

Flinders University Student Council

Minutes of the Student Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 21st October 2014

Location: Meeting Room, Flinders University Student Association.

Present: Grace Hill, Ira Herbold, Yaddollah Bahrami, Jaka Yusuf, Roxanna Henshaw, Will Menzies, Caleb Pattinson, Michael Bezuidenhout, Alison Taylor, John Photakis, Lauren Brice, Ella Keegan-Treloar, Tut Tut, Tim Mitchell, Chris O'Grady, Paul Harrison (Minutes), Matthew (FUSA member), Brodie May (FUSA member; Environment Officer elect).

Guest(s): Jonathon Louth (Student Representation and Development Officer).

Apologies: Rosalie Dow.

Meeting Opened: 6:07pm.

Tim Mitchell has left the room: 6:07pm.

1. Welcome and Meeting Open

It was acknowledged that the Student Council meeting was taking place on the land of the Kaurna people.

2. Apologies

Rosalie Dow sent in an apology for this meeting.

3. Welcome Guests

Jonathon Louth the newly appointed Student Representation and Development Officer for the Flinders University Student Association.

6:10pm Tim Mitchell has entered the room.

Jonathon Louth: I am the newly appointed Student Representation and Development Officer (SRDO).

Part of my role will consist of working with Student Council.

Medium term goal: Getting sub-committees up and running.

Short term goal: Revitalising the induction process.

Had a quick meeting with Grace Hill and Roxanna Henshaw and I have put together a proposed structure for the induction process.

4. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Approval of minutes of previous meeting:

Motion: I motion to accept minutes

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: John Photakis

All in favour

Motion Carried

5. Reports

Motion: I motion to accept the reports

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: John Photakis

Abstention: Tut Tut

Motion Carried

6. Matters for decision

Laruen Brice has entered the room 6:15pm

Motion: Student Council accepts all of the un-starred motions.

Un-starred items consist of:

6.1 Voter Intimidation

Motion: I make a motion that:

1. Student Council condemns voter intimidation and coercion.
2. Student Council encourages the Returning Officer to take necessary steps to limit the possibility of voter intimidation and coercion.
3. Instances of voter intimidation and coercion should be dealt with swiftly and candidates penalized appropriately.
4. If laptops, iPad, or any other device is used by campaigners for the purposes of allowing other students to vote, no candidate or campaigner may stand within five meters of the student while they are voting.
5. All determinations made by the returning officer should be published as soon as possible on a public forum and emailed to all candidates.

6.3 Computer Lab

Motion: I move that student council supports 24 hour access of the computer lab on Level 10 at the Victoria Square Campus.

6.4 Our Watch

Motion: FUSA endorse Our Watch campaign.

6.6.2 Flinders University History Society

Motion: I motion that Flinders University History Society be financially affiliated with FUSA

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: John Photakis

All in favour

Motion Carried

6.1 Appointing a student to the position of indigenous students officer.

Chris O'Grady: Has everyone had a look at the applications?

Lauren Brice: I haven't.

Grace Hill read out the two received applications.

Will Menzies: As a non-indigenous person it makes me uncomfortable that a lot of non-indigenous people will be voting on the indigenous officer. I'd like to point out that it is not ideal; but I don't have a solution to the problem.

Roxanna Henshaw: I would like the previous statement noted.

Grace Hill: I know both of these people – one more than the other. But I know both would do a very good job as indigenous officer.

Caleb Pattinson: Seeing as Latoya will be going into the role next year – this could be launching platform for her, or a short role for Tyme, allowing for differing ideas and more fresh ideas.

Roxanna Henshaw: Tyme – seemed to put more effort not application. Though that may not really be a substantial reason to accept a candidate

Motion: Student Council appoints Tyme as the Indigenous Officer.

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: Alison Taylor

All in favour

Motion Carried

6.2 Student Council Induction:

Chris O'Grady: One of the tasks Jonathon is working on is SC induction for next year. Hopefully you've had a chance to look at the proposal Jonathon has put together and has been made in conjunction with a meeting with Grace Hill and Roxanna Henshaw and what other SC's do around the year

Jonathon Louth: Took some time to look at institutions around the country and use some of my experience from the UK. I have shifted it from an on-campus delivery to an away-day.

Jonathon Louth: There was talk at one stage of having a camp or retreat. Not popular for many people as it takes away from their family, home or children. In many instances it does reflect the induction processes which are already in place however there's additional time for planning and talking.

Chris O'Grady: Given that this is the current student council – but if you have any ideas of what you think would be ideal or what should be included for next year's Student Council we'd love to hear from you. Please let myself or Jonathon know.

Jonathon: That's the other thing – we've shifted it to November as well because either the incoming or outgoing council were away. The first day is both the incoming and outgoing council and the second day is exclusively the incoming

Tim Mitchell: I was just going to say, obviously on the first day both the current and the incoming Council will be involved. Is it entirely necessary for the current council to come to any of the sessions other than lunch?

Jonathon Louth: No, but you're welcome to come for just that session or stay.

Grace Hill: I just want to note that at the beginning of this motion saying that it's put together in consultation is not that I endorse this plan. The consultation involved me being quite critical of this plan.

Grace Hill: I agree that it needs to be held some time that everybody is not on holiday. I disagree with spending thousands of dollars on an off-campus induction event. I think there's no reason why we can't have something on campus rather than spending thousands of dollars to shift people off campus

Will Menzies: I would note that it's important for SC to work together and this seems like a really good idea to help with that. I would like to add that OBs have budgets to go off to conferences for self-development and building their role. I don't see a difference between this and that except that with this it is for everyone.

Alison Taylor: I would hate to know what it would feel like as an OB walking into a role without knowing it. The thing is that we can look back on this and re-evaluate. But we do need to have this induction because they need to know what they're walking into

Grace Hill: I don't think anyone's arguing against having an induction. I would hope that we agree that it's important. However, what I am objecting to is what I would see as a bit of an egregious waste of money. Conferences are held interstate. This is not something where it's set by an external body – this is us taking a day trip at the cost of venue hire. Which I think is kind of outrageous

Michael Bezuidenhout: I'm not an expert on this kind of stuff. In the context of FUSA this is only a small amount. Is this funded by SSAF?

Jonathon Louth: I have submitted a proposal to VC for funding seeing as it is a meet and greet with staff.

Michael Bezuidenhout: I don't see it as the gravy train or anything about that. I'm willing to trust Jonathon has got the right stuff in it?

Jaka Yusuf: Should be focused on how each council member can work with each other. Because I experienced that when I started this council that I didn't have the induction properly and it's a bit difficult for me to catch-up. Secondly, I think that there should be consideration that all SC should have this induction. If any Student Council member cannot make it, that person should get another proper induction at another time. International students go back to their home in January. So it is a great idea to have it in November

Will Menzies: Venue hire is 360, catering is 1,000?

Jonathon Louth: Yes. About \$20 per meal, about \$40 per person

Will Menzies: Could we get just purchase food and bring it along - \$1000 for a day seems a bit excessive.

Jonathon Louth: In terms of catering in the city – the figure is about right. But we could look at ways of reducing it further

Ira Herbold: I just wanted to clarify. Re: catering. If we were to do it on campus we would save the venue hire. Would we still be providing the breakfast and dinner as well?

Jonathon Louth: It would depend on whether you as council would decide that or not. I was trying to create a 2 day opportunity where you would not be distracted by university activities. Costs could certainly be reduced if you held it on campus.

Chris O’Grady: All of the catering areas around refectory may be shut down on that time

John Photakis: I was just going to echo what Chris said – when exams finish they will be digging up the plaza

Michael Bezuidenhout: If people are so keen to cut costs in terms of venue hire and catering – if we want people to come and actually go then making it a budget event like last time probably wont improve numbers. It’s probably a worthwhile cost to get a decently trained student council.

Grace Hill: Move to go to a vote.

Motion: That Student Council approve the below budget to come from ‘Student Council – Professional Development’ (\$5,000) with the option for the Manager, Student Engagement to make minor changes if required.

Moved: Michael Bezuidenhout

Seconded: Yaddollah Bahrami

In favour: 13

Against: Grace Hill

Abstention: Ira Herbold, Caleb Pattinson.

Motion Carried

6.6 Clubs Seeking Affiliation

6.6.1. Affiliation of Greens Club

Will Menzies: Would like it mentioned in the minutes that FU still does this differently to other universities in that political clubs are not able to get financially affiliated. I’d like it noted that greens club could hold more events that could benefit students

Alison Taylor: FULC got told that they could not financially affiliate. We were told that there is the potential of giving money to political candidates. I totally agree with will that they should be financially affiliated.

Chris O’Grady: Any club can become financially affiliated

Tut Tut: Just as an addition – if what he said is going to be implemented maybe we should also implement a caveat that may prevent students from joining who might have nefarious intentions. Students may try and infiltrate other clubs, just general skulduggery, and we don’t want that.

Moved: Grace Hill

For: 13

Abstention: Tut Tut

Motion carried

Seconded: John Photakis

6.7 Executive Committee Recommendations

6.7.1. Honorariums

Roxanna Henshaw: The executive has recommended the following honorariums are approved by Student Council:

- General Secretary: September
- Environment Officer: September
- Wom*n's Officer: September
- International Officer: August and September
- Welfare Officer: September
- Social Activities: August and September
- Accessibilities: August and September
- Post-Graduates: September
- John Photakis: September

Roxanna Henshaw: I was voted down at executive, but I don't think I should get paid my honorarium for September at this time. Because I previously have prevented other people getting their honorariums because they not submitted their reports on time. There were problems with the agenda and you did not receive it until very late and I think I should not get paid my honorarium at this time.

Grace Hill: The executive committee made a recommendation that Roxanna Henshaw's honorarium should get paid for September.

Will Menzies: I voted that Roxanna should get her honorarium. However, as she feels strongly about this, I will be supporting her not getting her honorarium.

Roxanna Henshaw: I think it's hypocritical of me to get paid this honorarium when I have delayed the honorariums of others for the exact same reasoning.

Grace Hill: Do you have a serious ethical objection to being paid your honorarium for September?

Roxanna Henshaw: Yes, that's what I'm saying.

Grace Hill: Does anyone have a huge problem with Roxanna Henshaw not being paid now and instead being paid next month?

Jaka Yusuf: I think your work is not just only your report – there is other work that you have done so you should be paid.

Tim Mitchell: I move we go to a vote on Roxanna Henshaw's honorarium.

Motion: Accept Roxanna Henshaw's honorarium for September.

Moved: Tim Mitchell

Seconded: Grace Hill

In favour: Jaka Yusuf, Grace Hill

Against: Roxanna Henshaw, Ira Herbold, Tim Mitchell, Will Menzies, John Photakis

Abstention: Tut Tut, Caleb Pattinson, Michael Bezuidenhout, Alison Taylor, Lauren Brice, Yaddollah Bahrami.

Motion Failed

Motion: Student Council accepts the honorariums approved by Executive except for the General Secretary's honorarium.

Moved: John Photakis

Seconded: Grace Hill

All in favour

Motion Carried

6.8 DVD rentals

Chris O'Grady: Shaun and Paul have put together some information, some background info on the DVD service – essentially we inherited this from F1. There are some stats on the document of the rentals and unique members. DVD rentals have halved every year recently. It is very timely to bring this up as an issue as FUSA will be moving in the next few weeks and it would be timely to know what Student Council would like to do with this service. To keep it running we would need to purchase new DVDs. With downloads on the rise it's not as sustainable as it was previously. We can continue on or abandon all together (have a sell-off).

Caleb Pattinson: I support the motion to abolish this because DVD stores are dead and dying off. I would suggest abolishing it.

Michael Bezuidenhout: clearly the use of DVDs is in decline – I don't think it would be useful to have it continue with only 33 people using it. I wouldn't be super opposed to selling them all. I think we should give it a go that we make it free and put posters around so that we can get students some use of it before we sell them off or something. So perhaps maybe it'd be useful trialling them for free with advertising it. And maybe once the numbers dropped down again we should abandon them at that point.

Chris O'Grady: Just so everyone is aware it is currently \$1 per DVD

Tim Mitchell: It's obviously a drag on admin staff who could be better using their time than doing the DVD rentals. I would be in 100% support of abandoning the DVDs.

Chris O'Grady: We can donate the educational ones that are of use to the library.

Tut Tut: Propose a move to the vote because the economics is pretty self-explanatory.

Grace Hill: There currently is no motion, would you like to motion to abandon them?

Tut Tut: Yes, I am for complete abandonment; we sell them or give them away

Caleb Pattinson: Propose the possibility to donate or sell these off to flics – the film society. They might be willing to continue the hire for free or for a dollar?

Grace Hill: Move to abolish this – we could decide at a later date

Michael Bezuidenhout: I feel like we should not motion to move to abolish before we've decided what to do with them

Chris O'Grady: It doesn't have to be today – could be done next month

Motion: To postpone the decision until next meeting.

Moved: Michael Bezuidenhout

Seconded: Grace Hill

All in favour

Motion carried

6.9 SSAF Expenditure

Grace Hill: Chris and I meet with DVCA – proposal to have 250k of SSAF funds of next year to be spent on the construction on the hub. Basically I would argue that the spirit of SSAF is about student services, student representation and student life. Not about the university's major property development. SSAF is for student control of student affairs – not building projects especially not when it would be at the expense of student services.

Will Menzies: Firstly, I agree with everything grace just said. I think it's really inappropriate that SSAF funds are used on the hub which are not just student services – they should not be spent on the flinders university council board meeting room. I would also say that it's inappropriate that we have been informed about this so late in the picture. We have not had time to consult with the students. This is way too late in the game to be hearing about this now. Finally, this figure of \$250,000 seems really arbitrary and I would like to know what they would like to do that

Grace Hill: I agree it is quite late and it's sort of a situation of last minute budget hole. The SSAF advisory committee is sending this to the VC to send this to students for review. There hasn't been anything specific with it – just 250k as just a sum of money. It does seem fairly arbitrary.

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: Yaddollah Bahrami

All in favour

Motion carried

7. Matters for Discussion

7.1 Racism on Campus

Grace Hill: Speaking on behalf of James who cannot be here today. Islamophobia which is rife through Australian media and politics. It's important that it be noted here that this has manifested in some pretty extreme racism against Muslims on campus. Everything from people being called "terrorist bitches", people being made fun of for not speaking English, people come up and trying to rip off their hijab's. This is, obviously, absolutely despicable. But it has not just come out of nowhere

by coincidence at the same time as this anti-Muslim hysteria in Australia. This is a reflection of what is happening nationally.

Will Menzies: Somebody has attempted to rip off somebody's hijab on campus?

Grace Hill: That was a flinders student nearby campus – though the rest of the incidents have happened on campus. The rest of the issues have happened on campus.

Chris O'Grady: We have a Student Equal Opportunity Advisor, Anne Hayes, you can advise students to report these incidents or any incidents they see.

7.2 Student activists repeatedly harassing disabled students in areas of high traffic.

Jaka Yusuf: An email came to me this morning and asked whether this item could be added as a matter for discussion. What has actually happened is that a concerned student has described how she felt by several activists and people who were campaigning in the recent Student Council elections. I am going to meet her on Friday to get an account of what happened and will bring it to the next meeting if necessary. As for the meeting on Friday morning – I would like to propose one of the council members to assist me on meeting this woman because I don't want just a one on one meeting with her – I'm planning to meet her in one of the study rooms in the library.

7:20pm meeting closed.