



Media Statement - 11 March 2020  
For immediate release

## **Students raise concerns, and TUU responds to proposed course cuts at the University of Tasmania**

Yesterday, Tuesday 10 March, the University of Tasmania (UTAS) made an announcement pertaining to the planned redesign of the course architecture.

“Online forums are filled with students who are concerned about not being able to finish their current degree,” said Braydon Broad, President of the Tasmania University Union.

But the Vice-Chancellor has assured students via an email that these changes will only impact on future enrolments.

“The VC has stated that no-one who is enrolling this year, or who has enrolled previously, will be prevented from reaching graduation in their course, which is reassuring” he said.

The announcement did not come as a complete surprise to the TUU.

“The TUU has previously shared the negative impact of the current course complexities with UTAS, and so we are pleased that this has influenced a review of the course structure and processes,” he said.

Many of the courses on the chopping block do not have any students enrolled in them. A great many others have had very low interest from students for years.

“Cutting courses with no student interest to further bolster resourcing of in-demand subjects makes sense,” Mr Broad said.

“Students are by no means giving the university licence to go and cut whatever it likes, but wherever it can simplify the current enrolment system with minimal impact to students it should do so,” he said.

Vice Chancellor Rufus Black has stated that a “new course structure has been drafted for discussion among the academic community.”

“The TUU will lobby for a seat at that table, and will fight to ensure student voices are not only heard, but are instrumental in the final outcome of these plans,” said Mr Broad.

“As always, the TUU takes its role as an independent collective for student driven change very seriously,” he said.

“We will be vigilant in upholding student rights in light of these changes, and we look forward to working in collaboration with UTAS to ensure it offers high quality and accessible tertiary education for students in Tasmania now and into the future,” he said.

“The beauty of being an independent body is that we are flexible and nimble in our ability to represent changing opinions, so it is really important that all students let us know their own thoughts on this, and other issues,” said Mr Broad.

If any students have questions, concerns, or feedback relating to the proposed redesign or any other student issue, they are encouraged to make contact with a TUU Student Representative, or email President Braydon Broad at [bjbroad@utas.edu.au](mailto:bjbroad@utas.edu.au).

**END**

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