



The views expressed and statements contained in these documents are those of the Flinders University Student Association (FUSA) or individual named members of the FUSA Student Council, and do not necessarily represent the views of Flinders University. Flinders University makes no warranty as to the accuracy of any statements made in the documents, and disclaims any liability for any statements or comments contained in the documents.

Flinders University Student Association Student Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th November, 2019

Council Room, Level 2 Registry, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus

18:30

Present: Katt Hatzi (Student President); Josh Rayner (General Secretary); Jesse Stevens (Education Officer); Hilary Wigg (Women's Officer); Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer); Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer); Nicholas Loh (International Students Officer); Sean Henschke (Queer Officer); Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer); Gemma Lyons (Social Activities Officer); Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member); Jesy Murphy (General Council Member); Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement); Observers – Imogen Deller-Evans; Aidan Cornelius-Bell, Hoang Min Son Le; Kane Abraham; Benika Bhoola; Molly Turnbull; Amy Tschirn; Gail Brennan; Kelly Sambo; Letty Marranya; Sophie Gilbey; Paige Leedham; Stacy White (Minutes)

Meeting Opened: TIME: 6:41pm

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: 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 September meeting.

Moved: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

Seconded: Jesy Murphy (General Council Member)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

5. Executive Decisions (appendix 2)

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

Moved: Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer)

Seconded: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)



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All in favour.

Motion carried.

6. Reports (appendix 3 & 3.1)

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

Moved: Jesy Murphy (General Council Member)

Seconded: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7. Matters for Decision

Student President called for starring of matters.

Starred items: 7.1,7.4, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.10, 7.11

7.0 Starred Matters for Decision

Discussion

Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member) questioned the amount of the pooled budgets and the availability of funds to cover UATSIS membership from his budget and the Indigenous Officers budget mentioned in Matters for Decision 7.11.

Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer) requested that as he had only been in his role for a short time that he be given consideration regarding the spending of the Indigenous Officer budget, and extension to use it.

There was discussion regarding the using of remaining funds in the NAIDOC and Anti-Racism budgets which do not require Student Council approval and appropriate to use, but final approval for use would be from the Manager of Student Engagement.

Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement) indicated that FUSA will find a way to assist with this affiliation and recommends that the Indigenous Budget to be used first then topped up from other event budget areas such as NAIDOC. He would like endorsement from Student Council for this.

Katt Hatzi (Student President) spoke of the use of the pooled funds for NUS travel and the uncertainty around the number of members wanting to attend.

Procedural Motion: For motion for 7.11 to precede 7.1 so funds requested in 7.11 can be deducted first.

Moved: Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member)

All in favour

Procedural carried.



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7.11 Affiliation with the Union of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students (UATSIS) – Keenan Smith

Preamble

The Union of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students (UATSIS) is the peak representative body for all undergraduate Indigenous students undertaking study at university. There are approximately 300 Indigenous students enrolled across all of Flinders University's campuses. In comparison to the Flinders University's general population of 25,000 students, Indigenous students represent 1.2% of Flinders population and 3% of Australia's total population. Indigenous students coming into universities are already at a disadvantage as a minority, and don't have adequate representation and advocacy at universities.

UATSIS works closely with other student organisations including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Association (NATSIPA), the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) among others. We also work closely with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSHEC) to better understand how they can assist Indigenous Students to excel at university. A partnership with UATSIS will allow for better representation and advocacy for Indigenous students both at Flinders and on a national level. This will demonstrate FUSA's commitment in supporting Indigenous students and our right to self-determination.

Discussion

Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer) spoke to the motion. He spoke positively of a conference he attended earlier this year. He believes that affiliating UATSIS will give better advocacy and representation to Indigenous students and would like support regarding this. He would like to pay the full affiliation for \$3000 to support the new organisation and indigenous students across the campuses. Keenan has been made executive member of the 2020 UATSIS panel.

Josh Rayner (General Secretary) put forward questions regarding the affiliation structure of UATSIS. Josh Rayner (General Secretary) and Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member) spoke positively of UATSIS.

Motion

The Student Council endorse FUSA to affiliate with UATSIS and approve the expenditure of \$3000; \$1000 to be used from general council member (Nathan Fiedler's) budget and \$2000 from the Indigenous Students Officer budget

Moved: Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer)

Seconded: Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member)

All in favour

Motion Carried

7.1 Pooling Remaining Student Council Budgets – Katt Hatzi



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Preamble

As we are reaching the end of the year, there are some office bearers who have not spent the full amount of their budget. Unfortunately, we only have a limited amount of time to spend the remaining Student Council allocated funds (early December) before the remainder is retained by the University. By pooling the remaining funds for expenditure rather than confining them to specific budgets, we will have more flexibility to spend the remaining funds and ensure that it doesn't get absorbed and lost.

Motion

Student Council approve that all Student Council budget lines be pooled for all members to spend as per regular approval procedures.

Moved: Katt Hatzi (Student President)

Seconded: Jesse Stevens (Education Officer)

All in favour

Motion carried.

7.4 CAPA Annual Council Meeting – Katt Hatzi

Preamble

CAPA holds an annual conference each year, the Annual Council Meeting, which is one of two conferences per year where we can meet with other affiliates across the country, realign priorities for the organization in the new year, and elect new CAPA office bearers. Unlike NUS, there are not specific delegates to hold votes from each university to attend this conference, but similarly it is a key opportunity to be involved in the peak body for postgraduates, and make sure that the needs of Flinders students are on the agenda going forward. This will also be a celebration of CAPA's 40th anniversary, which is an incredible milestone and one that we should consider particularly important and Flinders University was one of the founding members.

Discussion

Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer) spoke in favour of this motion and indicated she would find out possible interested postgraduate students to attend the CAPA meeting.

Motion

Student Council endorse expenditure to cover costs for the current President and incoming Postgraduate Officer to attend the CAPA ACM, using remaining funds from the separate postgraduate initiatives budget line (additional to the Student Council Postgraduate Officer budget). Should there be capacity, Student Council also endorse the attendance of other interested postgraduate students to attend using this budget.

Moved: Katt Hatzi (Student President)

Seconded: Hansha Manimendra (Postgraduate Students Officer)

All in favour.



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Motion carried.

7.6 Please Listen, It's Not That Hard! – Jesy Murphy

Preamble

For many people pronouns mean nothing, to them it's a word that is sometimes used to identify them, but for others it means everything. Pronouns are so simple, yet sometimes it's hard to put across what your preferred pronoun is. Right now, even though pronouns are used in everyday life, it is still difficult and sometimes uncomfortable to tell someone what your pronouns are. When pronouns are shown in an email or through other media it reduces the stigma and difficulty of telling someone your pronouns and it just becomes normal. This motion aims to break down that difficulty and make asking for or telling someone your pronouns normal.

At the start of the year a motion was passed that said that all Student Council members will include their pronouns in their email signature. The motion also encouraged all staff to do the same.

Discussion

Jesy Murphy (General Council Member) spoke to her motion, and its importance.

Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement) spoke of his support for this motion. He also invited any Student Council Member to speak at a FUSA staff meeting on a Monday morning.

Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer) indicated that he was not aware of the earlier motion as he was appointed later. These oversights need to be addressed for future casual vacancies and at induction.

Motion

Student Council directs the FUSA Queer Officer to email all staff members making them aware of the motion that was passed at the start of the year and encouraging them to add their pronouns to their university email signature.

Moved: Jesy Murphy (General Council Member)

Seconded: Sean Henschke (Queer Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.7 No to Privatisation and Transport Cuts – Nathan Fiedler

Preamble

The South Australian Liberal Government has announced their plan to sell off the operation of our publicly owned Adelaide Metro trains and trams following a \$46 million cut from public transport services. This is in spite of Premier Steven Marshall being elected under a mandate that his Government “[won't] have a privatisation agenda”. This blatant lie to South Australians has and will continue to hurt most notably students here at Flinders University especially following the completion of the Tonsley line extension. Services in private hands will lead to the end goal being



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profit rather than supplying accessible, reliable and cheap public transport. The cuts to public transport which resulted in numerous bus services being cut hit the Southern Suburbs amongst the hardest, a region where a vast number of Flinders University students reside. These cuts and eventual privatisation of public transport will hurt Flinders University students during an already financially difficult time where the prices of everything like laptops and textbooks are going up expect wages, when Newstart and other welfare payments are too low and youth unemployment in South Australia, in particular, Adelaide's South such as Glenelg, Hallett Cove, Christies Beach, Morphett Vale is at 14%. Because of all this, FUSA must condemn these damaging policies that will have a direct negative effect on Flinders Students daily lives.

Discussion

Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member) spoke to his motion.

Josh Rayner (General Secretary) supported the motion and proposed amendments and additions.

Amended Motion

FUSA condemns the South Australian Liberal Governments decision to cut public transport;

FUSA condemns the South Australian Liberal Governments decision to privatise the operation of Adelaide Metro Train and Trams; and

FUSA supports the Australian Labor Party's (SA Branch) commitment to reverse the trains and trams privatisation.

FUSA calls on the Australian Labor Party (SA Branch) to extend this commitment to include the buyback of bus services of Adelaide Metro.

FUSA recognises the impact of privatisation of essential services for students, such as public transport, and the increased financial burden that this puts upon them.

Moved: Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member)

Seconded: Josh Rayner (General Secretary)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.8 Omnibus Fixes to FUSA Election Regulations – Josh Rayner

Preamble

The 2019 FUSA Student Council Election revealed many concerning flaws in the FUSA Election Regulations. Throughout the 2019 election the following occurred;

- Some students on placement did not receive certain pieces of mandated election communication from the Returning Officer, despite being eligible under the regulations to nominate and vote.
- Notice was not distributed with the names of Assistant Returning Officers, as required by the regulations
- The Returning Officer's ruling that a candidate's nomination was invalid was overruled by the tribunal, thanks to disputed interpretation
- An Assistant Returning Officer was appointed well after nominations had closed.



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- The Election Tribunal found that FUSA staff acted inconsistently with s15.9, which prohibits interference in the election by staff.
- The Election Results were delayed for over a week after the close of polls, pending response of an appeal in which the appellant specifically requested no remedy, only a ruling
- The Returning Officer at one point asserted a need for three students to support an appeal to the tribunal, before accepting that only two were required
- The Returning Officer requested to call a candidate regarding a complaint that had been received, but when that candidate requested information about the complaint in writing, the Returning Officer did not engage further with the matter.
- Elements of s14 of the Election Regulations are entirely inconsistent with the engagement of BigPulse.

It is also worth noting that the 2019 FUSA Returning Officer was overruled by the FUSA Election Tribunal more than any other Returning Officer in FUSA history. Indeed, prior to this year no Returning Officer had ever been overruled by the tribunal, and this year it occurred multiple times. It is clear, because of all of this, that reform needs to be approached to maintain confidence in FUSA's electoral processes. It is not tenable for the Returning Officer, or anyone else engaged in the process to need to find workarounds to the regulations. Inherent to due process is ensuring predictability in the election regulations; people should expect that what they read in plain text is what will happen.

Whilst process and election personnel challenges did not demonstrably impact the outcome this year, thanks in part to the intervention of an undeniably competent tribunal, action must be taken to prevent this from happening in the future.

The changes proposed clean up obvious typos which change the intention of certain regulations, reform antiquated elements of the regulations, strengthen the truth in campaigning elements of the regulations, and mandate a minimum standard qualification for Returning Officers, as well as other miscellaneous matters. They also address the pressing concern of delayed results. They are drafted along the principle that Student Council is the governing body of FUSA, and principles of ensuring election integrity.

Discussion

Josh Rayner (General Secretary) requested amendment to his motion Appendix item 4.5d – remove the word '**not**' for correct context.

Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement) spoke in favour of a review of the regulations but noted some concerns with the preamble and proposed changes.

Ben Smith made the following comments (noted in dot points)



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- He took a different view regarding the performance of the Returning Officer and said that a number of complaints against the Returning Officer had been dismissed. Ben invited Student Council Members to read the Tribunal decisions in this regard.
- Addressed the delay of election results and noted he had heard from a number of students that believed FUSA had unnecessarily delayed the election results, which is an unfortunate impression, and not accurate. Ben noted that the FUSA staff group were acutely aware of the stress for candidates of not knowing results and advised that the team had sought leave from the Tribunal to open the results prior to the finalisation of matters before the Tribunal, and such leave had not been forthcoming.
- Raised concern about the changes to the Returning Officer selection, effectively placing selection in Student Council hands, and in his view, potentially politicising the role of the Returning Officer, opening the Returning Officer up to complaints of conflict of interest by other candidates.
- Noted concerns about the workload incurred for staff around the changes to scrutineers and observers with the possibility that up to 70 observers might need to be accommodated and their enrolments checked.
- Expressed the view that the regulations as proposed were close to unworkable for staff and made it very difficult for staff to do their job of promoting and running an election.
- Proposed that in light of these concerns, the new Student Council set up a working group, including staff, to work on the regulations early next year to come up with an agreed set of regulations that would allow staff to effectively run an election. The university could fund some legal support to such a working group to assist the process.

Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member) spoke regarding the short notice given to consider this motion. This process should not be rushed so professional advice and independent consultation can occur. He would like to see an independent review. Nathan also thought that some of the changes were not minor, he objected to the section regarding the appointment and/or removal of the Returning Officer by Student Council. He pointed out some typos that needed correction.

Josh apologised for the late distribution of the agenda and motions and understands Nathan's grievances. He considers the regulation changes as minor and believes that Student Council as governing body of FUSA should have more input regarding approval of the Returning Officer. He acknowledges that there are typos that need to be addressed in the changes. He would like these changes to go through with this council term. Josh would like to see a FUSA standing committee, or another formal process, next year to make major changes. He would like these current changes to go through as they are, before major changes are made.



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Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer) spoke of his experience in the casual vacancy process and elections and believes the regulations need amendment. They discriminate against cultural backgrounds and there is a need for better inclusiveness and representation.

Sean Henschke (Queer Officer) agreed with the need for a long-term plan for reviewing the regulations, and for better representation from autonomous groups.

Katt Hatzi (Student President) appreciates the feedback regarding the casual vacancy processes and is sure the new Student Council will be collecting and reviewing feedback.

Nathan Fiedler (General Council Member) raised that students should be consulted, Josh Rayner (General Secretary) raised difficulties around student consultation saying it is hard to engage with students, he referred to a particular FUSA exercise with club executive members as well as generally, that had low engagement.

Procedural Motion

Josh Rayner (General Secretary) moved a Procedural Motion to go directly to a vote.

For: Majority

Against: 2 (Nathan Fiedler, General Council Member)

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

Motion

Student Council amend the FUSA Election Regulations as detailed in Appendix 5 with immediate effect

Moved: Josh Rayner (General Secretary)

Seconded: Hilary Wigg (Women's Officer)

For: Majority

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

7.10 Flinders Law Students Association Election – Josh Rayner

Preamble

Since our last Student Council meeting, a complaint was made to the FUSA General Secretary regarding recent changes to the Flinders Law Students Association (FLSA) Constitution in preparation for their Executive Committee elections. It was alleged that these changes made the then upcoming Executive Committee elections undemocratic.

Following the advice of the FUSA Clubs and Events Officer, FUSA Executive determined that while the complaints raised did highlight a few issues with the constitutional and by-law amendments, further investigation was required, and a decision of the entire Student Council should be sought.



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Upon further investigation, the constitutional and by-law amendments were clarified to require that those who sought nomination to the FLSA Executive Committee would be required to have their nomination seconded by a current member of the Executive, preferably from the current executive committee position holder that the nominator was seeking nomination for. This process allows for students seeking nomination to have a greater understanding of the role that they're nominating for, and is supposedly common practice among many law student associations and clubs across the country. Despite this, a process that forces those seeking nomination for a club position to be supported by a current club member is problematic, and may lead to future elections being held undemocratically and not in-line with the FUSA Club and Association Regulations.

Discussion

Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement) noted that the recent changes are not common practice across other Law Associations. He feels the motion could be stronger to support the democratic process of clubs and societies.

Josh Rayner (General Secretary) spoke to the president of the Law Students Association last week and 'issued a formal warning' to executive. It is a complex situation and did not feel that Student Council should interfere during their process and wait to for the completion of the process to investigate. Investigation is ongoing, and next year this will be reviewed with new General Secretary.

Ben is concerned with the precedent set for other clubs and longer-term issues and how to move forward for future reference. Ben asked that the current and future General Secretary meet with Clubs and Societies Officer Adam Rau for a more detailed briefing.

Discussion regarding the outcome and possible repercussions of this club election.

Motion

FUSA acknowledges that while recent constitutional and by-law amendments are seemingly problematic, the most recent Flinders University Law Students Association Executive Committee elections were held democratically

FUSA Student Council directs the outgoing and incoming FUSA General Secretary's and the FUSA Clubs and Events Officer to work with the incoming Flinders University Law Students Association to develop an independent appeals mechanism for students seeking nomination who've seemingly had their nominations not been seconded on undemocratic grounds

Moved: Josh Rayner (General Secretary)

Seconded: Jesse Stevens (Education Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

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



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7.2 Yeet me to Natcon! – Katt Hatzi

Preamble

NUS National Conference will be running again in December, this year from the 9th-13th. This conference is a critical opportunity to be involved in discussion about the policy and direction of NUS heading into the following year. In previous years, we have used remaining Student Council and other FUSA funds to send any interested incoming or outgoing Student Council members and similarly interested Flinders Students to attend. This conference provides outgoing Council members an opportunity to advocate for students needs with the knowledge that they've gained over their term, as well as allowing incoming members to input to the priorities and initiatives of NUS heading into their term.

Motion

Student Council approve the costs of registration as official observers and travel costs (up to \$250 per person) for any incoming or outgoing members of Student Council to attend the 2019 NUS National Conference and preceding activities, to be covered by surplus in the NUS Delegate budget line and the pooled Student Council remaining funds.

7.3 TEQSA Conference – Katt Hatzi

Preamble

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) is Australia's independent national quality assurance and regulatory agency for higher education. TEQSA's fundamental purpose is to safeguard student interests and the reputation of higher education in Australia.

The 4th TEQSA conference will look at ways in which partnerships can drive quality, through collaboration with industry, professional accreditation bodies and regulatory authorities to benefit students, the higher education sector and Australian education. Speakers will explore key aspects of the global higher education landscape and how partnerships can transform the content and delivery of education over the coming decade.

Motion

Student Council approve, from the pooled student council funds, the costs of registration (\$1390), travel (up to \$250) and accommodation (3 nights) for Clara Santilli to attend the TEQSA conference.

7.5 Dues Will be Due Soon – Katt Hatzi

Preamble

This year there was a delay in paying the affiliation fees for CAPA. In previous years we have attempted to pay our affiliation in advance to ensure we are making the most of a year's budget. To avoid the delay in processing and utilize the remaining funds we have this year, and avoid paying our fees late again. For the last 2 years, we have applied for our affiliation fee to be reduced to \$4,000 from the invoiced amount of \$13,263.46. If we can pay this amount in advance, then we will have additional funds available next year to be more robust in spending on our postgraduate activities, or to increase the affiliation amount closer to what our actual fee should be. Having the flexibility to increase our CAPA affiliation would also be in line with our increase to affiliation fees to NUS.



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Motion

Student Council endorse the payment of 2020 CAPA affiliation from the 2019 budget at \$4,000, with the view to reevaluate in 2020 if there is capacity in the budget to increase this with a second payment.

7.9 Staff Conditions are Student Conditions – Josh Rayner**Preamble**

Late last month the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) notified Vice Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling of a dispute regarding academic workload allocation in accordance with the latest Flinders University Enterprise Agreement. FUSA has a proud history of supporting the NTEU, particularly the Flinders University Branch, as we understand that staff working conditions are integral to the quality of education that we receive as students.

In the newest enterprise agreement, the NTEU sought and secured better academic workload provisions to ensure university management could no longer disenfranchise staff from workload negotiations and decision-making. Despite these new provisions, the NTEU claims that university management continues to act as if these new provisions do not exist.

Notice of the dispute can be found here: <http://www.nteu.org.au/flinders/article/Academic-Workload-Dispute-21673>

Motion

FUSA acknowledges the tremendous workload of teaching and research staff and their integral role in the quality of the education received by Flinders University Students
FUSA stands in solidarity with the NTEU during this latest dispute

FUSA Student Council will take a photo to be shared on the FUSA social media sites with attached information regarding the dispute so that students are made aware of how the working conditions of staff are being impacted

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

Moved: Katt Hatzi (Student President)

Seconded: Jesse Stevens (Education Officer)

All in favour.

Motion carried.

8. Matters for Noting**8.1 Horizon Leadership Summit – Katt Hatzi**

What have you got planned for the upcoming summer break? Why not attend the two-day Horizon Leadership Summit! Join us as we explore the topic of leadership, develop your understanding of leadership and build your own leadership skills on the 28th and 29th November.

This conference-style event will feature a program of four inspiring speakers from a broad range of industries giving you an opportunity to:



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Gain new insights into leadership and leadership skills

Learn from the experiences and stories of others

Be inspired to start or continue your own development as a leader

Connect and network with students from across the University.

This unique event is a first for Horizon, and will be offered in partnership with Adelaide Agile Community to help students learn to use tools and strategies to get their best work done - quickly.

Together, we will learn about different project methodologies and tips that can be adapted to any situation and put those skills into practice as we plan and build our own 'Horizon City' from the ground up.

Book your place via CareerHub.

8.2 Next Student Council Meeting – Josh Rayner

Date, time, and location of the next FUSA Student Council will be determined at the upcoming Student Council induction, at a date and time that suites the incoming Student Council. Due to constitutional obligations, the next Student Council meeting will need to take place in December.

Meeting Closed: 8:09pm