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## Flinders University Student Association Student Council Meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

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

18:30

**Present:** Katt Hatzi (Student President), Josh Rayner (General Secretary), Jesse Stevens (Education Officer), Jawahir Baraki (Women's Officer), Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer), Nicholas Loh (International Students Officer), Sean Henschke (Queer Officer), Grace Hensel (Environment Officer), Christopher Norman (Mature Age Students Officer), Laura Savaglia (General Council Member), Angus Clarke (General Council Member), Jesy Murphy (General Council Member), Amy Tschirn (Minutes).

*Meeting Opened: 18:47*

#### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

#### 2. Apologies & Welcome of Guests

Apologies: Clara Santilli (General Council), Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer), Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer), Sarah Howson (Indigenous Students Officer), Nicole Cutufia (Disabilities Officer), Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member).

Welcome guests: Alicia Wood (Empire Times), Daniel Neser, Aidan Cornelius-Bell, Kane Abraham

#### 3. Name & Pronoun Round

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

#### 4. Previous Minutes

**Motion:**

Student Council accepts the minutes of the January and March meetings.

**Moved:** Josh Rayner

**Seconded:** Christopher Norman

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

#### 5. Executive Decisions

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

**Moved:** Sean Henschke



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**Seconded:** Christopher Norman

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 6. Reports

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

**Moved:** Jawahir Baraki

**Seconded:** Jesy Murphy

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 7. Matters for Decision

Student President called for starring of matters.

Starred items: 7.4, 7.5

Agenda item 7.16 was withdrawn by the mover.

### 7.0 Starred Matters for Decision

#### 7.4 Palm Sunday – Angus Clarke

**Preamble:** Bipartisan Parliamentary support for a brutal border policy has meant that 422 asylum seekers are still trapped in the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre. The Australian border policy has been hailed as the blueprint for ideal border policy by Donald Trump and far-right parties across Europe because of its intense racism. Further, this dehumanisation of refugees and migrants has fuelled the racists rhetoric of the fascist far-right in Australia. Both the ALP and the Liberal Party have blood on their hands for the establishment and continuation of mandatory detention and the sovereign borders policies, and they enter the upcoming Federal Election with a promise of sustaining the current border policy.

That is why it is critical that refugee rights advocates attend the Palm Sunday March for Refugees. We must demand that all refugees detained in these camps be brought to mainland Australia for settlement and that we close these torture camps.

#### **Discussion**

Angus Clarke: Spoke to how this issue is particularly relevant given the recent events in Christchurch and how the solidarity response to this was strong; would be good to continue the momentum of push for positive change.



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Christopher Norman: Suggested a slight amendment: where it reads “demands that the camps are closed and that refugees are brought to mainland Australia”, add “and that no refugees or asylum seekers are kept in mandatory detention in future”?

**Amended Preamble:** Bipartisan Parliamentary support for a brutal border policy has meant that 422 asylum seekers are still trapped in the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre. The Australian border policy has been hailed as the blueprint for ideal border policy by Donald Trump and far-right parties across Europe because of its intense racism. Further, this dehumanisation of refugees and migrants has fuelled the racists rhetoric of the fascist far-right in Australia. Both the ALP and the Liberal Party have blood on their hands for the establishment and continuation of mandatory detention and the sovereign borders policies, and they enter the upcoming Federal Election with a promise of sustaining the current border policy.

That is why it is critical that refugee rights advocates attend the Palm Sunday March for Refugees. We must demand that all refugees detained in these camps be brought to mainland Australia for settlement and that we close these torture camps. We demand that no refugees or asylum seekers are kept in mandatory detention in future.

**Motion:** FUSA demands that the camps are closed and that refugees are brought to mainland Australia. FUSA will endorse and promote the April 14<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday March, including a post on the FUSA Facebook and Instagram pages.

**Moved:** Angus Clarke

**Seconded:** Josh Rayner

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

#### 7.5 Overturn the Visa Ban on Remi Kanazi – Angus Clarke

**Preamble:** Since the first Israeli military incursion into Gaza in 2008, more than 3,500 Palestinians have lost their lives – two-thirds being civilians and a quarter children. Israeli shelling of Gaza over the last week has claimed the lives of dozens and injured hundreds more, targeting UN sanctuaries in schools harbouring thousands fleeing the violence. World renowned Palestinian poet, writer, and organiser Remi Kanazi, has just been denied a visa by the Department of Home Affairs. This follows multiple Palestinians being denied a visa in the last few years for their speaking tours, including journalist Ali Abunimah in 2016 and activist Basseem Tamini in 2017. There has been deliberate, politically motivated actions aimed to silence the voice of those advocating human rights and justice for Palestinians.

#### **Discussion**

Daniel Nesar: Spoke to the Importance of a show of solidarity from FUSA that we stand with the oppressed and the rights to free speech.

**Motion:** As a body that supports the right of free speech, FUSA condemns the Department of Home Affairs for the denial of Remi Kanazi a right to a visa.



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FUSA will share and encourage students to sign the petition calling for the decision to be overturned.

<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/overturn-visa-ban-let-palestinain-poet-into-australia>

**Moved:** Angus Clarke

**Seconded:** Jawahir Baraki

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 7.0 Matters left un-starred to be moved en bloc:

### 7.1 Club Affiliation Application from Flinders University Book Club – Josh Rayner

**Preamble:** The Flinders University Book Club is applying for Financial Affiliation. The club has an appropriate executive composition, and meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, AGM minutes, membership list, and bank account.

**Motion:** FUSA Student Council approve Financial Affiliation for the Flinders University Book Club.

### 7.2 Club Affiliation Application from Southern Adelaide Skin Society – Josh Rayner

**Preamble:** The Southern Adelaide Skin Society is applying for Financial Affiliation. The club has an appropriate executive composition, and meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, AGM minutes, membership list, and bank account.

**Motion:** FUSA Student Council approve Financial Affiliation for the Southern Adelaide Skin Society.

### 7.3 Climate Crisis: A Student Forum – Angus Clarke

**Preamble:** On March 15, 1.5 million people marched around the world at the global climate strike as part of a growing youth and student led environmental movement, and the need to keep expanding it is crucial. The world's leading climate scientists have warned that there is less than a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C, beyond which is projected to lead to runaway climate change.

The South Australian Education Officer of the National Union of Students is organising a public forum on the environmental crisis of global warming, and what students can do about it. It will be happening Monday, April 8, 2019, at 6:30pm in the Napier G03 Lecture Theatre at Adelaide University.

**Motion:** FUSA will share the details of the Climate Crisis Forum to advertise the event to Flinders Students. <https://www.facebook.com/events/262035418081518/>



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### 7.6 Support Chemist Warehouse Workers – Angus Clarke

**Preamble:** Workers at the Chemist Warehouse distribution centres have gone on strike in Brisbane and Melbourne for the last couple of weeks and have won substantial gains. Originally paid below industry standard, in a highly casualised workforce, workers have won an 8% pay rise for the first year of the agreement, with 18.75% for the whole four years. The strikers were also fighting against the sexual harassment of women who were offered more shifts if they slept with managers. It was

the industrial action of the Chemist Warehouse workers that won despite actions of the owners and scabs.

**Motion:** FUSA stands with the strikers at Chemist Warehouse and publicly celebrates their win on social media.

### 7.7 International Students Post Mid-Semester Recharge! – Nicholas Loh

**Preamble:** The Mid-Semester break for Semester 1 2019 spans from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Students will be using this break to catch up on their work, and perhaps go on a holiday, among other things. As International Students Officer, I would like to have a Post Mid-Semester Recharge event for international students, which will consist of catered pizza and sides from Dominos. The event will take place at the Multimedia Room on 20<sup>th</sup> April from 12pm till 2pm. This is an opportunity for international students to meet and befriend international students from all walks of life, and simply have a good time over a pizza lunch. The event will allow international students to recharge as even as the mid-semester break ends and they prepare to get back in the zone for the semester. Please see appendix 5 for event proposal.

**Motion:** FUSA Student Council approves the expenditure of \$173.45 from the International Student's Officer's Initiatives and Campaigns Budget on this event as outlined in the event proposal.

### 7.8 A Blank on the Names – Sean Henschke

**Preamble:** Flinders University has a good standing about offering easy accessible ways for students to study for people of diverse sexes and sexualities. Recently the University changed the process in which you change your preferred name without any consultation. Prior you were able to just amend your preferred name easily by just filling in the space in the student systems. They have now blocked you from entering your preferred name and you are required to contact Ask Flinders for approval. This extra step has affected many gender diverse students who have reached out to me asking for it to be fixed. Many students also do not use their Flinders email as their main email resulting in a blank page appearing if they do attempt to add their names.

**Motion:** FUSA supports making the process easier for students to amend their name. FUSA believes Flinders University should use technology to make education more accessible for the diverse array of needs of students and not create more roadblocks.



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### 7.9 What Did One Flag Say to the Other Flag? A Lot Because They Just Waived – Sean Henschke

**Preamble:** Many Universities have a pride flag flown daily with the Universities other flags. This has been a successful step universities have made to creating a more inclusive University. The reminder this is a place with queer students, staff and visitors. The Pride Flag that includes most of the community and considered by students I have discussed with as the best way to represent the diverse and intersectional community that can exist under the rainbow is the Quasar's Pride Flag that includes those of the gender diverse community and people of colour.

**Motion:** FUSA supports a new flag pole being installed on all campuses that already has space for flag poles having Quasars pride flag being flown daily on campuses.

### 7.10 Leadership Transform and Roll Out – Sean Henschke

**Preamble:** The Transformative Leadership Training program is said to be “A ground-breaking program to develop complex and adaptive thinking capacities in today's LGBTIQ+ leaders. There are two parts to the Transformative Leadership training program. This is Module 1, a 3-day intensive that will explore new ways to push you as an individual and leader. Rethink how you go about leading people, your organisation, your community. Transform your thinking, with new perspectives for addressing increasingly complex issues”. That will be running in Adelaide from 10th-12th of April.

**Motion:** FUSA Student Council approves the expenditure of \$499 from the Queer Officer Professional Development Budget to be spent on the Transformative Leadership Training.

### 7.11 Transgender Day of Visibility Acknowledgement – Jesy Murphy

**Preamble:** On a daily basis transgender and gender diverse people have to hide. They have to hide to keep themselves safe, they have to hide because they are not ready to come out, they have to hide because some people won't accept them. Transgender Day of Visibility is a day that celebrates transgender and gender diverse people, it shows the world that they exist, it shows the world that they do matter and it opens everyone's eyes to the discrimination and struggles that transgender and gender diverse people face daily.

**Motion:** FUSA acknowledges the importance of Transgender Day of Visibility and supports the gender diverse community at Flinders University.

### 7.12 Tony Could Never – Nathan Cheetham

**Preamble:** Students struggle to make ends meet daily. Textbooks, in particular, are a large drain on student resources. In addition to this, many students don't have the means to purchase books outside of what's required for classes.

'Street libraries' are a growing trend worldwide. The idea of them is to take and leave books as you desire. This concept is being applied to a bookshelf to be constructed in the FUSA reception area.



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**Motion:** FUSA Student Council endorses the bookshelf being created in the reception area and will, to the best of individual members' means, donate books upon its completion.

### 7.13 Adulting 101 – Nathan Cheetham

**Preamble:** In 2017, then FUSA Welfare Officer Hilary Wigg ran a 'How To Adult's day, focussed on informing and equipping university students with skills and knowledge to tackle life as an adult. Adulting 101 aims to build upon that event with 2 days of stalls and a week of workshops relating for different areas of 'adulting'. The event is slated for week 9 with the aim of including as many internal and external services and groups to ease students lives as adults.

**Motion:** FUSA Student council endorses Adulting 101 and approves the expenditure \$1300 from the Welfare Officer Initiatives and Campaigns Budget as per the event proposal. FUSA Student Council members will, according to individual members' means, volunteer their time at the event.

### 7.14 Environment Collective Meeting – Grace Hensel

**Preamble:** I would like to hold an environment collective meeting to discuss environmental issues at Flinders and more broadly. I would like to have food available so that people are more likely to come.

**Motion:** FUSA Student Council approves \$140 from the Environment Officer's Initiatives and Campaigns Budget to be spent on food and boosting Facebook posts.

### 7.15 Legally FUSA – Josh Rayner

**Preamble:** Student Council is the governing body of FUSA as set out by the constitution as approved by University Council. However, legal advice that is sought in order to make operational decisions at FUSA is often not provided to Student Council, and is often used to try and force us to make decisions. Student Council cannot make decisions based in legal advice it has not seen. Student Council should not make decisions on abbreviated legal advice visa someone who is not a legal professional.

**Motion:** All legal advice that is used to make decisions at FUSA must be given to Student Council before the decision is made. If in the event the recipient of the legal advice is unwilling to hand over the legal advice, new legal advice must be sought at the discretion of Student Council. FUSA Student Council notes with grave concern the attempts to suppress Student Council with vague, unspecified threats of legal action.

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

**Moved:** Grace Hensel

**Seconded:** Nathan Cheetham



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*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

*Meeting Closed: 18:56*