Partnering with student organisations to achieve successful student representation and engagement: presentation and facilitated panel discussion.

Students as partners, Workshop

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Abstract:

Student organisations are hubs of student experiences and perspectives. As such, they can be valuable partners for universities seeking to genuinely engage with and understand their students, and involve students in key projects and decision-making.

But while the rewards are great, the promise of partnership requires conscious efforts on both sides to develop structures and relationships that support and enhance effective student representation.

This presentation will outline the way that the University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association (GSA) has built its capacity to engage in student representation within the University, and how that has improved GSA’s value and relevance to the graduate student body and the University.

Using this experience, it will continue with a discussion of ways in which universities can more successfully engage with students and partner with student organisations to achieve positive outcomes in representation, and conclude with suggestions on how to develop an informed and engaged student cohort who can contribute meaningfully to their university community.

Following the presentation, the facilitated panel discussion with University of Melbourne and national student leaders will further explore perceptions from student organisations of current practices around student representation, suggest strategies for both student organisations and universities to develop more effective models. It will also provide an opportunity for attendees to directly engage with student leaders around the topics discussed.

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