Dear Accord Panel,

On behalf of the student representatives on UNSW Academic Board, UNSW Faculty Boards and Committees we welcome the drafting of recommendations in the Australian Universities Accord.

In response to the Terms of Reference, we are concerned that the panel does not include a current student voice component. This is contrary to the sector best-practice *Students as Partners* mechanisms in Australia (1) and equivalent student voice mechanisms seen around the world (2).

We appreciate that student consultation will form part of the panel’s work, however without a meaningful seat at the table it is not sufficient inclusion of an authentic, empowered student voice. It is our recommendation that the student voice is embedded in the Universities Accord process in the following ways:

1. Extensive consultation with existing student groups at regular stages (especially pre-position and post-position consultation) (3)
2. Active digital campaigns to solicit student contributions/ submissions
3. Formation of a meaningfully empowered Student Advisory Panel that is consulted by the Panel that is appropriately remunerated
4. Transparent use of existing student data (both implicit and explicit)
5. Framework for student inclusion at a university-level submissions/ responses
6. Inclusion of at least 1 voting student member on the panel

I would be more than happy to provide additional guidance on this matter.

In addition, we would like to see the holistic student experience given additional salience in the Terms of Reference. We believe that the co-curricular, extra-curricular and support provided adjacent to studies is critically important to the lifelong value of education.

Kind regards,

Mitchell McBurnie
Postgraduate Coursework Representative
UNSW Academic Board
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References

(1) Matthews, K.E. and Dollinger, M., 2022. Student voice in higher education: the importance of distinguishing student representation and student partnership. *Higher Education*, pp.1-16.

(2) Young, H. and Jerome, L., 2020. Student voice in higher education: Opening the loop. *British Educational Research Journal*, *46*(3), pp.688-705.

(3) Herriman, J., 2011. Local government and community engagement in Australia.