



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 1st of June 2020

Council Room, Registry Building, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus

18:30

Present: Josh Rayner (Student President), Sean Henschke (General Secretary), Jesy Murphy (Women's Officer), Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer), Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer), Imogen Deller-Evans (Queer Officer), Hoang Minh Son Le (International Officer), Molly Turnbull (Indigenous Officer), Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer), Janelle Chaptini (General Council Member), Benika Bhoola (General Council Member), Kane Abraham (General Council Member), Lana Tikhomirov (General Council Member), James Glynn-Roe (General Council Member), Victor Ephraims Duruji (General Council Member), Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement), Tristan Newsome (Minutes)

Guest: Nil

Observers: Nil

Meeting Opened: 6:45pm

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 (Mature Age Officer)

Che Cielens (Social Activities Officer)

3. Name & Pronoun Round

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

4. Previous Minutes

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

Moved: Jesy Murphy

Seconded: Nathan Cheetham

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 full council meeting.

Moved: Nathan Cheetham

Seconded: Molly Turnbull

All in favour.

Motion carried.

6. Reports

Motion:

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

Clara Santilli, Ben Smith and Lana Tikhomirov provided written reports.

Josh Rayner, Kane Abraham, James Glynn-Roe, Victor Ephraims Duruji, Molly Turnbull, Nathan Cheetham, Amy Tschirn, Hoang Minh Son Le, Imogen Deller-Evans, Janelle Chaptini, Jesy Murphy, Anu Francis and Sean Henschke provided verbal reports.

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Kane Abraham

All in favour.

Motion carried.

Motion: Student Council observe a minutes silence in honor of the current events in relation to George Floyd, First Nations People and reconciliation week.

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Molly Turnbull

All in favour.

Motion carried.

Minutes silence observed

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, 7.8, 7.10, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13.



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7.0 Starred Matters for Decision

7.1 Employability Support Campaign – Benika Bhoola

Preamble:

The current situation surrounding Covid-19 has resulted in many students having lost casual hours or their jobs altogether. Unfortunately, welfare payments don't cover living expenses for many students; furthermore, international students are currently ineligible for most support and are often discriminated against in the job market.

FUSA has the financial capacity to support students in seeking casual or part time employment to support their studies. Through the development of a grants scheme to allow students to be financially supported in seeking resume building qualifications (such as: First Aid Certificate, RSA, Barista Courses etc), FUSA can better support students' welfare while recovering from the impacts of Covid-19.

Platform

FUSA acknowledges the financial difficulty students are currently facing during this crisis and further recognises that there is a disproportionate impact on international students who have not been adequately catered for in the current welfare system.

Discussion

Benika Bhoola spoke to motion around the struggles people are facing during current situation. Kane Abraham spoke in support of the idea noting the difficulty in obtaining employment due to SA's competitive job market and that many students have little choice but to work with little to no support from the government. Amy Tschirn also spoke in favour noting from her experience the difficulty around masters students not being eligible for government support.

Motion:

FUSA Student Council endorses in principle an Employability Support Grant Scheme to provide financial support for students seeking qualifications such as First Aid Certificate, RSA, Barista Courses etc.

The FUSA Student Council empowers Benika Bhoola to work with the General Secretary to allocate FUSA funds that cannot be used, given social distancing requirements, to be allocated toward this initiative.

Moved: Benika Bhoola

Seconded: Kane Abraham

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.2 Establish a Regulations Committee – Sean Henschke

Preamble:



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The FUSA Club, Collective & Academic Association Regulations have undergone a number of band aid amendments over the past two years in an attempt to further support our clubs community. Despite this, many clubs still struggle to interpret our regulations, and often find themselves afool without any malicious intent. As such, the General Secretary and Clubs & Events Officer would like to establish an ad hoc committee from the clubs community to redevelop these regulations from the ground up.

Discussion

James Glynn-Roe spoke in support of the motion and his enthusiasm around it. Sean Henschke spoke about the motion and the importance of making sure the regulations are revisited, also stressed the importance of incentivising this role to encourage student's involvement in ensuring the regulations are usable and user friendly.

Motion:

Student Council endorses the establishment of an ad hoc committee as per clause 13.1 of the FUSA Constitution, for the purpose of amending the FUSA Clubs, Collectives & Academic Associations Regulations.

This ad hoc committee shall be chaired by the FUSA General Secretary.

This ad hoc committee shall consist of one (1) member of any FUSA affiliated Club, Collective & Academic Association as per funding allows.

Moved: Sean Henschke

Seconded: James Glynn-Roe

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.3 New Buffs for Clubs - Sean Henschke

Preamble:

After regular emails and phone calls with FUSA affiliate Clubs, Collectives and Academic Associations, it is evident that the community is under stress due to the pressures of the ongoing pandemic. Many clubs note that retaining new members has been particularly challenging. The General Secretary and Clubs & Events Officer have devised a series of steps to boost club outreach, provide greater resources and encourage more flexibility.

As per the motion 'Establishing a Club Regulations Committee', a new process to affiliation may be determined. Once this process has been completed, the General Secretary and Clubs & Events Officer will be working with the Media Team to communicate this additional support.

Discussion

Sean Henschke spoke in support of the motion specifically in relation to being more proactive in engaging with clubs, proposed amendment of date to 30th of August. This would assist in achieving better timelines. James Glynn-Roe spoke for the motion and gave examples of the difficulties that clubs are facing around timing due to Covid 19 restrictions. Josh Rayner explained that as the motion was being amended by the mover the amended motion does not require an extra vote.



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Motion:

FUSA General Secretary, Clubs & Events Officer and the Media Team will collaborate to complete a video tutorial series for clubs, collectives and academic associations.

FUSA General Secretary, Clubs & Events Officer and the Media Team will create an online media campaign to promote a diverse array of active affiliated clubs, collectives and academic associations. FUSA Student Council approve the following recommendations of the General Secretary and Clubs & Events Officer:

- Club, Collective and Academic Association Affiliation Applications will reopen as of June 3rd
- Postpone the deadline of Annual Review Applications until August 30th 2020
- Postpone the deadline to use General Funding until August 1st 2020
- Pool Funding to remain open until the November 1st 2020

Moved: Sean Henschke

Seconded: Kane Abraham

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.5 Student Council By-Election Dates and Nomination of Returning Officer and Election Tribunal for Education Officer By-Election – Ben Smith

Preamble:

Due to the recent vacation of the Education Officer position on Student Council it is necessary to hold a by-election to fill this vacancy. According to the FUSA Constitution:

15.3. Vacancies must, where possible, be filled within 42 calendar days: (a) in the case of office-bearer positions directly elected by students, through a by-election being held in accordance with the regulations, subject to Clause 15.4;

NB. 15.4 relates to a vacancy occurring after July 1, which is not relevant in this case.

Returning Officer Appointment

The Manager, Student Engagement suggests Mary Heath, Former Dean (Education) in the College of Business, Government & Law at Flinders University be appointed as Returning Officer for the 2020 Education Officer By-election. Mary has the required legal qualification for this position and has previous experience as a Returning Officer in FUSA elections. Mary has now retired from the University and is willing to take on this role as an independent contractor.

Election Tribunal Appointment

Following the resignation of current FUSA Tribunal members, the Manager, Student Engagement suggests the following appoints to the FUSA Election Tribunal ongoing:

1. Professor Christopher Kee (Dean (Education) College of Business, Government & Law)*
2. Dr Luis da Vinha (Lecturer in International Relations in College of BGL)

*Chris has legal qualifications required by at least one member of the Election Tribunal



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We hope to have another candidate for the final position on the tribunal to present to Executive for endorsement within the next two weeks. We will be considering principles of representation and affirmative action, for this third candidate.

Discussion

Josh Rayner spoke to motion on behalf of Ben Smith. Ben spoke briefly around motion and importance of getting this in progress. Josh has advised that he approves and supports Bens recommendations, he thanked Ben as well as Kate Walsh for their help in organising these elements of the election. Imogen Deller-Evans also spoke favourably passing on her thanks.

Motion:

That the Student Council endorse that:

- Nominations for the FUSA Education Officer position open on Friday June 5 and close on Thursday June 18.
- The FUSA Education Officer By-election be held over three days on July 28,29 and 30, 2020 (beginning of Semester 2).

That Student Council accept the recommendation to appoint Mary Heath as Returning Officer for the 2020 FUSA Education Officer By-election.

That Student Council accept the recommendation to appoint Christopher Kee and Luis da Vinha to the FUSA Election Tribunal.

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Imogen Deller-Evans

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.6 Joining hand for international students – Victor Ephraims Duruji and Hoang Minh Son Le

Preamble:

As international students face challenging and interruption in terms of studying and engaging with the university, the International Students Services (ISS) initiated an online competition call: *Share your story* to fill in that gap. Following the meeting with ISS recently, there are 71 submissions from international students which shows a significant effort and the motivation of students and ISS to reconnect. However, with the limited budget ISS can only select 10 students to receive a gift card of \$30. To conclude the meeting, ISS has expressed the need for further support from the Student Council.

Platform

FUSA recognises the importance of international students' experiences during the uncertain time of COVID19 and acknowledges the need for maintaining the engagement of and support for international students at Flinders University.

Discussion



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Victor Ephraims Duruji spoke to motion and mentioned the overwhelming response that was received to this competition. Allowing funds from his own council budget would enable further recognition to students for their efforts in sharing their stories. Hoang Minh Son Le also spoke further to motion on the amazing response received from the international student community and how important it is to share the stories they have provided.

Motion:

FUSA Student Council approves the expenditure of \$300 from Victor's General Council Member Budget Line towards ISS's *Share your story* as a contribution of Student Council to the engagement campaign to support international students during this time.

FUSA International Student Officer and General Council Member Victor shall be on the judging panel for the competition.

Moved: Victor Ephraims Duruji

Seconded: Hoang Minh Son Le

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.7 Time for a Face Lift? – Jesy Murphy

Preamble:

The women's space has not been updated in a while and could do with a few changes. The women's officer has already had a few suggestions from students about what they would like to see and it might be a good idea to put a suggestion box in the room for the first few weeks in semester two (permitting that the space is re-open) to find out what other students would like.

Discussion

Jesy Murphy spoke to motion mentioning that the women's space desperately needs and update to make it a more inviting and useful space. Consulting with students in how best to do this, then using in part the women's officer budget to help fund the improvements. Amy Tschirn also spoke in support of the motion and how well used and valued this space is and that the upgrades will be greatly appreciated by students. Janelle Chaptini spoke in favour and gave examples of her experience with this room as did Benika Bhoola.

Motion:

Place a suggestion box in the women's room to see what students would like in the room

Moved: Jesy Murphy

Seconded: Amy Tschirn

All in favour.

Motion carried.



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7.8 Rent Reductions for Students - Kane Abraham

Preamble:

The onset of restrictions in the workforce across Australia, and internationally, has seen significant loss in income and revenue to people in a variety of situations, of note those studying at University and living on campus. Often students may relocate from their homes to study and live on campus at University, relying on casual or part-time employment to pay the rental and living fees to reside in this university accommodation, or from parental support.

The significant rise in unemployment that has been observed during the COVID-19 pandemic has meant a number of these students are struggling to afford basic welfare needs, and as such find difficulty in paying their rental fees. Particularly with borders closed, some students may be unable to return home and must continue to reside on campus, paying these accommodation fees. This may be particularly challenging for those that are ineligible for Centrelink support payments and may have been unsuccessful in financial assistance programs.

Flinders Living have taken proactive steps to facilitate the efficient transition from living on campus to returning home, through early termination of contracts and a reduction in fees/tariffs on these processes. Though these are important measures, there have not been sufficient measures installed for students who have experienced unemployment or seen a decrease in income but wish to remain living on campus in Flinders Living accommodation. These are students that may no longer be able to afford up to \$395 per week for their accommodation but lack a feasible alternative.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, some landlords and agencies have offered such support as reduced rent fees, or even rental fee freezes to their tenants. This act of inclusivity is vital to maintain the safety and wellbeing of these students who are vulnerable and at risk, as an alternative to early contract termination.

Platform

FUSA supports the decision of Flinders Livings to permit and facilitate the early termination of student accommodation contracts, and the coinciding reduction in termination fees from the equivalent of six weeks accommodation fees to two weeks.

FUSA calls on Flinders Living to provide rent reductions, and rent freezes, for students who are facing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but do not wish or are unable to vacate their accommodation on campus.

FUSA calls on Flinders Living to eliminate the termination fee in its entirety for students wishing to terminate their accommodation contract early due to COVID-19 related reasons, rather than reducing the fee to a value equivalent to two weeks accommodation cost.

FUSA calls on Flinders Living to ensure that if such above mentioned changes are implemented, they be swiftly communicated with all residents in a timely manner to provide the most efficient and effective support to students.

Discussion

Kane Abraham spoke to motion, discussing his research on the matter and expressing the need for this support of students who are struggling with payments. Called for proactive measures to help students who are currently in the Flinders Living space.



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Motion:

FUSA will write to Flinders Living calling on the elimination of termination fees in their entirety for students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FUSA will write to Flinders Living calling on the implementation of rent reductions and freezes for students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moved: Kane Abraham

Seconded: Nathan Cheetham

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.10 Juukan Gorge Cave – Amy Tschirn

Preamble:

Last week, a 46,000-year-old site of significant cultural heritage to the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people of the Pilbara region, Juukan Gorge Cave, was demolished by Australian mining company Rio Tinto. Although this was a legal demolition that was endorsed by the Minister's office, it was morally and scientifically abhorrent.

FOI documents obtained this year show that Flinders University has investments in Rio Tinto.

Discussion

Amy Tschirn spoke to motion and touched on the awful start to reconciliation week with the destruction of the Juukan Gorge Cave by Rio Tinto. Amy gave perspective to this site in importance and age mentioning that by contrast the pyramids were built approximately 6000 years ago where as the Juukan Gorge Cave is a significant site for indigenous people for approximately 46000 years. Amy stated that as of 2018-19 Flinders University has investments in Rio Tinto. Molly Turnbull also spoke in favour of motion and expressed her disbelief that mining companies are able to get away with this behaviour and that a university would invest in and support a company that has these appalling practices.

Motion:

FUSA stands in solidarity with Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people and condemns the actions of Rio Tinto in their destruction of Juukan Gorge cave.

FUSA requests that the Finance and Investments Committee reconsider present and future investments in Rio Tinto, under section 6 of the Investments Policy: Responsible Investment. The Environment Officer will write to this committee to urge them as such.

Moved: Amy Tschirn

Seconded: Molly Turnbull

All in favour.

Motion carried.



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7.11 Together We Stand! - Imogen Deller-Evans

Preamble:

The *Better Together* Conference held earlier this year in Melbourne brought LGBTQIA+ people and allies from all over the globe together to speak, listen, and learn from one another. The conference provides a platform for queer folks to engage in intersectional discussions concerning the struggles the community faces, and how these issues can be tackled together to cultivate positive change.

Better Together 2021 will be held in Adelaide, and is an opportunity for students who are members of the queer community to participate in these conversations, have their voices heard, and establish connections with other LGBTQIA+ people at a national and global level.

Discussion

Imogen Deller-Evans spoke to her motion and discussed her experience in attending the better together conference. Imogen has been in discussion with the organisers in relation to discounted rates for students for the 2021 conference to be held in Adelaide. Sean Henschke spoke in favour of the motion sighting his own discussions with organisers and the support they provide students to help them get involved.

Motion:

FUSA Student Council approves the expenditure of \$1000 of the Queer Officer Campaigns/Initiatives Budget Line to support Flinders Students attending the Better Together Conference 2021.

Moved: Imogen Deller-Evans

Seconded: Sean Henschke

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.12 Queer-antine Support - Imogen Deller-Evans

Preamble:

CW for domestic violence mention. Covid-19 has had disruptive effects for many of us. For members of the queer community, this disruption to the norm may be huge, and even dangerous. Loss of work, subsequent housing instability, as well as other factors means that many LGBTQIA+ folks may have had to choose between homelessness or returning to potentially unsafe home environments for the isolation period. Research demonstrates that during times of isolation and disasters such as Covid-19, cases of family violence increase, as sustained close contact allows people easier access to be violent toward their families and partners. While South Australia is currently easing restrictions, support for the community during this recovery period is crucial, especially in the scenario that a second wave prompts a return to isolation.

I propose an initiative to investigate the potential for small welfare packages to those Flinders University students belonging to the LGBTQIA+ who are most in need currently. These packages may include information concerning housing and food resources, as well as other supports including help for those who may be experiencing domestic violence and/or homelessness.

Discussion



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Imogen Deller-Evans amended motion to remove question mark and add full stop in first sentence of motion. Discussed how due to current situation and job loss etc some people may be forced to return to situations that are dangerous for them. Is looking to use some budget from queer officer to help establish a fund. Kane Abraham spoke to the motion and how the queer community is exposed to these issues. Spoke about how important this and the need for support.

Motion:

FUSA to seek to establish a support fund for queer students suffering due to circumstances brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

FUSA Student Council approve the expenditure of \$1000 from the Queer Officer Campaign/Initiatives Budget Line to support this initiative.

Moved: Imogen Deller-Evans

Seconded: Kane Abraham

All in favour.

Motion carried.

7.13 “I can’t Breathe”- Molly Turnbull

Preamble:

CW: abuse, death (motion next page)

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an unarmed 46-year-old African American man, was killed by police in Minneapolis when they were called by a cashier who suspected Floyd was using a counterfeit note. Derek Chauvin, Thomas K. Lane, Tou Thao and J. Alexander Kueng all participated in the arrest and murder of Floyd. Chauvin pressed his knee against Floyd’s neck for over 8 minutes while Floyd begged for his life and cried, “I can’t breathe.” He died before paramedics arrived on the scene. Chauvin has been charged with third degree murder and second-degree manslaughter and all four officers have been fired. ‘I can’t breathe’ has since become a rallying cry around America as protests and demonstrations formed across the country. Minneapolis, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York and over 30 other cities in the US now host rallies and protests and demonstrations against police brutality and, more widely, racism. Australia also sees police brutality against people of colour, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Over 400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have died in custody since 1991, the most recent of which was in January this year. #BlackLivesMatter

Platform

FUSA reaffirms its commitment to stand against racism in all its forms both on and off campus FUSA Student Council condemns the actions of police that lead to disproportionate deaths of people of colour both in Australia and internationally.

Discussion

Molly Turnbull spoke to motion. Gave content warning around this difficult issue. Spoke about current situation around the death of George Floyd. Spoke about how this happened and continues to happen in Australia with indigenous people. Spoke about examples of death in custody of indigenous people in Australia. Benika Bhoola spoke about the motion and her experiences of her family being from



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South Africa and what they had to deal with in relation to segregation. Feels strongly about supporting this message due to her own experience but also to give the opportunity to show our support. Hoang Minh Son Le also spoke in support of motion and the parallels between what is happening between the movement in America, the first nations people and the Asian community. Spoke about the racism he and his family has experienced.

Motion:

FUSA Media Team will work with the relevant Officer Bearers to create Social Media post supporting the movement and detail why it is important to Flinders students as well as promote relevant associated events students can attend.

Moved: Molly Turnbull

Seconded: Benika Bhoola

All in favour.

Motion carried.

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

7.4 Re-Relaunching the Collectives - Sean Henschke

Preamble:

Social Distancing requirements did not allow many of our newly established FUSA Collectives to hold their inaugural Annual General Meetings. Additional support is required to ensure our collectives get off the ground and can develop and strengthen our club's community.

Motion:

FUSA General Secretary, Clubs & Events Officer, Media Team, and relevant members of Student Council shall collaborate on an online and on campus media campaign to support the launch of our collectives.

7.9 World Environment Day – Amy Tschirn

Preamble:

This year, World Environment Day will be held on Friday June 5th, with the key theme being biodiversity.

The global loss of biodiversity has major implications for ecological and human wellbeing. Aside from its intrinsic value, a biodiverse world provides essential and irreplaceable ecosystem services on which we rely for our lives, such as healthy soils to grow food, GHG absorption, clean air and water, climate stability, medicines, and future resources, as well as having cultural significance to First Nations people.

Our world has suffered massive biodiversity decline via anthropogenic factors. Australia is an unfortunate world leader in this field - of the top 7 countries to contribute to global biodiversity loss, we rank second. This is clearly not a leadership title we should be aspiring to.



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In the lead up to World Environment Day 2020, I would like to host some online content focused on changes students can feasibly make in their lives to assist in the conservation of local biodiversity. This would include a student-friendly gardening workshop run by Folk of All Trades at the cost of ~\$250, and two \$50 vouchers for Ecolateral as a prize for a socially distanced clean up.

Motion

FUSA Student Council approves the expenditure of \$350 from the Environment Officer's initiatives budget towards the FUSA World Environment Day Campaign

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

Moved: Josh Rayner

Seconded: Amy Tschirn

All in favour.

Motion carried.

8. Matters for Discussion

8.1 Knowledge is Power: Coronavirus Student Survey for FUSA – Lana Tikhomirov

Lana spoke on her discussion matter. Anu spoke about how good an idea this is and how it will be an opportunity to give more marginalised students a voice around the issues they have been facing. Highlighted that having an anonymous way of reporting this would be ideal to get the most information to help. Sean spoke about how this has been done in previous years in conjunction with the media team and encouraged Lana to speak with the media team. Josh spoke on how student assist has a large amount of data that can be drawn on.

8.2 Fossil Free Flinders - Amy Tshirn

Amy discussed her requested FOI around investments of Flinders University. Encouraged Student Council and friends to join the Fossil Free Flinders page on Facebook as well as signing the petition that is located on this page.

9. Matters for Noting

The next meeting of Student Council shall be Wednesday July 1st, 2020, location to be confirmed pending social distancing requirements

Meeting Closed: 9:09pm