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Flinders University Student Association Student Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2019

Committee Room, Registry Building, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus

18:30

Present: Katt Hatzi (Student President), Josh Rayner (General Secretary), Jesse Stevens (Education Officer), Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer), Nicholas Loh (International Students Officer), Sean Henschke (Queer Officer), Karan Godara (Mature Age Students Officer), Angus Clarke (General Council Member), Clara Rose Santilli (General Council Member), Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member), Jesy Murphy (General Council Member), Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement), Amy Tschirn (Minutes), Imogen Deller-Evans (Observer), Kane Abraham (Observer)

Meeting Opened: 6.44pm

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: Laura Savaglia (General Council Member), Louise Nixon (General Council Member), Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer), Grace Hensel (Environment Officer), Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer), Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer).

3. Name & Pronoun Round

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

4. Previous Minutes

Motion

Student Council accepts the minutes of the August meeting (Appendix 1).

Moved: Clara Rose Santilli

Seconded: Josh Rayner

All in favour.

Motion carried.



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5. Executive Decisions

Motion: Student Council ratifies the decisions made by the Executive since the last council meeting (Appendix 2).

Moved: Clara Rose Santilli

Seconded: Nathan Cheetham

All in favour.

Motion carried.

6. Reports

Motion: Student Council accepts the submitted reports (Appendix 3; 3.1) and will defer outstanding reports to the Executive.

Moved: Jesy Murphy

Seconded: Clara Rose Santilli

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7. Matters for Decision

Student President called for starring of matters.

Starred items: 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.10; 7.12; 7.13.

7.0 Starred Matters for Decision

7.1 What Are We Doing Here? – Josh Rayner

Preamble: The FUSA Roles and Duties Regulations have been overdue for a refresh for some time now, containing language that accepted as derogatory and referencing Student Council portfolios and standing committees that no longer exist. Incoming Student Council members often have limited understanding of what their roles are and what is expected on them to continue growing this association. These updated regulations aim at providing clarity to the next Student Council, and were produced following consultation with all Student Council Office Bearers. While not inherently the responsibility of the General Secretary, regulation amendment has historically been the work of this office bearer and will now be included in these regulations.

Motion: The FUSA Student Council Member Roles and Duties Regulations be amended as per appendix 4.

The new FUSA Student Council Member Roles and Duties regulations shall take effect immediately upon passage by Student Council.



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Amended Motion: The FUSA Student Council Member Roles and Duties Regulations be amended as per appendix 4, including the discussed amendments.

The new FUSA Student Council Member Roles and Duties regulations shall take effect immediately upon passage by Student Council.

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Clara Rose Santilli

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.2 Collectives Didn't Work, Let's Try This Again – Josh Rayner

Preamble: FUSA Collectives have long been a pain point for Student Council Office Bearers. Collectives have existed in regulations due to the constitutional capacity of Student Council to establish standing committees, which were intended to operate like a parliamentary committee. However, collectives have only been operated as social events, Facebook groups, been duplicates of already established clubs or not existed at all. These new standing committee regulations aim to empower Student Council Office Bearers to operate their own standing committee autonomously, in a capacity that they deem appropriate given the resources made available to them.

Motion: The FUSA Standing Committee Regulations be amended as per appendix 5.

The new FUSA Standing Committee Regulations shall take effect immediately upon passage by Student Council.

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Clara Rose Santilli

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.3 NUS, Because You're Worth It – Josh Rayner

Preamble: FUSA has a proud history of being an affiliate to the National Union of Students (NUS), and the time of year has arrived where our affiliation fees are due. Whether it's the success of the campaigns against fee deregulation, the almost success of the Bury the Bill Campaign, or hosting the 2018 NUS Education Conference, the students of Flinders have undoubtedly benefited from our affiliation to NUS. Currently, NUS affiliation fees are not paid for by SSAF, and instead must be paid from the Student Council Bank Account. Last year our affiliation fee was \$16,000.

Motion: Student Council endorses the expenditure of ... from the Student Council bank account to be spent on affiliation to the National Union of Students

Amended motion: Student Council endorses the expenditure of \$20,000 from the Student Council bank account to be spent on affiliation to the National Union of Students.



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Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Jesy Murphy

10 for / 0 against / 1 abstention

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.5 2040 Movie Screening – Grace Hensel

Preamble: The film '2040' is about global warming, and finding new and innovative solutions to this environmental crisis. Education Officer Jesse put a student in touch with me about putting on a screening of this film to raise awareness of the issue, and spark discussion about global warming. This screening will be a fundraiser, with funds going towards the Saving Nemo project and Conservation Volunteers Australia. FUSA will co-host the event and will pay for the movie rights. The event will take place on campus in a lecture theatre (the specific theatre is TBC).

Motion: Student Council approve \$385 of the Environment Officer's Initiatives and Campaigns Budget to be spent on the 2040 movie screening event.

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Clara Rose Santilli

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.6 Flinders University Contingent to the Strike for Climate! – Grace Hensel

Preamble: The next strike for climate is coming up on 20 September. It is incredibly important that FUSA shows its support for this worthy cause, and shows that we are committed to combatting the climate emergency.

Motion:

FUSA endorses the 20 September climate strike.

Student Council will send a contingent and encourages all students to attend.

Amended Motion:

FUSA endorses the 20 September climate strike.

Student Council will send a contingent and encourages all students to attend.

Student President to reach out the university management for official endorsement.



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Student Council will work with FUSA Media in promoting the strike on campus.

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Angus Clarke

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.7 FUSA Declares a Climate Emergency – Grace Hensel

Preamble: FUSA and FUSA Student Council have a proud tradition of supporting social justice issues that affect not only the students at Flinders University, but disadvantaged or oppressed peoples anywhere. This year we have supported the High School Strike 4 Climate and the National Union of Students University Climate Walk Out. It is time that our association declares a climate emergency, and pressures University Council to make that same declaration.

Motion

FUSA declares a Climate Emergency

Student Council will take a photo after the completion of this Student Council Meeting to publicise this declaration

FUSA Student President and FUSA Environment Officer will work together on a motion to be put forward at the next University Council meeting declaring the climate emergency.

FUSA endorses the Declare a Climate Emergency Petition tool to create a FUSA online petition for students to support this declaration (tool can be found at <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/onlinepetition/>)

Amended Motion:

FUSA declares a Climate Emergency

Student Council will take a photo after the completion of this Student Council Meeting to publicise this declaration

FUSA Student President and FUSA Environment Officer will work together on a motion to be put forward at the next University Council meeting declaring the climate emergency.

FUSA endorses the Declare a Climate Emergency Petition tool to create a FUSA online petition for students to support this declaration (tool can be found at <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/onlinepetition/>)



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Moved: Katt Hatzi

Seconded: Josh Rayner

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.10 Gender Neutral Bathrooms Proposal – Jesy Murphy

Preamble: Most transgender and gender diverse people do not feel comfortable using gendered bathrooms, a simple task of going to the bathroom in public is a very stressful and sometimes anxiety-inducing task. Having to go through this multiple times a day when at University can cause mental health problems and exacerbate existing ones. The proposal that has been written up by members of the Queer Society and members of FUSA Student Council outlines terminology, why general neutral bathrooms are needed and what we demand to be done to fix the current problems at Flinders University.

Jesy Murphy: Noted that the university currently has very few gender neutral bathrooms on campus, and that the signage and terminology around these is poor. The proposal (Appendix 6) outlines a multi-year plan for the university moving forward.

Katt Hatzi: Noted that the motion needs amending to “as per Appendix 6” as there is no Appendix 7.

Motion:

FUSA endorses the Gender Neutral Bathrooms Proposal as per appendix 7.

Amended Motion:

FUSA endorses the Gender Neutral Bathrooms Proposal as per appendix 6.

Moved: Jesy Murphy

Seconded: Sean Henschke

All in favour.

Motion carried.

Procedural Motion: To move to in-camera discussions, and suspend Standing Orders to allow Ben Smith (Acting Manager Student Engagement) to remain in the room.

Moved: Katt Hatzi

Seconded: Clara Rose Santilli

All in favour.

Motion carried.



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Procedural Motion: To suspend Standing Orders to address the items left unstarred before moving to in-camera.

Moved: Jesse Stevens

Seconded:

All in favour.

Motion carried.

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

7.4 Affiliation Application for Flinders Photography Club – Josh Rayner

Preamble: Flinders Photography Club 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 Photography Club for Financial Affiliation.

7.8 Keep Trimesters off the Table – Jesse Stevens

Preamble: With other universities implementing the trimester study model, most recently at UNSW, it is important that FUSA has a public stance on this. Trimesters, while appearing to be about choice and flexibility and letting students finish their degrees quicker, are solely designed to make universities more like “Degree factories”, getting students in and out as quickly as possible to maximise profit. Trimesters inevitably mean less break time, less study time for exams, and over the course of the degree, less teaching time but for the same cost. It is timely considering the university is beginning to undertake a project that addresses issues such as the curriculum, study modes, and timing of classes etc. While there has not been any suggestion that the university wishes to pursue trimesters, there has been one instance of one topic being proposed to be taught in a trimester to increase profit from international students, and we cannot allow a slippery slope to occur.

Motion:

FUSA opposes the trimester model.

FUSA opposes any change to education that is driven by maximising profit, rather than improving the accessibility and quality of education.

7.9 Performance-Based Funding is Another Liberal Attack – Jesse Stevens

Preamble: The Government has released a report detailing proposed plans for its performance-



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based funding which has been on the cards since it scrapped the demand-driven system in 2017, a move which has seen tens of thousands of people miss out on higher education in the past two years. Making some university funding contingent on meeting national criteria may seem like a reasonable approach to improving performance and ensuring accountability, except in reality it's a terrible idea that doesn't work. It's just another Liberal attack on students, disadvantaged people, and young people, and it's just a diversion from the continuation of chronic under-funding of public universities.

The move to PBF will likely have a range of negative consequences, including universities lowering standards to improve pass rates, and making it more difficult for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and mature-age students to attend university as universities will be cautious about accepting high numbers of students with above average likelihoods of attriting. The proposed plans will also see the number of commonwealth-supported places made available each year significantly below the number of young people who enter university-age, so tens of thousands of young people will miss out on access to higher education in the coming years.

Motion:

FUSA opposes the Liberal Government's proposed performance-based funding model for universities.

FUSA supports uncapping Commonwealth Supported Places.

FUSA re-affirms its support for a significant increase in federal funding to higher education, and to making higher education tuition free.

7.11 Response to Religious Discrimination Exposure Draft – Sean Henschke

Preamble: Upon the release of the exposure draft of the Religious Discrimination Bill activists have had many concerns that this bill will negatively impact many Australians lives. Christian Porter claimed that this Bill would follow the standard template of other anti-discrimination legislation, but this is far from being the case. Anti-discrimination legislation should protect vulnerable people from being discriminated against, however this Bill instead creates greater vulnerabilities for women, LGBTIQ+ people and other minority groups. The current draft legislation may give the opportunity for those in certain government services such as Universities and Health Services or corporations that earn of 50 million per year and any other organisation effected by federal legislation the opportunity to refuse to provide those services on their religious beliefs. For example, this Bill will allow doctors and other medical practitioners to conscientiously object to providing medical care if they disagree with it on religious grounds. This could relate to performing abortions, healthcare services for transgender people, or the provision of contraception. According to analysis by the Human Rights Law Centre, this could leave patients unsupported without referrals to other doctors in South Australia and Western Australia - an issue of particular concern for people in times of crisis. Activists are also concerned by other sections of the Bill that are less clear. Seemingly, religious staff working in areas such as homelessness, domestic violence or disability care could discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people, unmarried mothers, divorcees or anyone else who their faith deems



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ineligible for support. This bill will also wind back protections against LGBTIQ people in states such as Tasmania.

Motion

FUSA supports all campaigns against the current religious freedoms bill that takes away access and opportunity to other minorities and will work with groups like the South Australian Advocacy Alliance and other human rights lawyers in writing submissions as well as attend public demonstrations against the current bill such as rallies.

FUSA also recognises the importance of acknowledging persecution that some religious identities face and it is important that we fight for equal rights as allies with those persecuted groups within our communities

7.14 International Students Pizza Lunch! – Nicholas Loh

Preamble: This year, the midsemester break for Semester 2 spans from 23 September 2019, a Monday, to 4 October 2019, a Friday. 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 organise a post-midsemester break pizza lunch for international students, which will consist of catered pizza and side dishes from Domino's Pizza. The event will take place at the Multimedia Room on 16 October 2019, Wednesday, from 1200-1400. This is an opportunity for international students to meet and befriend other international students from all walks of life, and simply have a good time over a pizza lunch. It is hoped that this event will encourage and motivate international students to do their best for the last term of the academic year! A detailed proposal for the event can be found in the appendices.

Motion

The Student Council approves up to \$200 from the International Students Officer's budget to defray the costs of the "International Students Pizza Lunch!" event.

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

Moved: Clara Rose Santilli

Seconded: Jesy Murphy

All in favour.

Motion carried.

Procedural Motion: To Suspend Standing Orders to address Agenda Item 8.1

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Katt Hatzi

All in favour.

Motion carried.



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8. Matters for Discussion

8.1 Student Council Member Reports – Josh Rayner

On the assumption of the successful ratification of new FUSA Student Council Member Roles and Duties Regulations we should discuss as a council the best way to produce and collate reports moving forward

Josh Rayner: Sean has created a sublime reporting template for the Office Bearers' reports. This won't take you any longer, but will make writing your reports easier. This will be sent to Student Council members for their forthcoming reporting.

Meeting was moved to in-camera 7:15pm.

9. Matters for noting

9.1 AGM – Josh Rayner

Our AGM is being held in the Flinders Tavern at 1pm on the 10th of September. Student Council will attend if available and encourage others to attend

9.2 Staffing News – Ben Smith

We will be welcoming Tristan to join the team as an administrative officer from Monday 02/09/19. Thank you for making him welcome. A small amount of additional casual support in the media team, and SRDO team has also been factored in over the next few months to account for additional work around elections.

9.3 Confidential Item – Ben Smith

9.4 Next Student Council Meeting – Katt Hatzi

With the FUSA Elections to be held in early October, the next Student Council Meeting shall be called for the 4th of November.

10. In-Camera

7.12 Confidential Item – Katt Hatzi

Motion:

Student Council appoint Hilary Wigg as the FUSA Women's Officer for the remainder of the 2019 term.

Moved: Katt Hatzi

Seconded: Clara Santilli

10 for, 0 against, 1 abstention

All in favour.



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Motion carried.

7.13 Confidential Item – Katt Hatzi

Motion:

Student Council appoint Keenan Smith as the FUSA Indigenous Officer for the remainder of the 2019 term.

Moved: Katt Hatzi

Seconded: Jesy Murphy

11 for, 0 against, 0 abstention

All in favour.

Motion carried.

Meeting Closed: 7.47pm