

## **25 SEPTEMBER 2020 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Former Premier of Tasmania announced as Chair of Tasmania University Union

Former Premier of Tasmania David Bartlett has been appointed as the new Chair of the Tasmania University Union Board of Management, following from Sophie Muller who held the position from August 2018 until the end of her term on 1 September.

“Ms Muller has been an essential asset in the execution of the organisation’s transformation period, and we are very grateful for her contribution,” said Sam Gorringe, General Manager of the TUU.

Mr Bartlett, Premier of Tasmania from May 2008 to January 2011, is a University of Tasmania alum, and an expert advisor in innovation and change.

“The nature and form of our universities is changing rapidly, accelerated by the current pandemic. It is vital, as we navigate these changes, that the student voice is heard and that the student experience is at the centre of everything we do.

There is no doubt that a rapid move to online delivery and the disruption to the international student market will drive massive changes. In response to this, the most important thing universities can invest in is a modern and engaging student experience”.

I have always believed the university experience is much more than the attainment of qualifications – it is also about community, life experiences and the development

of leaders. I am looking forward to making a contribution to these important things through this role.” Mr. Bartlett said.

This appointment is the latest in a series of changes to the TUU, brought about by a need to increase student engagement and bolster the outcomes of the student member organisation.

“This past twelve months has seen the TUU move to completely new Board structure as well as a revised staffing model, with a focus on roles which seek up to date insights on what matters to UTAS students, and ensuring that the activities of the Union are relevant and powerful,” said Ms Gorringe.

“There has also been a huge focus on communication with students, which has culminated in a new strategy, as well as a new look and website, both rolled out last week,” said Ms Gorringe.

The most impactful change has been a complete review of the student representative structure, which has been welcomed during our extensive consultation process.

“The insight we have gained through talking to students and faculties has been that the needs of the students have changed, and our old model wasn’t serving them as well as it needed to,” said Braydon Broad, President of the TUU.

“The new model has a more collaborative and community style structure, designed to share the engagement with existing student groups and amplify their voices, rather than trying to have one individual speak on behalf of every student with a particular need,” said Mr Broad.

“This gives us a better opportunity to provide a broader range of students with rich and real experiences, like participation on committees, internships and volunteering – all opportunities to build on their academic learning and be a strong community contributor during and after uni life,” said Ms Gorringe.

The Tasmania University Union was established in 1899 and essentially began as a social club for the then 35 students that made up the University of Tasmania. Today the TUU represents all of the approximately 35,000 students enrolled at the university. It provides support, representation, and opportunities for student connection and growth. The TUU is an independent collective for student driven change.

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