and the review process. Marnie said that the feedback she received from academics indicated that staff loved teaching and enjoy teaching by choice and not compulsion. Staff also indicated they enjoyed being engaged in discussion and are innovating to find ways to improve this discussion.

Issues raised in discussion were:

- **Necessity of change:** Marnie said there was a danger in conflating forums and innovation with change. We need to take into account the dynamic nature of the classroom, as every cohort brings new challenges in the delivery of courses. Therefore, academics should adopt new methods where appropriate.
- **Communication:** what is the most effective way of communicating this information to the constituency?
- **Participation in decision-making:** Staff members felt frustrated at the extent which they were being involved and acknowledged in the decision-making process of CASS and the executive. (Staff were very cynical about it not being about budget...)
- **Resourcing issues and short time frames:** the short lead time makes altered delivery of education very difficult logistically. Resources needed: power points, wireless, rooms etc. Neither CASS nor ANU has the capacity to implement these resources in such a quick turnaround.

- **Focus on SPIR:** panel has been asked to review at CASS but many academics believed the issue was confined to SPIR and not everywhere in CASS. It was not relevant for other schools because no other school has the same intentions to implement SPIR's model.
- **Postgraduate student teaching:** PhD students need teaching experience otherwise to be competitive overseas against other postgraduate students who have had this teaching experience. ANU can't hurt its postgraduate 'brand'.
- **Decline in enrolments:** global trend regarding the difficulty the humanities are facing. How do we communicate that change can be a positive thing?

The report will be made to the Academic Board by mid-September.

Please also note that the BA Review Phase II has been postponed until after the report comes out.

- **New Asian Studies Major:** CAP/CASS will be rolling out a new Asian Studies major and minor. The only issue was whether language courses should be incorporated in to the major (currently none proposed). Andrew Walker indicated that CAP did not want the major's structure to be flooded by students only taking language courses. We argued for language courses because it is important to appreciate that students undertaking the major may not have an opportunity outside of their Asian Studies major to be able to learn the language and there needs to be recognised that language studies are complementary for an Asian Studies Major. We suggested that perhaps limiting the number of language units in the degree structure would address this concern.
- **SEL Data:** School of Language and School of Music had many courses with low agreement rates (under 50%). Royston will have meetings with these respective schools/courses to evaluate why the agreement rate was so low and how it can be improved.

NUTS VARIETY SHOW

- The ANUSA CASS Reps have been approached by members of the National University Theatre Society (NUTS) for support for their inaugural Variety Show in Week 12.
- The Variety Show will comprise of short arts from a variety of theatre and drama related clubs and societies on campus. Acts which will hopefully be performed include Arts and Law Revue, NUTS plays, Interhall plays, poetry reading/slamming and other stage related acts.
- We believe this is a great way to combine various Arts related societies on campus, as well as fostering a stronger Arts community here at ANU.
- This project is still in its preliminary stages but the CASS reps are keen to help make this event possible. We will be financially contributing to the show (tentatively around \$600 dollars), but are keen to help organise catering, venue and logistical aspects.
- We will have a meeting in the next few weeks to confirm venue, budget and date but we are super excited!!!

Reference G

College of Engineering and Computer Science Report
Caroline Skinner and Andrew Welch



The CECS representatives have been developing our relationship and our platform for the remainder of the semester.

We recently discovered that Paul Melloy, manager for student services, is in discussion about hosting student forums for COMP1100 (Introduction to Programming and Algorithms), a first year introductory course as a result of high fail rates and feelings of 'disengagement' among students. We will be discussing this at a meeting with Research School of Computer Science staff this Thursday. As an introductory course high fail rates are of concern. We will be following developments in this area closely.

As CECS is planning on running forums for COMP1100 we will be attempting to streamline this with forums and surveying for the systems courses the CECS representatives have been targeting this year. By providing CECS with assistance from us and the Engineering Students Association we should have strong support and ongoing responsibility from college administration, as it is likely that the timeframe of

We are in discussion with CECS administration about addressing the availability of ANSYS on campus through various means. ANSYS licences were increased to 50 this April and we would like to expand availability through (i) increasing the number of licences and computers with ANSYS, and (ii) reducing the number of labs for other classes held in the engineering computer labs.