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Flinders University Student Association Student Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 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), Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer), Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer), Nicholas Loh (International Students Officer), Sean Henschke (Queer Officer), Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer), Clara Rose Santilli (General Council Member), Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member), Jesy Murphy (General Council Member), Chris O'Grady (Manager, Student Engagement), James Watson (Editor, Empire Times), Daniel Nesar (Observer), Kane Abraham (Observer), John Kelly (Observer), Alice Grieve (Observer), Stacy White (Minute Taker)

Meeting Opened: 6:48pm

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: Jawahir Baraki (Women's Officer), Grace Hensel (Environment Officer), Louise Nixon (General Council Member), Laura Savaglia (General Council Member), Clara Rose Santilli (General Council Member)

3. Name & Pronoun Round

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

4. Previous Minutes

Motion: Student Council accepts the minutes of the May meeting.

Moved: Josh Rayner (General Secretary)

Seconded: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

5. Executive Decisions

No decisions have been made by the Student Council Executive since the previous meeting.

6. Reports



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

Moved: Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer)

Seconded: Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7. Matters for Decision

Student President called for starring of matters.

Starred items: 7.03, 7.08, 7.09, 7.11, 7.13, 7.15, 7.16, 7.17, 7.18

New motion 7.18 (tabled and circulated)

7.0 Starred Matters for Decision

7.3 FUSA Ball – Gemma Lyons

Preamble: See Appendix 3 for event proposal.

Discussion

Discussion by Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer) regarding the rebranding of the FUSA ball to a more universal name to appeal to all students. Josh Rayner (General Secretary) indicated that FUSA should be included somewhere in the title. Jesse Stevens (Education Officer) agreed.

Motion: Student Council accepts and endorses the FUSA Ball proposal and will assist in the promotion of this event as requested by the Social Activities Officer where possible.

Moved: Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer)

Seconded: Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.8 Casual Vacancy Selection Panel – Katt Hatzi

Preamble: Student Council must form a Selection Panel responsible for shortlisting, interviewing, and appointing the three casual vacancies left by the resignations of the Mature Age, Indigenous, and Disability Officers. As per FUSA regulations, the panel will be made of the Student President, General Secretary, Education Officer and two appointed members of Student Council. At least three of these five positions must be filled by councillors who identify as women.

Motion Student Council appoint Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer) and Jesy Murphy (General Council Member) to fill the two remaining positions of the Casual Vacancy Selection Panel.

Moved: Katt Hatzi (Student President)

Seconded: Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer)



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All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.9 Proposal for development of new version of FUSA Clubs & Academic Association Regulations – Chris O’Grady

Preamble: Due to many inconsistencies, ambiguities and formatting issues with the current version of the FUSA Clubs & Academic Association Regulations, it is proposed that FUSA engages in a full re-write of the regulations.

This proposal recommends that a working group be formed between FUSA staff, Student Council and relevant stakeholders, to create a comprehensive document that encompasses all FUSA requirements for Club/Association activities, governance, financial management, work health and safety and general operation. Please see attached proposal.

Discussion: Josh Rayner (General Secretary) proposed an amendment to open up the working group to members of the FUSA clubs community.

Amended Motion: Student Council approve the ‘Proposal for development of new version of FUSA Clubs & Academic Association Regulations’ (See Appendix 4) and open an EOI process to seek nominations from Student Council and the FUSA clubs community to sit on the working group.

Moved: Josh Rayner (General Secretary)

Seconded: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.11 Ramsay Centre, Never at Flinders – Jesse Stevens

Preamble: The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisations has been attempting for years to pay universities to allow the teaching of courses over which the Ramsay Centre wants control. The proposed course is “in favour” of western civilisation, not simply about western civilisation.

The Ramsay Centre board includes notorious figures such as John Howard and Tony Abbott, who have demonstrated over many years an unreserved support of imperialism, no remorse over the effects of western civilisation on indigenous peoples, and who seemingly refuse to acknowledge the failings of western civilisation or critique it in any kind of balanced way.

The Ramsay Centre have notably been in negotiations with the University of Sydney, University of Wollongong (who are planning to offer a Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) in 2020) and the University of Queensland. At UQ, students overwhelmingly voted against the introduction of such a course and the inappropriate influence of an external body on the courses offered at the university. The NTEU have also come out against the proposed course.

The course is clearly not about educating students on the history of western civilisation involving an objecting analysis, but rather is about indoctrinating students to be in favour of western civilisation and all of its practices.



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Even the Ramsay Foundation, which is essentially the parent body of the Ramsay Centre and the source of its funding, is considering severing ties with the Ramsay Centre due to its insistence on interfering in academic matters at universities and insistence on paying universities so much money that universities are willing to cop the criticism and take the money in exchange for offering the course.

There is no evidence that Flinders University Management have been in contact with the Ramsay Centre, however it is clear that the Ramsay Centre Board wishes to spread its course as far as possible and could very well at some stage in the future contact other universities including Flinders University.

Discussion: Angus Clarke (General Council Member) spoke in favour of the motion.

Motion: Student Council supports the students and staff of the University of Queensland, University of Wollongong and University of Sydney who oppose the introduction of a course in western civilisation founded due to the Ramsay Centre.

Student Council opposes any external body seeking to influence the nature or content of university courses, especially when such attempted influence is driven by ideological rather than educational reasons.

Student Council explicitly condemns the Ramsay Centre, and proactively opposes Flinders University having any negotiations with the Ramsay Centre.

Moved: Jesse Stevens (Education Officer)

Seconded: Angus Clarke (General Council Member)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.13 Network of Women Students Australia Annual Conference – Jawahir Baraki

Preamble: 'The Network Of Women Students Australia was established in 1987, and founded on ideals of creating a grassroots, autonomous network concerned with issues that impact women and women students.'

Every year, NOWSA hosts a conference in collaboration with the National Union of Students and an Australian University Student Association. The conference provides an opportunity for women identifying students to engage with personal, political, social, and cultural issues that affect women. The environment allows students to share resources, skills and knowledge. Attendees also have the opportunity to work together to develop strategies to improve the experiences of women in Australia.'

This year the NOWSA Conference will be held at Macquarie University, Sydney, from the 22nd to 26th of July. As the Women's Officer, it is very important that I attend the NOWSA Conference in order to: meet other Women's Officers from across the country and get inspired for things to do in



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semester 2; educate myself further on current women's issues, ultimately enabling me to be a better and more informed Women's Officer; and, further my own professional development.

This year, I'd also like to take a student with me to attend the NOWSA Conference. Students will have to apply via email responding to a predetermined set of questions. The successful applicant will be chosen by a panel, which will consist of the Student Representation and Development Officer, myself and one other person. I am requesting to take another student with me in order to: provide professional development opportunities to the female students of Flinders; help educate another woman on the current issues women face, so that they have the skills to create social change, if they desire; provide another female student the opportunity to make friends and connections with like-minded individuals from across the country; and support students who may be interested in attending but might not be able to afford it.

Furthermore, I am requesting the following be paid for the successful applicant and I: registration fees of the conference, which is \$120 per person; return flights to Sydney, which is \$350 per person; and, travel to and from Macquarie University from the Sydney Airport, which is \$50 per person. Total requested: \$1,040

Please forward any questions about this motion to me at womens.officer@flinders.edu.au or Michelle at michelle.tatyzo@flinders.edu.au.

Discussion: Jesy Murphy (General Council Member) proposed an amendment to the second point to change from 'female identifying' to 'women identifying'.

Amended Motion: Student Council supports the Women's Officers attendance of the Network of Women Students Australia's Annual Conference.

Student Council supports the sponsorship of a woman-identifying student to attend the Network of Women Students Australia's Annual Conference.

Student Council approve the spending of \$1,040 from the Student Council Flexi Fund for the above stated purposes.

Moved: Jesy Murphy (General Council Member)

Seconded: Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.15 Adani and the Climate Emergency – Angus Clarke

Amended Preamble: This climate emergency already threatens life on this planet, with increasing numbers of species facing extinction. Last year's IPCC report showed that not enough is being done to curb the usage of dangerous fossil fuels. Our universities should also take a strong public stand in calling for immediate action. It is therefore appalling that Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has announced that the Labor Government there will fast track the outstanding approvals required for Adani's Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin. This follows Federal Coalition Government approval



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and constant support from both the Liberal and National Parties that clearly do not support and attempts to alleviate the effects of this climate emergency. FUSA should join the calls to declare a climate emergency and fight for the core demands of this movement, including no to Adani's Carmichael mine.

Discussion: Angus Clarke (General Council Member) spoke regarding his proposed motion, and there was discussion with Josh Rayner (General Secretary) who proposed an amendment to the motion. There was further discussion between Jesse Stevens (Education Officer), Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member) and Daniel Naser (Observer). James Watson (Editor, Empire Times) questioned how this motion impacts Flinders University students, and there was further discussion.

Amended Motion: FUSA condemns the Queensland Labor Government's moves to fast track approvals for the Adani coal mine. FUSA condemns newly appointed federal Labor leader Anthony Albanese for refusing to stop the Adani coal mine and his comments saying "it's up to the markets themselves" to decide."

FUSA recognises that we face a climate emergency and expresses its support for;

- 100% renewable energy by 2030
- No drilling in the Great Australian Bight
- No to the Adani coal mine
- No new coal, gas or oil extraction

FUSA calls on the Flinders University Council to similarly declare a climate emergency and support for these demands.

FUSA will share the NUS South Australian Sub-Branch petition calling for the University to declare a climate emergency online.

Moved: Angus Clarke (General Council Member)

Seconded: Josh Rayner (General Secretary)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.16 Solidarity with Sudanese and Algerian Revolutionaries – Angus Clarke

Preamble: The revolutions in Sudan and Algeria are reaching a critical juncture. Millions have taken part in street protests and strikes over the past few months, bringing down dictators whose rule lasted decades. Yet the demands of the uprisings for real democratic change and social justice are still a long way from being fulfilled, as the military and security apparatus of the old regimes attempts to hold onto political power. For us in Australia, the question of solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are risking everything to fight for peace, freedom, social justice and democracy cannot be an abstract one. Our government has a plan to become the 10th largest arms exporter in the world by targeting sales to repressive regimes in the Middle East and North Africa, and continues to cooperate with dictatorships in the region around 'counter-terrorism' and border controls. And as we know, Sudanese refugees in Australia have been singled out for particularly viscous racism, constructed around lies



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about 'African gangs'. MENA Solidarity, a British based solidarity with Middle Eastern and North African Trade Unionists organization, is collecting messages of support/greetings and solidarity signatures on a letter of support from international trade unions and MP's. FUSA should join in expressing our solidarity and support.

Discussion: Angus Clarke (General Council Member) spoke regarding his proposed motion with contribution from Daniel Naser (Observer). James Watson (Editor, Empire Times) questioned how this motion impacts Flinders University students, and there was further discussion.

Motion: FUSA expresses our solidarity with the struggle to establish genuine democracy in Sudan and Algeria, and opposition to all forms of military rule.

FUSA opposes Australian military or security co-operation with the old regimes (and other individuals and groups responsible for human rights violations), and opposes our governments supplying them with arms or equipment for repression.

Student Council will take a photo in solidarity with trade unionists in Algeria and Sudan and with the revolution, to upload and send to MENA solidarity.

Moved: Angus Clarke (General Council Member)

Seconded: Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.17 Education Conference – Angus Clarke

Preamble: The 2019 NUS Education Conference, or EdCon, is fast approaching. With the re-election of the Coalition, the need for students to organise and fight back is obvious. This is a coal loving, student hating, refugee torturing government that must be opposed. EdCon will be a crucial space for discussing the path forward for the student movement. At Flinders, we have experienced the bitter fruit of anti-student policies, with cuts to funding helping to fuel the hated restructure. It is important that Flinders engages with the conference and NUS. This year the conference will be held at the University of Technology Sydney from 1-4 July.

Registration to attend is by the 17th of June and costs \$175.00 for students. There are also costs for travel and accommodation. In previous years, FUSA has supported funding for both elected members of FUSA and other students to attend.

Discussion: Angus Clarke (General Council Member) spoke in support of his motion for attendance at EdCon, Josh Rayner (General Secretary) also encouraged attendance from members and the wider student community.

Chris O'Grady (Manager, Student Engagement) commented there was no specific budget line for EdCon so fund would come from individual budgets and Flexifund if needed.

Motion: Student Council approves funding for registration, travel costs and accommodation for all elected members interested in attending the conference, and opens a process for other Flinders students who want to apply for funding.



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Moved: Angus Clarke (General Council Member)

Seconded: Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.18 (Tabled) FUSA Election Regulations – Manager, Student Engagement

Preamble: It is important that the Casual Vacancy process for Student Council members aligns with the principles of inclusion and cultural safety. Therefore, it is desirable that for autonomous positions that are declared vacant, that the selection panel includes a non-voting member that is either a student or staff member that identifies with that particular cohort. This non-voting member can provide support and advice to the panel and assist in the provision of an inclusive and culturally safe process.

Discussion: Chris O’Grady (Manager, Student Engagement) spoke of recent discussions with Michelle Tatyzo (Student Representation and Development Officer) and Josh Rayner (General Secretary) regarding the above change to the Election Regulations.

Sean Henschke (Queer Officer) asked for discussion to be taken verbatim.

Sean Henschke (Queer Officer): I just wanted to note, I agree that this is a desirable thing to have more autonomous representation on panels selecting more autonomous roles. I think it is a good idea but have some massive reservations especially as I manage an autonomous role as Queer Officer that this seems to suggest it is giving power to staff allowing a nonvoting member to be chosen by a nonvoting member who does not identify within the group of those groups so I don’t think it is responsible for someone like Chris to get to choose who, from the autonomous groups, to get to pick those positions. In examples of institutional discrimination that’s how it is done, you pick someone who is more likely to support whatever is of not those autonomous things and that can lead to people who are fighting for rights these issue not being represented. I also think there should be consultation with each autonomous group and not it just brought to here and there to everybody here and that there also should be proper consultation and how that process will work, and I also feel that seeing this is a FUSA election regulation it should not affect the current casual vacancies because it sets a very bad precedent as especially if we did this during a normal election like a week into it being already announced and ‘we say now we are going to change the regulations’ . That wouldn’t be considered appropriate. It would be considered not democratic. It would be considered inappropriate. So I think it would be sufficient to say the same thing.

Chris: I am happy to amend the regulations so it is not myself who chooses the member. I can understand what you are saying Sean, so that’s fine if you want a discussion around that. I also acknowledge the fact the timing is not perfect. However I think the importance of having the representation outweighs the concerns around timing. What was your other point?

Sean: Yeah, I believe that just the issue that a staff member can sit on board and the fact that it not being consulted, no consultation with the community. The key thing is this is a regulation on



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autonomous issues moved by someone not on those autonomous groups on how those autonomous groups will be elected and that is something my community will not advocate. Like the point of them is that they are meant to be autonomous, and that's actually taking that power away.

Chris: This motion is based on feedback I've received from Indigenous students and using their feedback to inform this. I think that it's a fairly minor amendment and it is positive. I don't think it detracts from the process, I think it's a positive thing. As you have acknowledged.

Sean: It is a positive step, it is just incredibly unclear also how they would be selected and who represents those boards, and where that comes from and who it is. Is it going to be a random student? And there is no proper procedure here, and it's open to interpretation and abuse and I can't foresee this being pieced together to something that can be used at this current time. I recognise that it is important we have representation and I think it's not good at all that we have people who are currently in autonomous positions going to a panel of people who will not identify within those groups, and that's not good and but then going 'well make a quick change', just because, we go 'oh no we've just done this', we have to make sure the guidelines for how these procedures will carry out is not appropriate and see and look for us and how we go about making regulations in the future, and I would heavily warn against any casual vacancy, even if it wasn't an autonomous changing regulation, at this last point. And I could not agree even if it was my position and there was no queer person on the panel, I would rather there be care done with the procedures in the future to ensure proper representation for the years in the future, and not messing it up. I want to ensure it is done correctly that there is someone on that panel I think it's something that is handled carefully.

Katt: does anyone else want to speak on this?

Chris: Can I just ask a question? I respect your view Sean and it seems that this motion will not get up. I am just wondering if the President, Gen Sec and Education Officer would be prepared to send a delegate who would represent the cohort for that particular vacancy?

Katt: I can't speak for every person on that panel, but I guess in the situations where there isn't a representative person then we would absolutely be open to how discussion about how the panel will be representative. Perhaps this motion is not the way to do that. I agree to a discussion but I think if we had discussion about this it would be fruitful but that just involves actually having a discussion about it, and I guess not putting a motion in on the afternoon of the meeting.

Chris: I just want to open this up for discussion now and hear from Josh and Jesse also as to whether they would be interested in and open to the idea of sending a delegate on their behalf to ensure that for example, in the Indigenous role, there is an Indigenous person in the room during the process.

Jesse: I can't make a decision now, but am happy to think about having a conversation with people and how we can get better representation and make sure this process is done right. This is a situation that is happening very soon so I am not going to rush into a decision, that because of the time pressure, I am also committed to working with SC to figure out a way to get this better in the future.



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Katt: Keeping in mind that when we are looking at the composition of the panel, that we already have regulations in place that dictate what the composition should be. For example, men and women or non-binary identifying people so that just asking someone now whether if they are willing to give up their seats would mean to take other things into consideration. Alright, is there any further discussion on this?

Josh: Just because I may not be seen in a discussion on an autonomous motion as someone who does not identify as any of the autonomous groups, I don't often feel comfortable discussing these motions but happy to speak to that. I am happy to put this one through. In all honesty I can't see a situation in which a member of an autonomous group belonging to the candidacy asked me to delegate my position as a voting member on council to them.....I can't see, at this current time, where I would, sorry. I can't see a circumstance where I would decline that. I mean it's something that I think obviously is very important and I'm more than happy at any point to hand the mike over to someone else. The current regulations allow me to do this if I'm called upon, and I can't see a situation which I would decline that offer. I am happy to put that on record.

Chris: Thank you.

Katt: Any other discussion? Alright. Do we have a mover for the motion? In that case, the motion lays. I don't think it lays on the table, I don't think in this case, that it would go to another meeting. Are you happy to withdraw the motion Chris? Pending further discussion?

Chris: Can I move the motion?

Katt: You'd like to move the motion Chris?

Chris: Yes, I move the motion.

Katt: Do we have a seconder?

Katt: Without a seconder we can't consider the motion

Chris: I Understand

Katt: Thanks

Motion: That Student Council approve the following addition to the FUSA Election Regulations:

23.5 The Manager, Student Engagement will appoint a non-voting member to the selection panel for all autonomous positions including Women's Officer, Postgraduate Students Officer, International Students Officer, Queer Officer, Indigenous Students Officer, Disabilities Officer and Mature Age Officer. The appointee will be a member of the Flinders University community and will either be a student or staff that identifies with the particular autonomous group.

Moved: Chris O'Grady (Manager, Student Engagement)

Seconded: None

Motion lays on the table



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

7.1 International Students Are Not Cash Cows – Nicholas Loh

Preamble:

On 6 May 2019, *Four Corners*, Australia's leading investigative journalism programme, reported the misconduct and unethical practices of several Australian universities and their contracted international student recruitment agencies regarding their international recruitment practices. Such practices increase international student numbers, so as to increase revenue for both universities and agencies alike. It has been a few weeks since the report by Four Corners and this remains an issue of concern by staff of Australian universities, domestic students in Australia, and most certainly: international students studying in Australia.

The unethical practices include:

1. universities waiving English language requirements and accepting students without prerequisite qualifications;
2. agencies charging a fee in exchange for offer letters, and agencies targeting students who:
 - a. are identified as high-risk students;
 - b. have low English proficiency;
 - c. do not have the financial capability to comfortably sustain living in Australia while studying;
 - d. have previously been refused their student visa. If the report of unethical practices by *Four Corners* stands the test of time, and that the practices have indeed been shown to have occurring for a long time beyond any reasonable doubt, then this is indeed most appalling and disheartening.

Motion

FUSA condemns the misconduct and unethical practices by various Australian universities and their contracted international student recruitment agencies.

7.2 What the People Want – Gemma Lyons

Preamble

The FUSA Ball and Pub Crawl in Semester 2 are currently being planned. It would be very beneficial to get some feedback from the students about what they want out of these events. A voucher giveaway would provide incentive for students to complete these surveys. This survey will be shared on Facebook, Instagram and in the FUSA newsletter.

Motion

Student Council approves up to \$200 from the Social Activities Officer's Initiatives/Campaigns budget to be spent on vouchers as prizes for completing the events surveys.



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7.4 Club Affiliation Application from Flinders Indian Student Association – Josh Rayner

Preamble

Flinders Indian Student Association are 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

Student Council approves the Flinders Indian Student Association for Financial Affiliation.

7.5 Club Affiliation Application from Mad Tea Collective – Josh Rayner

Preamble

Mad Tea Collective are applying for Financial Affiliation. The club has an appropriate executive composition, and meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, AGM minutes, and bank account. However, their membership list does not maintain a recorded date of application for each member.

Motion

FUSA Student Council conditionally approve Mad Tea Collective for Financial Affiliation on the condition that an updated membership list with date of application be sent to the Clubs & Events Officer within 30 days of formal notice.

7.6 Club Affiliation Application from Twenty Thirty – Josh Rayner

Preamble

Twenty Thirty are applying for Financial Affiliation. The club meets FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, AGM minutes, and bank account. However, their executive at present does not meet the regulations.

Motion

Student Council does not approve Twenty Thirty for Financial Affiliation.

7.7 Club Affiliation Application from South Australian Esports League – Josh Rayner

Preamble

The South Australian Esports League are applying for Non-Financial Affiliation. The club has an appropriate executive composition, and meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their AGM minutes and membership list for Non-Financial Affiliation. However, their constitution does not meet the FUSA regulations.

Motion

Student Council does not approve the South Australian Esports League for Non-Financial Affiliation.



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7.10 Speak Up for Your Students, Flinders Management! – Jesse Stevens

Preamble

There has never been a more challenging time to be a university student in Australia.

The HECS-HELP repayment threshold is the lowest since its introduction in 1989, placing significant pressure on students to perform well academically. At the same time, Youth Allowance and Newstart payments are not adequate. Newstart in particular has not been raised in real terms since 1994, and is 30%, or \$355 per fortnight below the poverty line. Cost-of-living pressures, including rental costs supported by an inadequate rental assistance payment, also make it difficult for students to survive purely on governments payments.

The increased accessibility of higher education which, while clearly a positive, has increased competitiveness in the graduate job market, made undergraduate qualifications expected for more jobs, and has saturated some fields with more graduates than available jobs.

It is also becoming increasingly required of students to complete a postgraduate degree to gain employment in their field or to increase their chances of finding employment, meaning an increasing number of students are spending 6+ years of full-time study at university, which is a long time to go without working full-time.

Universities are under-funded, resulting in inadequate academic and welfare support services, making it harder for students, and especially students from disadvantaged backgrounds, to perform well academically while maintaining their health.

All of this means that there has never been more pressure on university students to work while they are studying to survive, while at the same time needing to graduate with good academic results, and a history of substantial extra-curricular and employment experience.

Student activists and unionists have been campaigning for years on the issues mentioned above, yet in the face of all of these issues, Flinders University Management and, more broadly, Universities Australia, has remained silent on issues affecting students in recent years, including the inadequate rate of Newstart and the introduction of a HECS-HELP cap. It seems strange that, while universities claim to care about the success and well-being of their students, they do not seem to advocate for the changes that will make the most positive impact on students.

It is time that the Flinders University VC and Management came out and publicly advocated both on behalf of Flinders and through their influence with Universities Australia for changes such as an increase to Newstart and the removal of barriers to accessibility to higher education

Motion

The Education Officer and Welfare Officer will co-write a letter to the Vice-Chancellor Colin Stirling asking him and University Management to publicly advocate for changes to government policies that



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will benefit students, including but not limited to raising Newstart and removing the HECS-HELP cap legislated in 2018.

7.12 Not Our Government – Jesse Stevens

Preamble

The result of the 2019 election will now see 3 more years of a Liberal-National government and Dan Tehan as Education Minister. Over the past 6 years, this government has repeatedly attacked higher education, students and young people. Examples include but are not limited to: - Placing a cap on HECS-HELP debt, resulting in more students paying up-front for postgraduate study or avoiding postgraduate study altogether - Lowering the HECS-HELP repayment threshold to just over \$45k - Attempting to deregulate university fees - Refusing to raise Newstart - Continuing to fund higher education at one of the lowest rates by GDP in the OECD. - Freezing the demand-driven system regarding Commonwealth Supported Places, in effect resulting in tens of thousands of students missing out on higher education, and providing no alternative. - Cutting funding to the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program which since its introduction in 2013 has contributed to increased participation in higher education, especially for disadvantaged young people and groups with traditionally low rates of participation. - Prioritising a review into freedom of speech at university campuses over a review into sexual assault and misconduct at universities.

The LNP have not made many public statements on their intentions for higher education policy going forward. What we know is they will be looking at introducing criteria for performance-based funding, which, while appearing to reward universities who do well, has the real potential to create inequity in the educational quality of universities if universities that do poorly do not receive the necessary funding to improve their performance.

The LNP has given no indication of raising Newstart, increasing higher education funding, or reversing its changes that have reduced accessibility to higher education.

FUSA and the student union movement must be ready to act against further attacks.

Motion

Student Council notes with concern the re-election of the Liberal-National Party to government who have consistently attacked higher education, students and young people.

Student Council will oppose any future attempts by the LNP to cut funding or reduce accessibility to higher education, or otherwise negatively affect the welfare or educational success of students.

7.14 SA University Inclusion Survey – Sean Henschke

Preamble

In collaboration with various groups we're doing a thorough report into the LGBTIQ inclusion, and as part of that we've launched our SA University Inclusion Survey, which will assist in assessing and



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improving the inclusiveness of South Australian universities. You can find the survey here:

<https://bit.ly/2EgbeLX>

If you're a past or current student or staff member of a South Australian university, you can take part in the survey. The SA University Inclusion Survey should take 5-10 minutes, depending on your university. All answers are anonymous and guaranteed to help shape the future of LGBT staff and students. This survey is open to allies as well as LGBT community members.

We will also be doing random anonymous interviews on students experiences on campus that should receive reimbursement

Motion

Student Council approves \$150 on the Survey from the Queer Officer Campaigns/Initiatives Budget

The SA University Inclusion Survey will be shared on FUSA social media

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

Moved: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

Seconded: Nicholas Loh (International Students Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

8. Matters for Noting

July Student Council Meeting – Josh Rayner

Our next Student Council meeting will be held on Monday 8th of July as most of Student Council will be attending the National Union of Students Education Conference on the first Monday of the month.

Meeting Closed: 7:40pm