

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE NATIONAL FORUM



Yukeembruk Village Hall, ANU

5 June 2026

Final Program Schedule

10:30 – 11:00

Welcome & The View from Campus

UTS and ANU Governance Projects welcome participants, explain the day, and summarise their findings. We do a Tour of the Nation, with short pre-recorded reflections on university governance from participants across Australia.

- Professor Ross Gordon, UTS Governance Project
- Dr Jessie Moritz, Dr Burcu Cevik-Compiegne, and Dr Marija Taflaga, ANU Governance Project

11:00 – 12:00

State of the Nation

Fishbowl style conversation among university communities, policymakers, and sector stakeholders on the state of university governance nationally and identifying priority actions for reform.

- Alicia Payne MP, Federal Member for Canberra (ALP)
 - Senator David Pocock, Senator for the ACT (Ind)
 - Felix Hughes, President, National Union of Students
 - Dr Jessie Moritz, ANU Governance Project
 - Professor Esperanza Martinez, ANU (moderator)
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12.00-12.30	Focused Dialogue with University Leaders ANU Executives and Council members deliberate on the opportunities for change in university governance they see at the moment. Council members from other institutions respond from a sector-wide perspective. • Andrew Metcalfe, Acting Chancellor and Member of Council, ANU • Michael Schwager, Chief Operating Officer, ANU • Bruce Pan, Member of Council, ANU • Charley Elwood, Member of Council, ANU • Professor Juliana Ng, Member of Council, ANU • Professor Lyndall Strazdins, Member of Council, ANU • Professor Sasha Mikheyev, Member of Council, ANU • Associate Professor Nicole Matthews, Macquarie University • Professor Esperanza Martinez, ANU (moderator)
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch Break
13:15 – 14:45	What Can We Change? How? In this session, we focus on strategy, debating the political opportunities and challenges of pursuing higher education governance reform. Where are the best avenues to push for reform at the national level? • Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Federal Senator for NSW • Alison Barnes, President, NTEU • Senator Sarah Kaine, State Senator for NSW • Jack Thrower, Australia Institute • Professor Meera Agar, UTS Governance Project • Professor Ross Gordon, UTS (moderator)
14:45-15:15	Afternoon Tea
15:15 – 16:30	Workshop: Concrete Reform Proposals In this session we draw together the day's discussion and work in small groups to ensure outcomes from the National Forum are considered, well-developed, and implementable. • Professor Inger Mewburn, ANU (moderator)
16:30 – 17:00	Closing remarks and next steps