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Flinders University Student Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th of January 2019

Alere Function Room, Student Hub, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus

18:30

Present: Katt Hatzi (Student President), Josh Rayner (Education Officer), Jesse Stevens (Education Officer), Jawahir Baraki (Women's Officer), Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer), Sean Henschke (Queer Officer), Sarah Howson (Indigenous Students Officer), Nicole Cutufia (Disabilities Officer), Angus Clarke (General Council Member), Clara Santilli (General Council Member), Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member), Jesy Murphy (General Council Member), Clare Pollock (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students), Manager, Student Engagement, Alice Grieve (Minutes).

Meeting Opened: 19:31

1. Acknowledgement of Country

It was acknowledged that the Student Council meeting was taken place on the land of the Kurna people.

2. Apologies & Welcome of Guests

Apologies: Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer), Nicholas Loh (International Students Officer), Grace Hensel (Environment Officer), Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer), Christopher Norman (Mature Age Students Officer), Laura Savaglia (General Council Member).

Katt Hatzi (Student President) welcomed Clare Pollock (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students).

3. Name & Pronoun Round

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

4. Discussion with Prof. Clare Pollock

Katt Hatzi (Student President) invited Professor Clare Pollock, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) to speak.

Clare Pollock (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students) addressed the Student Council to welcome new members and recognise those that had continued from previous years. She introduced herself and her role and spoke on her discipline background as a researcher and teacher in psychology, her roles in universities and her 3 years at Flinders.

Clare provided guidance and strategies on how to influence and create change in a university context.



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Clare Pollock then took questions and spoke on some key themes for the coming year:

- Academic restructure
- Retention and attrition
- Employability

Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member) entered room 18:33

Clare Pollock (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students) left room 19:29

5. Previous Minutes

Previous minutes are not yet available for approval.

Nicole Cutufia (Disabilities Officer) left room 19:31

6. Executive Decisions

Motion: Student Council ratifies the decisions made by the Executive since the last full council meeting.

Moved: Clara Santilli (General Council Member)

Seconded: Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7. Reports

Motion: Student Council accepts the submitted reports and will defer outstanding reports to the Executive.

Moved: Jawahir Baraki (Women's Officer)

Seconded: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

8. Matters for Decision

Student President called for starring of matters.

Starred items: 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.15

8.0 Starred Matters for Decision



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8.3 Transgender People Are Not Ghosts – Jesy Murphy

Preamble: Sometimes transgender people can feel left out, feel like they go unnoticed. Transgender Day of Visibility looks to break down this invisibility and bring transgender people and transgender issues into the public eye. International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring of March 31st dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide. Having large scale events helps to break down barriers and makes it easier for people to talk about many issues that transgender people face.

Amended Motion: Student Council approves the event proposal (see Appendix 5) for Transgender Day of Visibility which will occur on the 27th of March during Pride Fest.

Moved: Jesy Murphy (General Council Member)

Seconded: Student President (Katt Hatzi)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

8.4 International Students Meet and Greet Event Proposal – Nicholas Loh

Preamble: See Appendix 6.

Discussion:

Katt Hatzi (Student President) corrected a typo in the proposal (Appendix 6) – the event will be held on 12 March, not 12 February.

Motion: Student Council approves the spending of \$239.30 from the International Students Officer events budget as per the event proposal.

Moved: Student President (Katt Hatzi)

Seconded: General Secretary (Josh Rayner)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

8.5 Academic Restructure. Vote of No Confidence in the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor – Angus Clarke

Preamble: The following motion has been moved by the NTEU in support of the campaign against the academic restructuring at Flinders University:

Flinders University is a public university entrusted to deliver excellence in research and teaching for the public good. Staff, students, alumni, and concerned community members move a motion of NO CONFIDENCE in the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor to deliver ethical governance, empowering leadership, or due diligence on the academic restructure for the public good. The damage to campus culture and morale could become irreparable unless immediate steps are taken to return to a collegial model of governance. The ill-conceived academic restructure risks the quality of research, teaching,



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and community engagement and exposes Flinders to massive reputational damage. Management's gross incompetence to date gives us no confidence in its capacity to effect change that is sustainable, consultative, evidence-based, or in the long-term interests of the university or the broader community.

Discussion:

Conversation was had by **Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member)** and **Jesse Stevens (Education Officer)** about the extremity of the motion of no confidence and how it relates to motion 8.9. **Jesse Stevens (Education Officer)** suggested clarification of the motion.

Amended Motion: Student Council supports the NTEU's motion of no confidence and will publicise and advocate for the vote to all Flinders Students.

Moved: Jesse Stevens (Education Officer)

Seconded: Angus Clarke (General Council Member)

For 7

Against 0

Abstain 5

Motion carried.

Nicole Cutufia (Disabilities Officer) entered room 19:39

8.15 Save Hakeem! – Josh Rayner

Preamble: Over the past two months, Hakeem Al-Araibi has been detained at Bangkok Airport, placed in Suan Plu (Bangkok) Immigration Detention Centre and is now facing deportation back to Bahrain, the country from which he sought refuge and where he fears torture and persecution. Hakeem had travelled to Thailand with his wife for their honeymoon before being detained on the basis on an Interpol Red Notice in relation to political charges issued against him in Bahrain. Hakeem had fled Bahrain because of persecution and torture due to his brother's peaceful involvement in protests against the ruling family during the Arab Spring of 2011. Hakeem had arrived in Australia in 2014 and was granted refugee status and permanent residency and has since been playing professional football for Pascoe Vale Football Club in the National Premier League in Victoria. While his footballing status has allowed for some public spotlight to be shone on this story, Hakeem still faces the very real threat of being deported back to Bahrain, with minimal mainstream news coverage of this event to empower public pressure on the Federal Government to become more involved in the fight to bring Hakeem back to Melbourne.

Discussion:

General Secretary (Josh Rayner) spoke on why he felt it important to pass this motion despite this not being directly relevant to students at Flinders University.



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Motion: Student Council calls upon the Federal Government, particularly Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne, to be more proactive in the fight to protect Hakeem Al-Araibi from deportation and bring him back to Australia.

Student Council members may sign the Change.Org petition published by the Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and share it to relevant social media networks. The petition can be found at; <https://www.change.org/p/marise-payne-don-pramudwinai-save-hakeem>

Moved: Student President (Katt Hatzi)

Seconded: General Secretary (Josh Rayner)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

8.0 Matters left un-starred to be moved en bloc:

8.1 Anti-Racism Campaign Proposal – Sarah Howson

Preamble: See Appendix 3.

Motion: Student Council approves the spending of \$2,500 from the allocated Anti-Racism campaign budget and the remaining \$73.17 from the Flexi-Fund as per the campaign proposal.

8.2 First Nations Students Collective Free Lunch Proposal – Sarah Howson

Preamble: See Appendix 4.

Motion: Student Council approves the spending of \$245 from the Indigenous Officer events budget as per the event proposal.

8.6 Freedom of Speech on Campus – Angus Clarke

Preamble: During the 2018 NUS National Conference, a “freedom of speech on campus” charter was voted on. FUSA should ratify this charter.

- a) FUSA upholds freedom of speech & expression on campus as an important right for students, staff, and members of the public.
- b) FUSA opposes attempts by university administrations and government ministers or departments to crack down upon freedom of speech on campus, whether it comes in the form of:
 - i. Disciplining academics for publishing their opinions in a personal or academic context
 - ii. Discipline against those engaged in protests, including academic discipline, legal discipline, and university-imposed fines
 - iii. Discipline on the basis of content of student publications.
- c) Protesting is a key form of freedom of expression.
 - i. Protesting outside of a speaking event in order to put across an alternative view is not an assault upon freedom of speech. It is the use of freedom of expression to put across an alternate opinion.



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- d) Laws or rulings which compel protestors to pay fines or security costs for demonstrations are an assault upon freedom of expression. They prohibit the most accessible form of freedom of expression to those who cannot pay, and in effect make the act of protesting a punishable

Motion: Student Council ratifies the charter (EDU 4.30 – Fighting for free speech) passed at the 2018 NUS National Conference.

8.7 Hands Off Our Unions and Services! – Jesse Stevens

Preamble: In December, the Liberal senator James McGrath announced he intends to introduce a private member's bill to abolish the student services and amenities fee (SSAF). SSAF funds student unions around the country, in addition to a range of other important services that improve student well-being including but not limited to counselling services, financial support, sporting programs and transition activities

This is yet another attack on higher education, student well-being, student representation and unionism, and the services and programs that so many students rely on. We should oppose any bill that will leave students worse off.

Motion: Student Council opposes any attempt to reduce or abolish SSAF, and affirms its commitment to universal student unionism.

8.8 Solidarity with Staff – Jesse Stevens

Preamble: The academic restructure is well underway. Many staff have taken voluntary redundancies and interviews for the remaining positions are due to be complete by the end of January. The restructure will see a frightening number of experienced academic staff leave Flinders, many of whom have been at the uni for two or three decades. The lack of respect and appreciation with which these staff have been treated by uni management has been appalling. The staff who remain will also be affected by this process for a long time, and working conditions will not be easy in the next 12 months.

Motion: Student Council stands in solidarity with Flinders academic staff and recognises the previous and ongoing contribution and service provided by our academic staff to students, the university and the greater community.

8.9 Student Voice Pilot Project – Jesse Stevens

Preamble: Students as Partners (SAP) is the term given for an approach to university decision-making that involves students working collaboratively with university staff to develop initiatives and make decisions. This is in contrast to university staff/management engaging in basic consultation with students, or informing students once decisions have already been made. SAP in Australia is in its infancy, with Sally Varnham from the University of Technology Sydney developing a national framework for how to expand and implement the approach into universities around Australia. Her work has led to the development of a national 12 month pilot project involving 10 institutions around Australia, including Flinders. This pilot involves both staff and students, and is important for the success of any established SAP framework. This pilot presents as an opportunity to advance student voice, and it would be imprudent of us to not participate in an opportunity to advance student voice.

Motion: Student Council endorses the FUSA Student President and Education Officer to be involved with the national 'Students as Partners' student voice pilot.



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8.10 Pride Fest! 2019 – Sean Henschke

Preamble: Pride fest 2018 was an amazing success engaging over 1,000 students over a week of inclusive events celebrating diversity of sex, sexuality, gender identity and gender expression. Pride fest 2019 aims to be bigger and better and to truly establish itself as an annual event. These events will feature an array of off campus pride fest events continuing with friends of the community and the Queer society in the following week.

Motion: Student Council approves the campaign proposal (see Appendix 7) for Pride Fest! 2019.

8.11 Stop the Torture – Sean Henschke

Preamble: The torture and killing of LGBTIQ people have continued into 2019 with evidence that “Chechen authorities began to abduct members of the LGBT community, bringing them to a government facility. As we were ringing in the New Year with our friends and family, they were being tortured as part of a “preventive mopping up” of people deemed undesirable” as the mass killing of anyone LGBTIQ identifying in Chechnya continues.

Motion: Student Council will share the Amnesty Petition on our Facebook Page; <https://action.amnesty.org.au/act-now/stop-crackdown-lgbti-people-chechnya>

8.12 We Should be Welcoming LGBTIQ Asylum Seekers – Sean Henschke

Preamble: The Australian Government has been reported to be asking incredibly inappropriate questions about their sex lives to verify a gay couple’s claim who were seeking protection in Australia. <https://www.buzzfeed.com/hannahryan/two-men-seeking-australias-protection-from-lgbt-persecution> (Linked due to explicit content) This is continued evidence of poor treatment of those who seek asylum and protection in Australia due to their LGBTIQ+ status with over 70 countries criminalising most LGBTIQ acts and many more without protections for the community there are a large portion of LGBTIQ community within the millions of refugees seeking asylum.

Motion: Student Council condemns the discrimination against persecuted LGBTIQ people. Student Council also condemns the mistreatment of all refugees and offshore processing by the Australian Government.

8.13 Your Faith is Not an Excuse to Discriminate Against the LGBTIQ Community – Sean Henschke

Preamble: Following the Ruddoch Review into Religious Freedom, the freedom for religious groups to discriminate against LGBTIQ people without legal consequences was justified by conservative politicians, particularly over religious schools wanting the right to discriminate by possibly firing or changing staff’s roles and expelling students based on identity. This is an issue that affects a large amount of vulnerable young LGBTIQ people and affects their chances of making it to university - not only do they have to combat the challenges of school but institutionalised homophobia and transphobia as well. This also affects students studying in education who want to teach future generations following their university degree. To ensure that these people are protected, Equality Australia have released a petition calling on both major parties to protect LGBTIQ students and teachers.



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Motion: Student Council supports students and staff right to identify as LGBTIQ+ openly and without discrimination. Student Council will share this petition on its social media platforms; https://equalityaustralia.org.au/protect-students-and-teachers/?fbclid=IwAR0F4JHpNjZESj3v3IO62QPQ68IK-9nwgq2hsJMNAEku1vN5MThttcj_5P8

8.14 It's All About TRAACCCTIIIOOONNN BABBBYYY! – Josh Rayner

Preamble: Broadening our scope and branding as a Student Association has been a consistent goal of Student Council over the past few years. FUSA currently has an Instagram page, however, Student Council does not have their own independent site running in similar fashion to the FUSA and FUSA Student Council Facebook pages. It's about time Student Council created their own Instagram page to promote the sublime initiatives, campaigns, and events that are consistently run by Student Council.

Motion: Student Council endorses the FUSA Student President and General Secretary to create and moderate the content of the Student Council Instagram page in conjunction with the Student Council Facebook Page.

8.16 BBQs for ALL – Jawahir Baraki

Preamble: When I was in my first year at Flinders in 2016, I passed by a FUSA BBQ. I waited in line with everyone else, and when I made the front of the line, I asked if it was Halal, to which I was told no. As a result, I never attended a BBQ again. Late last year an Officer bearer told me the supplies for BBQ's were provided by ALERE, which is halal. When I passed by the next BBQ, I asked before waiting in line if what I'd heard was true, but the casual workers didn't know and spent 15 mins trying to call people to work it out. Once they found out it was Halal, I had to get to the back of the line and wait my turn for my sausage.

To prevent any confusion in future and to promote inclusion, I'd like the casual workers from now on to be informed of whether the meat is Halal or not, so that they are equipped to answer questions quickly. I'd also like for all FUSA Facebook events to include in their event description when the meat is halal. Finally, I'd like for there to be an A4 sized page with Halal written on it either on the food bench or stuck to the edge of it at the BBQ's. As there are many Muslim students at Flinders, it's important that they feel included in the activities we hold as an association and that we never leave people out like how I felt back in 2016.

Motion: Student council agrees to promote that BBQ's are Halal, in order to promote the inclusion of all students with our events.

8.17 International Women's Day – Jawahir Baraki

Preamble: International Women's Day (March 8th) is a day celebrated internationally to celebrate women, their achievements and how far they've come together. Annually, events are held on campus in honour of this date and generally FUSA takes part in these events. This year, the theme is 'Balance For Better'. The theme acknowledges how the presence of women has enhanced workplaces. In honour of this year's theme and in conjunction with the Anti-Racism campaign FUSA is already holding in this week, I'd like to hold a movie screening of the movie 'Hidden Figures' on the super screen in the plaza with free pizza, to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of women of colour in



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workplaces. In order to ensure the inclusion of other campuses, I would like to hold a cupcake stall at Sturt in the morning.

Motion: Student council approves the spending of \$746 out of the Women's Officer's budget to be spent on International Women's Day (see Appendix 8).

8.18 Semester 1 Pub Crawl Event Proposal – Gemma Lyons

Preamble: See Appendix 9.

Motion: Student Council approves the expenditure outlined in the event proposal (see Appendix 9)

8.19 First Year Collective Quiz Night Event Proposal – Gemma Lyons

Preamble: See Appendix 10.

Motion: Student Council approves the expenditure outlined in the event proposal (see Appendix 10)

8.20 Digital Resources Hub Digital Hub – Nicole Cutufia

Preamble: There is a large amount of data across different Flinders website platforms regarding the disability services available. While they are informative there are few practical tools that can be used by students in crisis, distress or severe illness. One way to combat this would be to create a webpage on the FUSA website that has accessible resources such as email templates to help students negotiate their learning needs with tutors, email templates for sick certificates and access plans and a flowchart helping students understand the various resources available to them on campus. This could be incorporated under the student support menu. We can use this presentation of information to further link to the existing Flinders channels. This development can be created in negotiation with Flinders Health Counselling and Disability Services to ensure accuracy.

Motion: Student Council supports the plan to create a FUSA disabilities webpage hub to simplify and condense the amount of information available to students while also providing email templates and basic resources to assist students.

8.21 Physical Disability Resources Map – Nicole Cutufia

Preamble: The university already has a myriad of health services along with FUSA's additional resources. At the moment, the process that students should follow when they are in need of assistance is difficult and a new visual graphic that can be published around the university physically as well as digitally published online would help students who are hesitant to access help understand what services are available in one easy image.

Motion: Student Council endorses the creation and publication of a simplified resource highlighting the support services available on campus. Physical printing costs may be used to provide physical copies at the FUSA desk

8.22 #accessibility #photodescription – Nicole Cutufia

Preamble: Students with vision impairments often use additional software such as voiceover to help them navigate social media. Since these types of software cannot interpret information in image form it is beneficial to add photo descriptions that enable people to understand the image that accompanies the content of a caption.



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Motion: FUSA and Student Council will include accessible photo descriptions to all future online posts below regular captions and encourage other Flinders online platforms to also include photo descriptions.

8.23 Portable FUSA signage – Katt Hatzi

Preamble: Aside from the marquee and tablecloths, we don't actually have any FUSA branded signage that we can use when we set up a stall or pop up on campus. In terms of Student Council specific signage – there is none in use. Having pull-up banners and flags would greatly increase our visibility on campus where FUSA has a presence, whether it's a stall, an event, or another kind of activation. It's certainly been discussed several times over the years I've spent on council, but never been followed through. These items should have a long life and be staple items that councils in future can use as well.

Preliminary quotes sought by the Media team indicate that banners will cost approx. \$190 each and flags approx. \$55 each (prices may vary on quantity, plus shipping).

Motion: Student Council approve up to \$750 from the Student President's budget for the purchase of two FUSA Student Council branded pull-up banners, and four FUSA flags.

8.24 Lifeline ASIST Training – Katt Hatzi

Preamble: ASIST is a two-day, interactive workshop run by Lifeline that prepares people to provide suicide life-assisting, first-aid intervention.

Motion: Student Council approve \$450 of Clara Santilli's General Council Member budget to be spent for her to attend ASIST training.

8.25 FUSA Says No To Jordan Peterson – Angus Clarke

Preamble: The intellectual voice of the alt-right, Jordan Peterson, will be touring Australia in February. His transphobic, racist and sexist views are being pushed further and further into the mainstream and must be opposed.

Motion: Student Council will promote the protest against alt-right bigot Jordan Peterson on February 11 at the Entertainment Centre.

Motion: Matters left un-starred be moved en bloc.

Moved: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

Seconded: Josh Rayner (Education Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

Meeting Closed: 19:42