

Flinders University Student Council Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of August 2014

FUSA HUB meeting room

Present: Grace Hill, Roxanna Henshaw, Will Menzies, Ira Herbold, Haidarr Jones, Alison Taylor, Yadoilah Bahrami, Jaka Yusuf, Ella Keegan-Treloar, James Vigus, Michael Bezuidenhout, Timothy Mitchell, John Photakis, Lauren Brice, Tut Tut

Meeting Opened at 6:15pm

1. Open and Welcome

Opened the meeting, acknowledged that the meeting was occurring on Kurna land and thanked the elders, past and present, for the use of this land.

2. Apologies

Caleb Pattinson

3. Welcome Guests

Steph Walker

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Amendments proposed by Michael Bezuidenhout:

6.6 For Michael to be counted as a 'For' vote, rather than an abstention

6.9 For the full text of Michael's motion to be included as follows:

FUSA non-partisanship

FUSA is a student organisation committed to furthering the interests of and engaging with all students. It is not acceptable for students to feel they cannot approach FUSA staff, Council Members or the FUSA office for fear their political beliefs or ideology will cause conflict or result in them not being assisted or respected. As such it is imperative that FUSA conducts its self in a non-partisan manner. While it is acknowledged that student organisations in general and FUSA as a student union in particular is by its nature a political organisation that runs campaigns and has positions on a range of matters, these campaigns and positions should always be furthering the interests of Flinders University students. These campaigns and any activity or impression that FUSA gives should never be conducted or presented as a means to simply further partisan interests.

The various concrete bollards and other notice areas around Flinders University provide all students with ample access to place and view posters and other material in accordance with the right to free speech and freedom of information. Partisan material and any other legal material from individuals or groups are welcome in these areas.

Partisan material however is not welcome to be displayed in or directly on the FUSA building or to be used with in conjunction with or seemingly in conjunction with any FUSA branding. This is because FUSA must be and seen to be accessible to all students. To allow partisan material could not only dissuade some students from engaging with FUSA because it is seen as simply a vessel for one political party or persuasion but could turn FUSA from an accessible friendly and welcoming institution for all into a place of vicious partisan rivalries

where political party branding and logos are seen everywhere and the direct student voice is lost. Students may stop thinking of FUSA as a place of acceptance and assistance and simply see it as a place of conflict and factionalism.

Candidates running for election for Student Council are already not allowed to use the FUSA office to display their election material nor are they allowed to use FUSA branding in their materials. This follows the principal that one or a group of candidates on their own cannot be seen to represent the entirety of FUSA. It is simply a progression of this principal to extend the restriction to other directly partisan posters.

It is a fundamental principal of our democracy that the institutions of Government and Parliament cannot display partisan logos or behave in a partisan manner. You will never see a party's logo on a government press release or above an entrance to a parliament. Because while MP's are free to criticise other political parties and promote their own, the institutions of government its self cannot be seen to be partisan as they must always assist every member of the public in accordance with the law no matter what their ideology.

If this principle is a respected and integral part of Australian government and Australian democracy then it should certainly be a part of FUSA's principles and should influence how FUSA operates so that it can continue to be seen as accessible and helpful to all students.

I motion that material, publications and positions that are directly partisan, including but not limited to referring directly to a political party or using a political party's logo or symbol of a particular ideology, in either their branding or position, are not allowed to be displayed in or on the FUSA office, any FUSA Stalls or any material FUSA publishes.

If there is doubt or contention about the applicability of this motion to a particular situation, the material or position must gain approval by majority vote of the FUSA Student Council before it can be presented. Any Flinders University Student can raise concern about a possible infringement and present their concern to Student Council. The resolution of this conflict must occur in a reasonable time and must be conducted in good faith. If the Student Council is unable to make a decision within a reasonable time due to limitations on the availability of Council Members, the decision lies with Student Council Executive and failing that the most senior member of FUSA staff or allied employee until Student Council is able to vote on the matter in question.

Moved: Michael Bezuidenhout

Concerns from the International Officer:

Concern was raised over missing reports. It was agreed that missing reports would be sorted outside of the meeting, in time for the next meeting.

Amendments proposed by Tut Tut:

6.2 To amend the final line of his comment to "We don't seek to shut anyone down or censor debate, all we want is equality of speech and too represent a non-partisan Student Council."

Motion: Accept the proposed amendments and to accept the amended minutes of the previous meeting.

Proposer: Grace Hill

Secunder: John Photakis

Motion carried unanimously

6. Reports

Reports were received from:

President
General Secretary
Education Officer
Environment Officer
Queer Officer
Women's Officer
International Officer
Welfare Officer
Social Activity Officer
Accessibility Officer
Postgraduate Officer
Indigenous Officer
MSE

I motion to receive all of these reports on block.

Proposer: Grace Hill
Seconder: John Photakis
Motion carried unanimously

7. Matters for Decision

I motion that all unstarred motions be moved on block, namely motions 7.2,7.4, 7.9, 7.10, 7.13, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16, 7.17, 7.28.2, 7.29.1

Proposer: Grace Hill
Seconder: Roxanna Henshaw

I motion that the above motions, 7.2,7.4, 7.9, 7.10, 7.13, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16, 7.17, 7.28.2, 7.29.1, be endorsed by the Student Council.

Proposer: Grace Hill
Seconder: John Photakis
Motion Carried unanimously

7.1 National Day of Action

National Day of Action to be held on the 20th of August at Flinders in line with the NUS event.

Roxanna Henshaw expressed an interest in putting the event under the Education Officer's direction, as it fit within his portfolio.

James Vigus instead stated that the event should belong to the whole student body, and anyone who wishes to be involved in the organisation of the event should have the chance to. Grace Hill was also against the change, agreeing with James and adding that some of the planning was already under way, so those who had started it should be allowed to continue in a leadership role for the event.

Timothy Mitchell, Education Officer, suggested that the event could potentially sit under the direction of both himself and the president jointly.

Michael Bezuidenhout pointed out that, as the event did require money from the student council, it should have someone explicitly in charge, so as to have an individual accountable for the money that is spent.

Grace Hill, suggested, instead that the money come out of the Student Council's event budget.

I motion that that the motion be amended to append "and that \$1000 be used from the events budget." to the end of the motion.

Proposer: Grace Hill

Secunder: John Photakis

I motion that the motion be amended to place the Education officer primarily in charge of the spending and co-ordination of the NDA.

Proposer: Roxanna Henshaw

Secunder: Timothy Mitchell

Motion carried. Tut Tut and Grace Hill voted against.

I motion that the next Adelaide rally for the NUS national day of action be held on the 20th of August at Flinders and that \$1000 be used from the events budget under the direction of the Education officer.

Proposer: Grace Hill

Secunder: Roxanna Henshaw

Motion carried unanimously.

7.3 Election of Student Council 2015

John Photakis raised the point that the election period began on Labor Day. John suggested that alternate dates be considered, and further suggested that the following week might be better.

Michael Bezuidenhout instead proposed that the election occur across only 3 days, the regulation minimum, as many students did not enjoy an extended election period anyway.

Will Menzies supported having the election across as close to a full 5 day period as possible, the maximise the number of students who could be engaged in the election, as not every student came in every day.

Chris, FUSA staff member, confirmed that the regulations stipulated that the 15th of October was the last day that the elections could occur on, and that delaying the elections by a full week would put the Council in breach of these regulations.

A suggestion to change the proposed election dates to the 7th-10th was favourable to the proposer.

I motion:

- Oct
1. That the 2014 Flinders University Student Council elections be held in the period 7th to Oct 10th.
 2. That the 2014 NUS Delegate elections be held in the period Oct 7th to Oct 10th.

Proposer: Grace Hill
Secunder: Roxanna Henshaw

7.5 Allocation of Student Council Representatives to Flinders One consultation groups.

Campus Engagement: Rosalie Dow and Alison Taylor
Food and Beverages: Will Menzies and Ira Herbold
Sport and Fitness: Ella Treloar and Yadollah Barhami

I motion that these people be allocated at the student council representatives to the respective Flinders One Student Consultation groups.

Proposed: Grace Hill
Secundered: Roxanna Henshaw

7.6 FUSA Newsletter Proposal

Roxanna: There are some changes in the motion, from the original agenda sent around. These changes are in the updated version. Namely, the changes are in regards to the number of issues to be produced annually.

1.0 Introduction

With the aim of increasing engagement in both FUSA services and Student Council, the proposal below outlines the components of a FUSA Newsletter for digital distribution.

2.0 Components of the Newsletter (Note: Listed in no specific order)

2.1 Student Council

A section through which Student Council members communicate their initiatives to students.

2.2 Events

Events in focus will have a section within the newsletter with a brief summary of the important details. A separate Events Calendar outlining all FUSA, Student Council and Club upcoming events will be placed to the side of the main content for easy viewing.

2.3 Clubs and Societies

A section outlining club activities and/or discussing a club in focus will be within the newsletter, increasing awareness and engagement in clubs and their activities.

2.4 Employment/Job Listings

Not a list of jobs but just a button to the jobs page

2.5 Empire Times

An outline of the most recent issue of the Empire Times will be provided with a link to the digital copy to boost readership.

2.6 Student Advocacy/Student Welfare

A section will be placed to periodically remind students of Student Advocacy services and let them know of the Student Advocacy services and any Student Welfare initiatives at large. This section could also be used to promote initiatives and campaigns for mental and physical well-being.

3.0 Promotion, Initiation and Reoccurrence

3.1 Promotion

Promotion of the FUSA Newsletter will occur via the FUSA Facebook group, within the FUSA Office and within FUSA operated stalls during events such as Relax, O'Week, etc.

3.2 Initiation

While we would endeavour to begin newsletter earlier, completion of the template, structure and initiating digital distribution would begin no later than the 6th of October, after semester break.

3.3 Reoccurrence

The newsletter is to be distributed digitally on a fortnightly basis.

No fewer than 12 a year

4.0 Changes to the newsletter content and structure

Changes to the newsletter structure and content may be made at the discretion of the organising body upon discussion, including the Student President, General Secretary, tasked Ordinary Council Member, Media Officer and Clubs & Events Officer.

5.0 Queries

Queries can be directed to the Clubs and Events Officer via email at adam.rau@flinders.edu.au or alternatively via phone at 8201 2953.

Motion: I motion that student council endorse this proposal for a student newsletter. The first newsletter must be sent out by the 19th of August 2014.

7.7 Blue Stockings Week event Proposal

Ella noted that the original agenda was missing the month for the event, that should read

August.

Motion: I motion that student council approves the above proposal and budget taken from the women officer's budget.

Proposed: Ella Keegan-Treloar (Women's Officer)

Seconded: Roxanna Henshaw

Motion carried

7.8 Student Council recommendation to increase Empire Times Editor's honorariums

Roxanna: The Empire Times receives one of the lower wages for the second highest page count, when compared to a broad range of similar student magazines around Australia.

James: Part of this disparity is the amount of money held by the respective student unions, such as Melbourne University's student magazine, when compared to FUSA. I am still in favour of the motion, but I feel that that page count is not the whole issue.

Steph: Yes, as well as the age of some of the papers, with Farrago being the oldest in Australia. However, every page takes a lot of time, so page count is a reasonable way of reflecting the amount of time which goes into each edition.

Motion: I motion that student council recommend that each ET editor's honorarium is increased to \$10,000 in 2015.

Proposed: Roxanna Henshaw
Seconded: Grace Hill

7.10 Student Council Forum

Roxanna: This was originally meant to occur in the first week, but was obscured by O'Week. A new date needs to be set as a replacement

General consensus by a round table discussion put forward the 27th.
Grace moved to a vote, Roxanna seconded.

Motion: I motion that we change the date of the next student forum to the 27th.
Proposed: Roxanna Henshaw
Seconded: Grace Hill

7.11 Student Council Training Day – General Secretary

Roxanna: We need to arrive at a time and date when the student council can have a training with the staff, such Steph/ Chris/ Sean/ Adam and others.

Jack: Is a weekend possible? It seems that it is difficult to find a weekday that does not clash for several members of the student council.

Roxanna: That is a good idea, however it may be difficult to arrange for the paid staff to come in on the weekend, using up their overtime. I can put out a Doodle Poll to assess the availability of the members of the student council.

Motion: I motion that Student council training day be held on a day determined as a result of polling the members of the student council.
Proposed: Roxanna Henshaw
Seconded: John Photakis

7.17 Education Action Club

Tim noted that the details of this proposal were outlined in his officer's report.

Chris: Is there any particular reason why this is outlined as a club, rather than a subcommittee?

Tim: I would be agreeable to changing it to a subcommittee.

Motion: I motion that student council endorse the above proposal to be sent to the appropriate authority in the university, via the Manager of Student Engagement.

Proposed: Timothy Mitchell

Seconded: Roxanna Henshaw

7.18 Adelaide Uni Environment and Social Justice Officers

Will: I would like to correct that it was not the union, but the SRC that made the decision and that the decision has been reversed.

Grace: Further, it was immediately protested by the socialist alternative alliance, which was successful.

Will: I withdraw the motion

Motion withdrawn

7.19 Climate Change

Motion: Student Council calls on all members of parliament to prioritise immediate and meaningful action on climate change, the greatest environmental threat humans have ever faced. In particular we would ask that Xenophon, whose success stems from his fierce advocacy for South Australia, would consider the consequences of RET policy for the environment; the opportunities that a strong federal RET would provide for South Australia; and the drastic need for climate change policy that arises with the removal of the Carbon Tax. We call on Nick Xenophon to support a strong RET and ambitious action on climate change.

Proposed: Will Menzies

Seconded: John Photakis

Motion Carried

7.20 Refugee Policy

Michael: I am not disagreeable to the content of the motion, however I do question the relevance to FUSA's goals, credibility, and expertise.

Will: FUSA, as endorsed by past motions, is inherently a group that weighs in on political issues. Further, as a student body representing student interests, there are current students who have been through the refugee intake system and there are also likely to be refugees currently in detention that would otherwise be pursuing study somewhere: possibly at Flinders.

Grace: I agree with Will's statement, further adding that FUSA has a strong history of social justice and advocacy.

Michael: I also have issue with the phrasing, in the motion, around indefinite detention.

James: I fully support the motion and, further, am outraged by the current Government Policies There are better ways that have been used in the past, with the

only criticism being that some areas of the public did not think they were firm enough. This should not be a good enough reason to implement the inhumane policies we have currently.

Will: I put forward that the motion be amended to the below:

Motion: Student council calls for

1. The achievements, hard work, enterprise and cultural contribution of Australians of refugee origin to be recognised and celebrated. In particular, we congratulate the Hieu Van Le on his appointment as incoming SA Governor – well deserved for a lifetime of tireless and humble service to South Australian business, to civil society, and to the Vietnamese and migrant community in Australia.
2. The contribution of refugees to Flinders University to be recognised.
3. Asylum seeker policy and practice to be amended to comply with the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 protocol, as well as with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the ICSECR; the ICCPR; CEDAW; the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
4. Australia to avoid the practice of refoulement, and to ensure that all claims for asylum are properly processed before an individual leaves Australian jurisdiction.
5. The removal of Australia's cap on refugee places. A unique, absurd and cruel policy that prevents Australia from resettling genuine refugees, who would otherwise find a home here, on arbitrary numerical grounds.
6. Substantial increases to Australia's refugee intake from refugee camps.
7. Australia to shift from a model of indefinite mandatory offshore detention with limited rights of judicial review, to a model of speedy security assessments followed by refugees being housed in the community while refugee assessments are being done.
8. Australia to end indefinite detention.
9. The Government to end its silence over 'operational matters' so Australians can make a genuine assessment their elected government's performance in this key policy area. Full transparency is necessary in refugee policy matters, except in circumstances where this would threaten the safety of asylum seekers from their persecutors.

Proposed: Will Menzies

Seconded: James Vigus

Michael Bezuidenhout against

Motion Carried

7.21 Toga Party Proposal

Lauren: I am mainly confirming that the ticket numbers are capped at 100, largely due to the event being a Flinders Living Event.

Motion: Accept the proposed event outline as below:

Contents

1.0 Introduction 2.0 Components of the Event

3.0 Budget

4.0 Queries

LXVIII.

3.0 Introduction

Flinders Living have generously offered at least 100 tickets for their annual Toga Party to the greater Flinders University student body, previously allocated only to Flinders Living students and the university residence network. The Flinders Living Toga Party is the largest event on the Flinders Living calendar, and this is a fantastic opportunity to connect the Flinders University student body with the Flinders Living community. Flinders Living have requested assistance with the increased attendance, and consequently aim to provide \$1,000 from the FUSA events budget to go toward assisting them with the cost of this event, as the event is usually supported with money received from the Flinders Living Residents' Club membership fees.

4.0 Components of the Event

The event consists of an elevated stage, professional audio system, multiple DJs and multiple areas ranging from chill out areas to areas dedicated to particular genres of music.

5.0 Allocation of funding

The allocation of funding will go towards additional resources to cater for the larger audience include additional staffing, catering and supplies. As the event is run almost entirely using the Flinders Living Residents' Club membership fees, we feel that the allocation of \$1,000 is a fair allocation that will assist in improving both the event and the relationship between Flinders Living and the Student Association.

6.0 Queries

Queries can be directed to the Clubs and Events Officer via email at adam.rau@flinders.edu.au or alternatively via phone at 8201 2953.

Proposed: Lauren Brice

Seconded: John Photakis

Motion Carried

7.22 Proposal Repeal of carbon tax

Motion: I motion that FUSA condemns the Australian federal government for being the first country or province to legislate against their carbon tax / emissions trading scheme.

Proposed: John Photakis

Seconded: Will Menzies

Motion Carried

7.26 Clubs and Societies

Motion: I motion that we change Section 12 of the Clubs and Societies Regulations to:

Annual General Meetings

12.1. The Inaugural General Meeting shall be the first Annual General Meeting.

12.2. Annual General Meetings shall be convened for the following reasons:-

(a) To receive financial statements

(b) To receive annual reports of office bearers

(c) To fairly and democratically elect office bearers

(d) To elect an office bearer to be a delegate on the Clubs and Societies Sub-Committee

(e) To make changes to the constitution of the club.

12.3. Each affiliated club shall hold its Annual General Meeting before the deadline set down in its constitution.

12.4. Notice of an Annual General Meeting shall be given to the members of the club and the General Secretary of the Association at least a week before the set date.

12.5. The General Secretary may attend any AGM of an affiliated Club.

12.6. Each affiliated club shall hold its AGM during the Academic Year.

12.7. Within 14 days of holding its AGM, each affiliated club shall provide the required documents for reaffiliation as outlined in X.X.

12.8. Quorum at AGM shall be 30% of total membership or 10 members, whichever is lesser.

12.9. Failure to reach quorum after 60 minutes after the scheduled start of meeting will result in the AGM being cancelled.

Proposed: Roxanna Henshaw

Seconded: Grace Hill

Motion Carried

7.27.1 Affiliation of the Flinders Labor Club

Michael: I have concerns that there is already a club of a very similar name already affiliated with FUSA in the same respect.

Allison: The club have expressed a wish to change the name, and have approved the name change appropriately, to the Flinders University Labor Club.

Motion: To accept the affiliation of the Flinders University Labor Club.

Proposed: Roxanna Henshaw

Seconded: John Photakis

Motion Carried

7.28.2 Honorariums

Motion to be amended to add Jaka Yusuf to the list, pending an assessment of the technical issue.

Motion: that student council approve:

- * The General Secretary for June and July
- * The Education Officer for June and July
- * The Environment Officer for July
- * The Women's Officer for June and July
- * The Welfare Officer for June and July
- * The Social Activities Officer for June and July
- * The Postgraduate Officer for June and July
- * The Indigenous Officer for June and July
- * The International Officer for June and July
- * The Queer Officer for June and July
- * John Photakis

Proposed: Grace Hill

Seconded: Roxanna Henshaw

Motion Carried

7.23 Gaza One

Motion Withdrawn

7.24 Gaza Two (Now one)

James: Similar student bodies, such as the British National Union of Students and the Jewish association at Monash have also passed similar resolutions. This motion is a strong reaffirmation of the commitment Flinders University students have to caring about global issues.

Tut (prepared statement read in his absence): This motion is inflammatory and unbecoming of the student council. I reject the motion for perpetuating such perverse views on this most sensitive issue. As a supporter of Israel, I do not appreciate that, by stated implication, I'm somehow a racist oppressor or genocidaire. Therefore, I reject this motion completely due to its complete ignorance of a nuanced debate.

Grace: I believe that the only 'perverse' action taking place here is the bombing of schools, homes and hospitals in a push for an ethnic cleansing. Further, from conversations I have had around campus with many students it is clear the the sentiment on campus is in support of the Palestinian civilians.

Michael: The phrasing 'ethnic cleansing' and similar terms are very strong and controversial. My main concern is that a more balanced position should be reached, that is in line with the mainstream media. I am not questioning the validity of the concern raised for the situation in the Middle East, but rather the way in which that concern is currently being expressed. Further, I am concerned that a letter written to the student council has not been fully circulated with the agenda. Finally, as it stands, the motion could be considered anti-semitic

Grace: I will address the concern on the letter, as that is completely untrue. The letter was originally emailed out to every member of the student council, and thus did not need to be attached to the agenda as every member had already read it.

Tim: While I do not believe this necessarily comes under FUSA's scope of action I do support the concepts contained within the motion.

Ira: I think this a good motion and I strongly support it.

Yundola: I believe this motion reflects FUSA's stance in favour human rights, and I specifically endorse the strong support of the protection of children.

Michael: I do not support everything that Israel is doing, and I would like to clarify that phrases such as 'occupied territories' are internationally accepted, and thus suitable for use. However, several other terms in the motion are much less widely accepted. My proposed amendment moves to address this seeming lack of balance in the motion.

The amendment was not favourable to the proposer. The amendment was not passed.

The council moved straight to a vote on the final motion.

Motion:

1. That the Student Council reaffirms its commitment to stand against racism, oppression, colonialism, and genocide;
2. That the Student Council condemns the Israeli state's bombardment of the refugee camp in Gaza, which has already killed hundreds of civilians;
3. That the Student Council condemns the Israeli state's longstanding policies of ethnic cleansing and racial discrimination towards the Palestinians;
4. That the Student Council endorses the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign to hold Israel to account.
5. That the Student Council endorses future protests against the bombing of Gaza.
6. That the Student Council calls on all National Union of Students office bearers to cancel their participation in AIJAC's Rambam tour of Israel.
7. Condemnation of the continued illegal blockade of Gaza and the expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank as being the primary cause of violence in the region.
8. Condemn any members of Hamas, the IDF or any other group that targets civilians.

7. 25 FEA Affiliation – General Secretary

Motion: I motion that we grant the Flinders Entertainment Association non-financial affiliation.

Proposed: Roxanna Henshaw

Seconded: Grace Hill

In Favour: Grace Hill, Roxanna Henshaw, Ira Herbold, Haidarr Jones, Alison Taylor, Yadollah Bahrami, Jaka Yusuf, Ella Keegan-Treloar, James Vigus.

Against: Michael Bezuidenhout

Abstain: Timothy Mitchell, John Photakis, Lauren Brice

8. Matters For Discussion

8.1 The ‘Hub Student Consultation Group’

Chris: There will soon be a doodle poll available to invite the student council to take part in a HUB Consultation group. The wider student body will also be invited to attend.

8.2 Student council camp

Roxy: I would like to suggest the idea that the student council hold a handover camp in the December/January period. This would allow the old council to meet with their respective replacements in a productive atmosphere and handover the ins and outs of the job. Additionally, the new council would be able to get to know each other better and would thus be able to establish expectations and goals early.

Council was generally amiable to the concept.

8.3 Students' Awareness of Work Rights

Michael and Ira had recently been contacted in regards to students, particularly international students, having a low knowledge of their rights as workers. There is an upcoming meeting on the matter.

9 MATTERS FOR NOTING

9.1 Late items for the agenda – General Secretary

From now on any items sent after the deadline will not be included in the agenda.

9.2: Meeting Times – Education Officer

I would appreciate if meetings are organised with more than a day or two notice (with preference for a weeks notice), I understand that there are deadlines but as essentially a volunteer I find it quite unfair to be almost on call to meetings especially during the holiday period.

Meeting Closed at 8:40pm.