

**FUSA Student Council Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2014**

MACO, Bright Room  
6:00pm

**Present:** Roxanna Henshaw, Ira Herbold, Michael Bezuidenhout, John Photakis, Ella Keegan-Treloar, Tim Mitchell, James Vigus, Rosalie Dow, Will Menzies (Minutes), Tut Tut, Jaka Yusuf, Chris O'Grady.

**Guest(s):** None.

**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:** Alison Taylor, Yadollah Bahrami, Tyme Childs.

**3. Guests:** None

**4. Minutes from October**

Michael Bezuidenhout: minutes for 6.5 don't really reflect what Michael said, particularly on p5 it just goes ...

Roxanna Henshaw: we can vote to approve with closer representation.

Chris O'Grady: not sure if we still have the recording. Can motion that we change the wording without changing the message

No other problems

**Motion:** To accept minutes from October with amendments Michael Mentioned

**Moved:** Roxanna Henshaw

**Seconded:** John Photakis

**Motion:** Carried

**5. Minutes from November**

**Motion:** To accept all submitted reports.

**Moved:** Roxanna Henshaw

**Seconded:** Ira Herbold

**Motion Carried.**

**Extra agenda item 7.14 Constitutional Interpretation**

**6. Reports**

**Motion:** To accept all reports submitted.

**Moved:** Roxanna Henshaw

**Seconded:** John Photakis

## **Starring**

Starred: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5, 7.6, 7.9, 7.10, 7.12, 7.14, 7.15 (new item for constitutional interpretation)

Un-starred 7.4, 7.7, 7.8, 7.11

**Motion:** Motion to accept all un-starred motions on block

**Moved:** Roxanna Henshaw

**Seconded:** John Photakis

## **New motion: Constitutional interpretation.**

Roxy: if you miss 3 meetings without leave of absence, you cease to be a member. Tut and Justin are removed as of last week. Lauren is removed as of April, depending on interpretation. One of her missed meetings was the emergency meeting. We need to decide whether missing an emergency meeting should be counted.

Tut: what are exceptional circumstances?

Roxy: they are determined by SC

Tut: obviously health, but why is it left to be arbitrary as to what is considered valid as a good exception?

Roxy: can't give an exhaustive list

Tut: I remember asking for leave and you said it wasn't exceptional enough.

Roxy: if you have a leave of absence in advance you can miss a meeting. If you didn't ask for one at the previous meeting, you can ask for one. Also, you can be granted one retrospectively. Was this the one about your wedding?

Roxy: I think I said it would be counted, but needed a specific reason for council, but in my opinion it's a valid reason.

Tut: ambiguity lies in the interpretation of leave of absence. Leave of absence (LOA) constitutes one or more weeks. That's why we have an apology for missing one meeting, LOA should only be for a number of weeks

Roxy: if an apology counts as a leave of absence then people miss a lot of meetings, therefore we allow a leave of absence to be a shorter period of time

James: hasn't been such a problem this year so it's not a cultural problem of laziness – it's been a good year. Is the main problem that it's unconstitutional? I would argue we grant retrospective those people in question a leave of absence and move on.

Roxy: for every meeting they missed?

James: yes we need to move on. There's always things that aren't ideal with these things and it sets a precedent. It's December we shouldn't label people as being lazy

Roxy: last year we didn't get meetings for the last few months as people didn't rock up. It's pretty bad and I don't like the precedent if retrospective leaves are granted.

Ira: can we clarify what the goal of the discussion is? Are we trying to figure out what to do with LOAs ?

Roxy: need to decide what Exceptional Circumstances (ECs) are and whether retro LOAs should be granted and what that means ie Tut not being on council, Lauren not having been on since April.

Tut: we should go through the individual cases.

Rosalie: I agree with James on retro LOAs granted to everyone involved, but as a point of action we should put into place a system to account for missed meetings, and make a form for missing meetings to be filled in to be looked at by SC. Also, the General Secretary should keep a record of these and flag it if someone misses a few meetings (with the individual and/or SC)

Michael: to deal with it for this year, we need to find an EC for these people. There isn't an option other than to provide a LOA. The exceptional circumstance should be the failing of SC to raise this and address it

Roxy: can you motion this?

**Motion:** I move that SC retrospectively approves the required Leaves of Absence for Lauren, Tut, and Justin, in the exceptional circumstance of student council oversight.

**Moved: Michael Bezuidenhout**

**Seconded: James Vigus**

**Motion carried.**

Chris: can someone volunteer to work on the regulations/policy/process for next year?

Rosalie: happy to do that.

## **7. Matters for Discussion:**

### **7.1 Club and Societies Regulation Amendment – General Secretary**

James: can you succinctly summarise the changes?

Roxy: SA has new legislation making the University very accountable if something goes wrong with a club on or off campus. The regulations are to cover these liabilities.

Under University regulations all clubs have to register (clubs defined in 2.6). If health safety checklist is filled out and the Manager of Student Engagement and General Secretary don't agree that event should happen on campus, it can't go ahead.

James: University always had that right anyway

Roxy: Yeah that's true, University can shut down events anyway

Michael: Is it standard for Student Associations to compel affiliation?

Roxy: It's more about covering the university than anything else.

Chris: It's not as big a change as what had occurred previously. Previously all clubs had to register with Flinders One. Some clubs have philosophical reasons against affiliating or don't have time/resources. This DOESN'T mean they are affiliating, just that they are registering. It's about making sure that events are monitored and successful and safe

Ira: If we're compelling clubs, the definition of club needs to be very precise. A study group could fall under this definition.

Roxy: That's why we included 'promoting the club's interest' part.

Ira: It can still be interpreted in a way not intended though.

**Motion:** I motion that Student Council approve the attached proposed amendments to the Clubs and Societies Regulations.

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: James Vigus**

**Carried by more than 2/3 majority**

### **7.2 Student Council member roles and duties amendments**

Tim: Can I propose an amendment? Remove 3G in Education Officer section “shall liaise with the Education Action Collective (EAC)”. This is redundant as the SRN performs a similar function and the EAC no longer exists.

**Motion:** the vote on the proposed amendments to Student Council Members Roles and Duties with the removal of clause 3.g.

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: Ira Herbold**

**Carried by more than 2/3 majority**

### **7.3 Sub-Committees Regulation Amendments – General Secretary**

Tim: Can you explain 2.2b?

Roxy: These don't quite exist yet, so this is to keep it open

Tim: Is this to bring it in line with 2.1?

Chris: Yes, exactly. Various schools and faculties may not have a committee; they may have a different kind of group. This is to make sure that these are included.

Rosalie: Under queer – s14 The Queer Subcommittee currently “5 students interested in queer issues”, it should be “5 students who identify as MOGAI or GLBTIQ students”

Roxy: I would be happy for these to be inclusive rather than exclusive (ie a man can be on the womens' subcommittee)

Michael: This doesn't exclude. If you could have 5 queer and 1 not queer, as long as you had a minimum of 5 queer identifying.

Rosalie: No requirement at all of queer people being in there. That's the issue.

Tut: Isn't either the queer society and/or the queer subcommittee redundant as they both do the same thing?

Rosalie: There are differences ie. Social functions for queer society, and it is important to have both the queer society and the queer subcommittee.

Ira – should we add something specifying that you don't have to be queer to be on the subcommittee as long as there's a minimum of queer people?

Rosalie: Indigenous Students Society is five students.

Tim: To bring the SRN into line with the others, pretty much all others I would prefer “5 students who are interested in education issues”

Rosalie: The difference is that they are elected. I am not amenable to Tim's amendment.

Ira: If we're changing 14.2b, shouldn't we also change 13.2b?

Michael: Should we change accessibility as well?

Ira: They should all have a minimum on subcommittees that are members of a group.

Roxy: I'm amenable. Make the same change to all the relevant subcommittees (women's, accessibility and queer). Also, Jonathon says that FUSA has "wom\*n" not "women" in their regulations. Should we change it?

Tut: Does it really matter?

Ella: We have it as that on the website

Rosalie: Making people feel safe, welcome, accepted is a practical thing that SC is meant to do.

Roxy: Straight to a vote as regulations amended in this meeting.

**Motion:** I motion that Student Council approve the attached proposed amendments to the Sub-Committee regulations.

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: John Photakis**

Abstaining: Tim and Tut

Ira: Should we send the minutes around beforehand?

Roxy: Yeah we can do that.

## **7.5 FUSA Ball Income**

Chris: Just wanted to make sure we're aware of the situation – 9600 in ticket sales went into NAB account. We don't spend SSAF on alcohol, therefore we're sending \$6192 to the University, and having discussed with Andrew Parkin we can decide retrospectively to keep \$3408 as profit. Just taking that to Student Council

**Motion:** \$3408 profit from ticket sales from the FUSA Ball remains in the FUSA NAB Bank account.

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: Ira Herbold**

**Motion carried**

## 7.6 Student Clubs Resources

Michael: Can we have more background on the money?

Chris: Document was put together by Clubs and Events Officer in consultation with clubs about items the clubs need.

Michael: There's money left over and we haven't spent it?

Chris: Yes, it was left over in a miscellaneous budget, so we've selected these items as most useful.

Tim: Can we make a recommendation to Adam to purchase a spill matt for the BBQ as Flinders One doesn't have one anymore?

Chris: I'll tell him.

Roxy: Straight to a vote

**Motion:** I motion that Student Council endorse spending \$6000 on the listed equipment

**Moved:** Roxanna Henshaw

**Seconded:** Will Menzies

**Motion carried**

**James – senate voted down the education reforms and this campus should be proud of all we've done.**

## 7.9 NUS National Conference Registration

James Vigus: The labour factions should make NUS free to attend in the first place, so I don't really support the motion in that sense as Michael should be arguing to Student Unity that NUS should be made free. \$1000 is a lot of money and the highly partisan leaders do very well out of it (as someone who is very pro-NUS). Socialist Alternative have spent a lot of money to pay from other observers to attend the conference due to how it was set up

Michael: Two issues

1. Whether it should be free – nothing we can do about it now and I get your point and I'm on NUS exec now and NUS traditionally loses a lot of money due to freeloaders. That's a separate argument to be had
2. If we want to ensure Flinders students are professionally developed we need to make an effort to allow that now for NUS to exist so we can have influence if it were to change to a different mode.

I was looking at this and only one person has shown interest. We do have the budget so it's a good idea to spend it so that the money does go to Flinders students

Chris: The University is conservative in some respects regarding funding NUS with SSAF funds. NUS have reduced the fee by 50% so it's now \$500 per student. We have the funds for 6 students to attend. I asked Jason to apply for student activities funding so he can do that, and can apply for up to 75% of that amount. That's probably the best way for Jason to go.

Michael: From the budget, there are budget areas it can come from. ie \$7000 of OB conference attendance that hasn't been spent this year. In the context of not having spent hundreds of thousands of our budget this year, it's a moderately small fee in that context. I also understand what you said with applying for SSAF funding and Jason wouldn't get approved until after the conference. The timing is problematic

Chris: Applications go to me, and I could process it the same day. The University won't allow the use of SSAF funds so that won't happen, so it would either be through FUSA NAB bank account or activities funding.

Michael: What's your opinion on activities funding

Chris: I think it would be fine

Roxy: Do you want to withdraw the motion?

Michael: Don't know if we should make a contingency

James: There are precedents – Socialist Alternative students from Flinders in the past have been able to get funding through Chris suggested avenue. We should be worried about spending so much money on someone who is privileged due to their membership of a political faction. Also advise paying the \$200 rather than the \$1000 – there are Student Unity people he could stay with in Melbourne.

Michael – let's go with Chris' suggestion, I choose to withdraw and not amend it.

**Motion withdrawn**

## 7.10 Election Regulations Amendments

Michael: Working from Jonathon's recommendations to SC re dispute resolution etc. Big thing is changing s10 (electronic vote counting) – moving away from electronic vote counting as this is fraught. ie can't police not standing too close with an iPad, it is done through the University website (so FUSA can't do it through the FUSA website) when we're supposed to be independent. We had huge issues with electronic voting and monitoring this year. I'm proposing moving to a paper ballot as most student unions/associations do around Australia. The AEC package is \$15,000, but other private companies can do this for less. We could appoint a returning officer to do it themselves and give honorariums for volunteers ourselves. Paper is a more secure method and given all the issues we've had this year it's important. It's also possible to vote either above or below the line, there are provisions for lodgement of tickets with the returning officer – this is based on the UQ system which was largely amended as it was known as quite corrupt.

Roxy: Did you consult legal or others?

Michael: Don't have access to a paid lawyer, got Adelaide University friends to look at it and they said there shouldn't be problems. Next year we'll need more reforms but I'd rather have something to ensure next year's elections are somewhat better. We can amend if there's something wrong and I'd rather have it now and amend it later than have another election like this year.

Roxy: Our regulations are bad, but we only got this yesterday

Michael: I emailed it by Friday, but added another paragraph when the deadline was shifted back

Chris: University is looking at replacing the voting system and having a new third party system on the cloud used by other University Student Associations. Voting on paper has benefits. Has pros and cons

Michael: I tried to make options for postal voting to make it fairer. We could even send votes to all external students. The e voting unis tend to be newer student associations that are still closely tied to the University.

Chris: Elections are still not an allowable expenditure item under the SSAF budget, so it would have to come from the FUSA NAB account or University funding. My view would be to postpone changes to election regulation as we don't have the funds and Jonathon is working on it, so we could hold off till January.

Michael: I am amenable to working on it more, but doing nothing would be quite concerning given what happened last election. It doesn't necessarily have to be a hugely expensive process. There is something in the motion about student council budgeting for these funds.

Paper voting only mentions general elections, but does not preclude electronic by-elections (paper by-elections would be wasteful)

Ira: There are issues with the current regulations I agree, I agree that paper ballots are preferable and that it should be a closed campus. BUT needing to do something shouldn't motivate us to change it without being hashed out over a longer period with greater consultation. I just got this at the start of the meeting. Also need to know about funding, legal issues (through proper channels). I don't have an issue with this as I read it, but it needs more oversight

Chris: Currently elections are free to run

Michael: It was not my fault that it wasn't sent out

Roxy: You said it was a draft and that you would send another copy that night.

Michael: That's what is meant to happen at a meeting – go through things and check them. If we do a by-election without these it would be more dodgy than with these amendments.

Roxy: How would SC feel about meeting again in Dec to re-look at this?

Michael: I don't think anyone would be amenable

Rosalie and Will: I would be

Michael: Other Universities vote by email, that is possibly a possibility. We don't have to meet in person, we can meet over the phone or we can do something else in December. I am not confident that we

Ira: Can we do something other than passing them? Like recommending that they are reviewed?

Michael: Either you pass them or you don't. What about a sunset clause?

Chris: We could pass everything but the postal part.

Roxy moves we go straight to a vote, Will seconds.

**Motion:** to pass proposed changes unamended.

2/3 majority not reached. **Motion not carried**

## 7.11 Queer Officer Role and Duties amendment

Changing the language – current language doesn't cover everyone ie asexual persons. Rosalie has been using MOGAI (Marginalized Orientations, Gender Identity and Intersex). But GLBTIQ is better recognized so maybe we should keep it as both. Also gets rid of non-existing queer action group, and ensures that the queer officer works with queer groups on campus.

Roxy: Under current regulations do you know if someone who is asexual can run for queer officer? This could be something to change

James: Queer officer definition is Asexual people historically aren't oppressed in the same way as other queer identities – particular sexualities are oppressed and this has changed in recent times – we identify particular oppressions (ie women, racism, homophobia) so we need to be a little bit careful.

Roxy: I didn't mean to start a debate, but the regulations should probably be looked at

Ira: Let's not play oppression Olympics – a lot of groups are marginalized.

Roxy moves we go to a vote

**Motion:** I motion that the attached proposed amendments to the Queer Officer Roles and Duties be approved by Student council.

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: John Photakis**

**Motion carried**

## **7.12 Tri University Dinner**

Roxy is bringing this to Student Council on behalf of international officer.

James: What's the issue?

Chris: Wondering whether sending these people is appropriate use of SSAF funds. They could apply for student activities funding instead of doing this in the ways in the motion as it doesn't specifically fall under the portfolio. (\$70 for 10 students). Also how do you decide which 10 students?

Roxy: Happy to withdraw the motion, given all the discussions tonight. Does anyone else want to bring it?

## **7.13 Endorsement of Flinders University's joint hosting of Fairly Educated 2015**

Chris: amend motion

Add 2015 events budget

Tim: How will Chris ensure compliance, is that just an agreement?

Will: SSAF fees have to benefit Flinders students. Anything that does not directly benefit FU students must be funded through other means. Chris will ensure SSAF regulations are complied with.

Roxy moves we go straight to a vote.

**Motion:** That Student Council allocates \$2000 from the Events budget to be used for the 2015 Fairly Educated Conference. This money is to be spent consistent with SSAF regulations and is to benefit Flinders Students. Where appropriate, the Manager – Student Engagement will provide guidance on SSAF compliance.

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: Will Menzies**

**Motion carried.**

## 7.14 Clubs affiliation

Ahmadiyya Muslim student association

Michael: Do we already have a Muslim association?

Roxy: There are other Muslim groups who don't see the religion in the same way.

Rosalie: What if a cards club was formed vis a vis FUTURE club? Would we allow both?

James: I'm familiar with both of these groups. They're both active, they're both quite different; we shouldn't label them unnecessarily when they have difference. Consider different Christian groups having different groups.

Ira: Clarifies different Muslim groups.

Roxy: If anyone

Go to vote

**Motion:** That the Flinders Psychology Student's Association be financially affiliated with FUSA

**Motion:** That the Thinking Chemical and Physical Sciences Students Society be financially affiliated with FUSA.

**Motion:** That Flinders Medical Students' Society be financially affiliated.

**Motion:** That the Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Association be non-financially affiliated with FUSA.

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: James Herbold**

**Motion carried. All clubs affiliated.**

## **Honorariums**

November: General Secretary, Enviro Officer, Womens Officer (Nov and Oct) , International Officer, Welfare Officer, Postgrad Officer, Queer Officer

**Motion:** Passing these honorariums:

**Moved: Roxanna Henshaw**

**Seconded: John Photakis**

**Motion carried**

Tim abstains from voting

Michael: Honorariums: needs 72 hours. He has done: (see list). This adds up to 56 hours. For extra 16 hours, Michael has also done NUS Exec, presidents' summit, EdCon

Roxy: Doesn't set a good precedent to fail to send an email each month.

Michael: I sort of get it. I won't do it next year I promise. There are means to do it retrospectively. I don't think the precedent is an issue.

James: It has been poor form, but I support on the basis that philosophically honorariums should be paid. We're not workers. It is poor form to fail to work within the established system within the organization.

Michael: I have been lazy and I apologise, but I have done the work.

Rosalie: I agree with what James says BUT reports are a great thing as they show the body what they're doing.

Michael: Mine don't go public.

Will: I don't feel comfortable with passing this without council having the documentation.

Tut: The issue seems to be trust. There's probably no motivation to make up hours where no student council people were there. 2. There should be a strong caveat that this will not be tolerated again. It should be done as. 3. Counter to Will, I don't think we need to put it off till another time.

Straw poll – all in favour of approving all 10 months – not enough

**Motion:** Vote on November

**Moved:** Roxanna Henshaws

**Seconded:** John Photakis

**Motion carried**

Tim: Should Michael leave the room?

Michael leaves the room.

**Motion:** All in favour of approving Michael for all but 4 months.

**Moved:** Roxanna Henshaw ?

**Seconded:** ?

Will abstains from voting

**Motion carried.**

Michael gets paid for November plus four other months.

## **8. Matters for Discussion**

Ira: Hesitant to give the University power to monitor social media accounts. Surely if something is confidential there are already non-disclosure policies in place. Surely these policies do the job. The new job is therefore superfluous and gives the University unnecessary powers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58.