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## Flinders University Student Association Student Council Meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 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), Hoang Minh Son Le (International Officer), Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer), Che Cielens (Social Activities Officer), Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer), Janelle Chaptini (General Council Member), Benika Bhoola (General Council Member), Kane Abraham (General Council Member), James Glynn-Roe (General Council Member), Victor Ephraims Duruji (General Council Member), Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement), Stacy White (Minutes)

#### **Meeting Opened: 7pm**

#### **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: Imogen Deller-Evans (Queer Officer), Molly Turnbull (Indigenous Officer), Lana Tikhomirov (General Council Member), Aiden Cornelius-Ball (Postgraduate Officer)

#### **3. Name & Pronoun Round**

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

#### **4. Previous Minutes**

**Motion:** Student Council accepts the minutes of the June 2020 meeting (appendix 1).

**Moved:** Josh Rayner (Student President)

**Seconded:** Jesy Murphy (Women's Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

#### **5. Executive Decisions**

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

**Moved:** Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer)

**Seconded:** Kane Abraham (General Council Member)



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*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 6. Reports

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

**Moved:** Josh Rayner (Student President)

**Seconded:** Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

Josh invited verbal reports from members.

James Glynn-Roe (General Council Member) spoke about how he intended to use his budget to assist students but leave some for anything else that may be needed later. He has not formulated a motion as yet.

Victor Ephraims Duruji (General Council Member) questioned regarding a motion he made at the last meeting for funds to be transferred to International Student Services. It was confirmed that the motion has been actioned.

## 7. Matters for Decision

Student President called for starring of matters.

Starred items: 7.1, 7.4, 7.7, 7.10, 7.11, 7.13, 7.15, 7.16, 7.19, 7.25

### 7.0 Starred Matters for Decision

#### 7.1 FUSA Membership – Sean Henschke

##### Preamble

The discussion of FUSA Membership dates all the way back to the establishment of FUSA. After years of discussion and sharing of ideas, a concrete proposal has yet to be presented to Student Council.

The attached document provides Student Council with the first proposal draft of a membership model that could be launched as early as Semester 1 2021. The details contained within this proposal are subject to change, and would require further endorsement from Student Council.

With negotiations and preliminary discussions underway, now is a great time for Student Council to consider this proposal. FUSA Membership has the potential to generate upwards of \$100,000 revenue for FUSA in the years to come – allowing for greater expansion of the services and advocacy we provide, and ensuring that we can remain viable as a student association throughout financially unstable times.

##### Discussion



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Sean Henschke (General Secretary) spoke regarding his proposal to create an independent revenue source, and mentioned it is a draft and will workshop for any adjustments.

Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer) spoke in support and agreed that FUSA should not rely on SSAF and it was good to create a new reliable income stream.

James Glynn-Roe (General Council Member) was also supportive and was concerned that it could hinder the amount of SSAF funding received by FUSA.

Sean indicated that the initiatives aimed at for spending would not be covered by SSAF funds, therefore should not affect them. Sean also confirmed that this would a step toward incorporation.

Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer) spoke in favour of the motion.

Josh Rayner (Student President) agreed that we should move toward independence and not rely on SSAF funding

### **Motion**

FUSA endorse the draft proposal of FUSA Membership as seen in Appendix 4.

**Moved:** Sean Henschke (General Secretary)

**Seconded:** Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer)

*All in favour*

**Motion carried.**

## **7.4 Club Workspace at Sturt Campus – Sean Henschke**

### **Preamble**

The FUSA Space at Sturt Campus needs development and purpose. The Clubs and Academic Associations based out of Sturt struggle to find adequate storage, and the FUSA storage options are limited in space and distanced from Sturt campus. We also have an array of shared resources that have been given to clubs that would be utilised better if easily setup.

The General Secretary has been working with Property, Facilities and Development to get a quote on creating a working space for clubs on Sturt Campus.

### **Discussion**

Sean Henschke (General Secretary) spoke to his motion and expanded on the possible uses of a multi-purpose space at Sturt for clubs and associations.

Benika Bhoola (General Council Member) spoke in support of the motion and thought it good to utilise an area other than the main HUB to connect campuses of the University together.

Kane Abraham (General Council Member) spoke of the active clubs in the Sturt campus that could utilize a room at Sturt.

### **Motion**

FUSA endorses the development of a Club Workspace at Sturt Campus.

**Moved:** Sean Henschke (General Secretary)

**Seconded:** Benika Bhoola (General Council Member)

*All in favour*



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**Motion carried.**

## **7.7 Election Tribunal for Education Officer By-Election – Ben Smith**

### **Preamble**

In accordance with our Election Regulations, the Manager, Student Engagement recommends the following appointment to the FUSA Election Tribunal ongoing:

- Jody St Clair (Coordinator, Yunggoorendi Student Engagement)

As such the full Election Tribunal for this by-election would be:

- Professor Christopher Kee (Dean (Education) College of Business, Government & Law)\*
- Dr Luis da Vinha (Lecturer in International Relations in College of Business, Government & Law)
- Jody St Clair (Coordinator, Yunggoorendi Student Engagement)

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

### **Discussion**

Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement) spoke in support of his motion, and emphasised that Jody St Clair would be a great asset to the team

### **Motion**

Student Council accepts the recommendation of the (Acting) Manager, Student Engagement to appoint Jody St Clair to the FUSA Election Tribunal.

**Moved:** Josh Rayner (Student President)

**Seconded:** Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer)

*For: 13*

*Against:*

*Abstain: 1*

**Motion carried.**

## **7.10 The Beauty of our Home Countries – Son Le**

### **Preamble**

International students are home-sick, especially during the mid-year break, after the first semester. This situation is worse due to the COVID-19, which results in border closing, no flights home, and no family members can visit. Moreover, this year cultural week was cancelled, and the second semester O'Week will not take place because of the restriction.

To bring back the sense of belonging, embrace multicultural spirits on campus as well as to help international students deal with anxiety and homesickness. I want to organise an online activity that



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calls for the photo submission from international students which present any landscape, scenery and cultural and community's lives that they have been to, attended from their home countries and tell us about the place and their experience. Maximum 20 selected photos will be awarded a \$20 gift card each, and all those photos will be put into a short video and promoted through FUSA Facebook, Pings, ISS platform and campus's LCD.

### **Discussion**

Hoang Minh Son Le (International Officer) spoke in support of his motion and of the need for more activities to engage international student.

Victor Ephraims Duruji (General Council Member) spoke in support of the motion

### **Motion**

Student Council approves the expenditure of \$400 from the International Student Officer's initiatives budget towards this cultural activity.

Student Council directs the Media Team and International Students Officer to develop social media graphics and posts for this campaign.

**Moved:** Hoang Minh Son Le (International Officer)

**Seconded:** Victor Ephraims Duruji (General Council Member)

*All in favour*

**Motion carried.**

## **7.11 Expanding Emergency Financial Assistance Funding – Nathan Cheetham**

### **Preamble**

FUSA's Emergency Financial Assistance program provides food packages, grocery vouchers, fuel vouchers, metro cards and interest-free loans of up to \$500. In previous years, the budget for EFA has been around \$20,000 for a years-worth of assistance.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and its subsequent effect on employment and income, FUSA has this year, to date, provided over \$22,000 worth of emergency assistance. As this exceeds FUSA's usual annual budget allocation, a further \$20,000 was allocated to FUSA's EFA budget in March. Given that the effects of COVID19 are expected to last for at least the end of the year, and that over \$22,000 of EFA was administered in a period of less than four months, it's appropriate to further extend FUSA's EFA budget line.

### **Platform**

Student Council believes that FUSA and the University more broadly should use its resources to support students.

FUSA believes that all students have the right to a secure liveable income, housing and access to food.



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### **Discussion**

Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer) spoke about the effect of the COVID19 shutdown and the amount of EFA funds spent since April. FUSA has expended around 150% of annual EFA budget so far this year to support students in need. He provided statistics for assistance provided by the Student Assist team to students, most being for financial issues. He believes that assistance given this year will be three times that of last year.

Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer) spoke in support of the motion and the importance of the service FUSA gives to students, and the difference it makes to those who receive it.

Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement) spoke of the approval process to spend or change spending to SSAF funding. Most items being brought to Clare Pollock for approval as she stands on the committee. The additional \$20,000 bring the total up to \$60,000 for the year, and there possibly will be a need for more when government support packages finish in September.

### **Amended Motion**

Student Council approve reallocating \$20,000 of unspent FUSA Funds to FUSA's Emergency Financial Assistance program as per Appendix 7.

**Moved:** Nathan Cheetham (Welfare Officer)

**Seconded:** Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer),

*All in favour*

**Motion carried.**

## **7.13 International Student Support Package – Nathan Cheetham (WITHDRAWN)**

### **Preamble**

In April, the state government announced a \$13.8 million package to support international students studying at the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia or Flinders University. The package consisted of a series of cash grants that various international students could apply for - the largest of which being a one-off \$500 payment. The State Government has structured the package so that the universities administer the funds to students.

At the time of writing this, the universities are yet to receive the funds, despite the applications for the grant opening on June 3.

### **Platform**

FUSA condemns the State Government for their lack of consultation with University staff and students in forming the International Students Support Package and for delaying providing vital support for international students.

### **Discussion**

Ben Smith (Acting Manager, Student Engagement) updated Student Council indicating the funds have now been approved for distribution, some has already been distributed and some will be administered by FUSA. There are minimal criteria and those in need will receive funds in the near future.



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Josh Rayner (Student President) consulted with Clare Pollock who explained the reasons for the delay being a State Government delay. He believes the funds should not be held back from students.

As action is now taking place to distribute these funds making the motion now redundant.

### **Motion – Now Redundant and Withdrawn**

Student Council directs the Student President (in conjunction with the International Students Officer) to write a letter to appropriate members of state parliament, calling on them to immediately provide the funds for international student grants.

## **7.15 FUSA Condemns Higher Education Attack – Benika Bhoola**

### **Preamble**

Education Minister Dan Tehan recently announced that the Coalition Government plans to overhaul our Tertiary Education Fee system, and further implement a corporatized structure across our sector. While some degrees will see overall fee decreases, most prospective students will see an increase to the degree prices – with some increasing by as much as 113%.

The Government says that lowering the cost of some degrees and increasing the cost of others will encourage students to undertake courses that they deem to “job relevant”. This simply won’t be the case. Given that the funding for university places is capped, and the proportion of government funding for the degrees that are increasing in price is lower, universities will actually be incentivised to enrol students in the degrees that the Government is trying to persuade students not to enrol in. The students who do enrol in the cheaper courses are also getting their funding cut, resulting in more students graduating with lower quality degrees.

This proposal is a failure for all future students. Students will pay more, university will be harder to get into, and there will be even less funding for current and future students alike. We must bring the entire student community (both present and future) together to fight against this new Liberal attack on higher education.

### **Platform**

FUSA condemns the Coalition Governments new university fee structure proposal.

FUSA acknowledges the importance of all science, humanities and arts students and does not share the Liberal Party’s view that these areas of study are not job relevant.

FUSA acknowledges the importance of an affordable and accessible higher education sector for everyone in our community, not just students.

FUSA reaffirms our position that higher education should be made free once again and that the abolition of the HECS/HELP system can nullify the Liberal Party’s constant attacks on higher education.



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### **Discussion**

Benika Bhoola (General Council Member) spoke strongly to her motion regarding changes in University fees. University should not be just for the wealthy, education should be assessable to everyone, she said the proposed changes were appalling. We should actively oppose the Liberals proposal to the Federal Government.

Josh Rayner (Student President) spoke about how the changes to the Sciences have been unnoticed. The Liberal Government have made cuts to institutions such as the CSIRO to make less jobs available, thus giving them cause to indicate lack of jobs in this sector. Josh looks forward to building a campaign and working with groups that will be impacted by the cost increases. He wants to involve High School students who will be impacted more than current University students.

Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer) commented that the University is losing expertise in this area of Sciences.

Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer) also agreed that the Sciences should not be forgotten in this issue, as well as Humanities. Good information should be distributed to bring public awareness to this issue.

### **Motion**

FUSA will establish a campaign to mobilise students and staff, and coordinate with sector and like-minded organisations to ensure the Liberal's proposal is voted down in Federal Parliament.

FUSA calls on all opposition and crossbench South Australian MP's to vote against the Liberal's proposal.

Student Council directs the Student President to write to all opposition and crossbench South Australian MP's expressing our opposition to the Liberal's proposal.

**Moved:** Benika Bhoola (General Council Member)

**Seconded:** Josh Rayner (Student President)

*All in favour*

**Motion carried.**

## **7.16 FUSA Body Image Campaign – Janelle Chaptini**

### **Preamble**

Low self-esteem and negative self-image are faced by people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. Some institutions report that as many as 4 in 5 people suffer from low self-esteem and/or negative self-image. University students are, obviously, no exception to these statistics - particularly first years who are exposed to a whole new range of people and experiences all at once. As a student association, FUSA should be taking an active interest in the wellbeing of all students at Flinders. Therefore, a campaign should be formed around promoting positive self-image with a focus on self-love and acceptance. The campaign intends to be multi-directional with workshops, general interactive activations, guest speakers and a range of other services with the intention to reach as many students as possible.

### **Discussion**



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Janelle Chaptini (General Council Member) spoke of supporting students with body image and self-acceptance issues with the focus on this rather than mental health. This affects older students as well as younger. Empire Times is planning on a focus on this issue, and it would be good to work with them on this.

Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer) spoke in support of the motion.

Benika Bhoola (General Council Member) also spoke in support and believe it will help many students.

### **Motion**

FUSA supports the establishment of a campaign focused on promoting positive self-image to boost self-esteem.

**Moved:** Janelle Chaptini (General Council Member)

**Seconded:** Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer)

*All in favour*

**Motion carried.**

## **7.19 Phone Charge Bays – Che Ceilens**

### **Preamble**

FUSA proudly offers students on campus access to device charging bays across all major Flinders campuses in South Australia and the Northern Territory. We have updated them every few years to evolve with technology changes and we have recently had several damaged charge bays returned to us that cannot be repaired as well as many from the initial purchase that do not have chargers for modern devices.

This initiative allows us to engage with students and offer them a useful service while studying as well as a lifeline when challenges arise - a charged phone is a crucial way to ensure you stay safe in the modern world.

### **Discussion**

Che Cielens (Social Activities Officer) spoke of the need to update the phone charging stations. The current ones are out of date and some broken, these need to be regularly updated.

Jesy Murphy (Women's Officer) supports this motion saying how much students find these stations useful.

### **Motion**

Subject to Flinders University Procurement approvals, Student Council approve reallocating \$12,000 of unspent FUSA Funds to purchase device charger bays as per Appendix 7.

**Moved:** Che Cielens (Social Activities Officer)

**Seconded:** Jesy Murphy (Women's Officer)

*All in favour*

**Motion carried.**



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7:50pm Clara Santilli left the room

7:53pm Josh Rayner left the room

7:54pm Clara Santilli returned

7:56pm Josh Rayner returned

## **7.25 The 'Stay Classy' Initiative – Clara Santili**

### **Preamble**

Mature Age Students at Flinders University have very different Life experiences and demands on the time than students in the under 25-year-old student population. The office the position of Mature Age Students Officer was created by FUSA to represent the needs, wants and issues facing older students studying at Flinders University. The Stay Classy initiative is designed to address some of the biggest problems faced by older students and is designed to create a package of useful information for the current and future Mature Age Students Officers.

The Stay Classy brand is part of an initiative to address the following problems:

- Work/life/study balance.
- Mature age students feeling disconnected from other students by virtue of their age, study focused outcomes of their degrees and different life experiences.
- That Flinders support services were only for younger students.
- That connecting and engaging with other mature age students is difficult Because of distance learning/online delivery of courses, clubs and society's activities are focused younger students (i.e. pub crawls) and the layout of campus is not conducive to meeting, mixing and socialising with other mature age students.

### **Discussion**

Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer) spoke in support of her motion and the need of support for mature age students.

Josh Rayner (Student President) supports the initiative but indicated concerns he has received regarding the name of the proposal. These concerns will need to be addressed.

Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer), Benika Bhoola (General Council Member) and Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer) spoke in support of the motion and initiative and also of thier concerns with the name.

Hoang Minh Son Le (International Officer) thought the initiative was a great idea and supportive of it as there are many mature age international students. Son also thought a different name may engage more international students.

Che Cielens (Social Activities Officer) agrees there is a disconnect with mature age students and asked for specifics of the proposal.



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Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer) gave details from her proposal in appendix 9. She asked for support for a focus group from members of Student Council. Clara was agreeable with workshopping a new name.

#### **Amended Motion**

FUSA endorses the 'Stay Classy' Initiative once finalised.

Student Council approves the expenditure as outlined in Appendix 9.

**Moved:** Josh Rayner (Student President)

**Seconded:** Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer)

*All in favour*

**Motion carried.**

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

#### **7.2 FUSA Website – Sean Henschke**

##### **Preamble**

A review of the FUSA Website has confirmed what both FUSA Staff and Student Council already know; the current site does not reflect the needs and aspirations of a Student Association. In addition, it carries significant risk and across every component - from clubs, to advocacy, grants and other functions - there are problems that absorb a huge amount of staff time.

Our Media Team has identified a product developed and commercialised by a Student Union which provides seamless integration of case management, club management, events student voice, e-commerce, reporting, grants and elections. It has the ability to integrate social media, forums, polls, blogs and other content. The design and graphical elements of the website are fully customisable. The cost is \$75,000 for setup and a three-year contract. Any additional cost is for casual time to backfill staff work on the project. See Appendix 5 and 6 for further information.

##### **Motion**

Subject to Flinders University Procurement approvals, Student Council approves the reallocation of \$75,000 of unspent FUSA funds for the procurement of a new platform.

Subject to Flinders University Procurement approvals, Student Council approves the reallocation of \$35,000 of unspent FUSA funds for casual time to backfill staff working on the project.

#### **7.3 Club Space – Sean Henschke**

##### **Preamble**

In December 2019, FUSA passed a resolution titled 'Burn the Bench' recognising that the bench in the Clubs Space makes the room inaccessible and that we supported removing the bench to be replaced by a more flexible and accessible seating arrangement.



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Our Clubs & Events Officer has finalised a quote for this and we are now able to establish a plan forward for this change. Further information can be found in Appendix 7.

### **Motion**

Subject to Flinders University Procurement approvals, Student Council approves the reallocation of \$20,000 of unspent FUSA Funds for the renovation of the FUSA Club's Space.

## **7.5 Affiliation Application from the Flinders University Taboo Club – Sean Henschke**

### **Preamble**

The Flinders University Taboo Club have applied for Non-Financial Affiliation to FUSA. Our Clubs & Events Officer has recommended that Student Council reject this clubs affiliation application for the following reasons:

1. Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd does not appear to be a registered not-for-profit or charity.
2. The intended aims and objectives of this club are misleading as they suggest Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd is both not-for-profit and donates all profits to social causes. This is inaccurate as;
  - a. Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd is an Australian Proprietary Company as listed on the *Australian Business Register* and the *Australian Securities & Investments Commission Register*.
  - b. Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd is not listed on the *Australian Charities & Not-for-Profits Register*.
  - c. Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd promotes itself as a 'Social Enterprise' – a structure which does not legally require the company to act in a not-for-profit manner. The company has no obligation to provide any profits to charity, and may set and pay salaries to its owners and staff at its discretion.
  - d. Donations to Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd are not a tax deductible charity donation.
  - e. Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd advises that 100% of their net profit 'after business costs' are donated to various projects. As this is a privately owned company and not an incorporated association or registered charity, it is likely that these business costs include the payment of salaries to the business owners and staff.
3. The Flinders University Taboo Club appears to be focused primarily on the support of an external company, rather than on the engagement of Flinders University students in campus activities.
4. Based on the above, there is reason to believe that students could incorrectly believe that donations of their money and time volunteering were toward a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation.
5. Supporting proprietary businesses is not within the intended scope of our Clubs & Associations program.
6. The Flinders University Taboo Club's constitution permits membership to the club on the basis of eligibility under the University of Adelaide's (defunct) Clubs Association.



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7. The Flinders University Taboo Club's constitution does not dictate that equipment and funds be returned to the FUSA upon winding up/dissolution.

While the aims and objectives of Taboo Sanitary Products Pty Ltd may be to support social causes, the affiliation of a club to support and promote a Proprietary Company is not a precedent that should be established within our Clubs & Associations program. The affiliation of this club would effectively permit the company to promote itself on campus and within university events (including O'Week), through the student club. Such a precedent could be used to allow any for-profit company to use our Clubs & Associations program to market itself on campus, as the term 'social enterprise' is not a legally protected term requiring the enterprise to be (and remain) not-for-profit.

In this case, it could be reasonably expected that members of the Flinders community would be confused regarding whether the organisation is a charity or not-for-profit organisation, and may incorrectly believe that donations are provided in their entirety to Taboo's supported projects. Further, the club's aims of 'facilitating volunteering' to 'promote and sell products from the brand', may also lead students to become confused and believe that they are donating their time to fundraise for a charity, rather than generate profits for a Proprietary Company.

#### **Motion**

Student Council does not approve the Flinders University Taboo Club's application for Non-Financial Affiliation.

### **7.6 Affiliation Application from the Paediatric Student Society – Sean Henschke**

#### **Preamble**

The Flinders University Paediatric Student Society are applying for Financial Affiliation to FUSA. The club has an appropriate executive composition, meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, bank account, AGM minutes and membership list.

#### **Motion**

Student Council approves the Flinders University Paediatric Student Society for Financial Affiliation to FUSA.

### **7.8 Affordable Options on Campus? FUSA could do that! – Josh Rayner**

#### **Preamble**

Our Student President and General Secretary have met with various members of university management and Property, Facilities and Development to discuss opportunities for FUSA to establish a store on campus. This shop could sell a variety of items to students such as affordable food, merchandise and study materials.

A campus store could also sell and distribute stock from Student Council initiatives and campaigns, as well as promotional material from our affiliated clubs, collectives and academic associations. This



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would create plenty of opportunities for independent revenue, student employment and affordable options for students on campus.

#### **Motion**

FUSA endorses the continued investigation into the feasibility of establishing a campus store to be owned and operated by FUSA later this year or early next year.

### **7.9 How good is Collective Activism and Upskilling? – Josh Rayner**

#### **Preamble**

The annual National Union of Students' Education Conference (affectionately known as 'Edcon'), will be taking place from July 13th to 15th. This is a fantastic opportunity for members of Student Council to join hundreds of student activists from across the country to engage in discussions about the future of higher education, how we organise during the pandemic, and what the student union movement can do moving forward to continue building towards change.

This year Edcon is taking place online and registration will cost \$20 per attendee.

#### **Motion**

Student Council approve the expenditure of up to \$380 for each Student Council member to attend this conference should they wish – funding will be taken from individual conference attendance/professional development budget lines or the Flexi Fund.

### **7.12 Mental Health Project Funding – Nathan Cheetham**

#### **Preamble**

Mental ill health is an unprecedented issue facing students - even more so in the era of COVID-19. Flinders Health, Counselling, and Disabilities are experiencing high volumes of both new and returning cases. These numbers have been steadily rising over the past few years and have spiked with issues related to COVID-19.

As a student association, FUSA has taken great interest in students' mental health and wellbeing with events and programs such as Mental Health Week and FUSA Says Relax. Other departments, namely Oasis, also run mental health-oriented programs.

With mental ill health already an issue, and promising to become an even greater issue, FUSA should be doing all it can to address mental ill health and promote healthy practices, as well as address other societal issues associated with mental ill health.

#### **Platform**

FUSA believes that all students have the right to free, safe, accessible and uncapped mental health care that meets their needs on campus.



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FUSA believes that the University should be doing everything in its power to promote good mental health in its students.

### **Motion**

Student Council approves the allocation of \$20,000 to mental health projects to be spent at President, General Secretary and Welfare Officer's discretion as per Appendix 7.

### **7.14 Menstrual Hygiene Project Funding – Nathan Cheetham**

#### **Preamble**

Since 2017, FUSA has distributed free menstrual hygiene products to 13 women's bathrooms around Bedford Park and Sturt campuses. These products are vital to the health of students and is a small, but key, service that FUSA provides.

Currently, menstrual hygiene products are supplied in open containers on benchtops which, while accessible, compromises the hygiene of the product. Menstrual hygiene products are also currently only available in women's gendered bathrooms, meaning men and non-binary people who menstruate may not be able to access free menstrual hygiene products in spaces they feel most comfortable.

At the March meeting, Student Council voted unanimously in support of FUSA's menstrual hygiene program.

#### **Motion**

Student Council approves \$5000 of FUSA's budget to be allocated to its menstrual hygiene projects delivered by the Welfare Officer in conjunction with the Women's Officer as per Appendix 7.

### **7.17 Flinders Queer Report & Campaign – Imogen Deller-Evans**

#### **Preamble**

The Flinders Queer Report (please see Appendix 8) is a report of voices of students of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities to examine how universities in South Australia can improve. This report was created by a month-long survey process from 21st of May to 21st of July 2019 of 249 Students enrolled in a South Australian universities - 130 of which were Flinders University Students. This report was created solely from data extracted from responses by Flinders University Students.

The survey was created in collaboration with the AUU Queer Officer, University of South Australian Rainbow Club, Adelaide University Pride Club and the Flinders University Queer Collective. This survey included a diverse array of voices with 24% people who identified as men, 46% identified as women, 22% as non-binary and 8% preferred not to say. 30% of students identified as having a disability, and a large proportion of students identified as postgraduates. While this report was unable to represent every voice, and could be improved if replicated, it is understood that this report will guide an upcoming campaign for improved services for students.



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### **Motion**

FUSA endorses the Flinders Queer Report (please see Appendix 8), to be printed and submitted to University Management.

FUSA endorses the establishment of a campaign seeking the implementation of the twelve recommendations provided in this report.

### **7.18 Fossil Free Flinders Media Campaign – Amy Tschirn**

#### **Preamble**

Climate action is overwhelmingly one of the largest student movements across the world right now. Students should be able to trust that the money they put into their education institution is being used both to their benefit and in accordance with their values and the purported values of the institution. A responsible level of transparency and communication is key to this trust relationship.

Documents obtained under an FOI show that Flinders University investment portfolio includes a large number of companies that do not align with our sustainability values as a community, nor with those outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan or Reconciliation Action Plan. These aforementioned companies fund activities such as coal, oil, and gas mining, and single-use plastics manufacturing, as well as several of Australia's largest financiers of fossil fuels, to name a few. They are also known to be companies that contribute to the rampant destruction of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in Australia.

Not only is this misaligned with our community values, it also puts our international reputation at risk.

Major and immediate transformation is required in order to remain below global warming of 1.5°C. It is imperative that we act now and act bravely. In addition to large emissions cuts in the next decade, GHG emissions will need to reach net zero by 2045 to avoid an overshoot. This is not compatible with anyone our education institutions continuing to finance the expansion of carbon and greenhouse gas emitting projects. Real action on climate change demands divestment, not greenwashing propaganda.

Fossil Free Flinders is a student-led campaign with the following demands:

- Immediately freeze any new investment in the Carbon Underground 200 – the top 200 publicly-traded and government owned fossil fuel companies, as defined by the.
- Divest within five years from direct ownership in those 200 companies--which hold the vast majority of the world's proven coal, oil, and gas reserves-- and from any commingled funds that include their public equities or corporate bonds.



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Further details of the petition can be found at [https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/flinders-university-divest-from-fossil-fuels?fbclid=IwAR3Qrf11\\_7Mnk1ciC84p\\_-X5qCrSzOvRgVSBZFmJhvZxbWb-4yHYr1ElaYs](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/flinders-university-divest-from-fossil-fuels?fbclid=IwAR3Qrf11_7Mnk1ciC84p_-X5qCrSzOvRgVSBZFmJhvZxbWb-4yHYr1ElaYs)

### **Platform**

FUSA endorses the Fossil Free Flinders campaign.

### **Motion**

Student Council directs the Media Team to work with the Environment Officer to create material for the Fossil Free Flinders campaign.

## **7.20 'What do we want? A Permanent Disabilities Space. When do we want it? Now!' – Anu Francis**

### **Preamble**

Due to COVID-19, a significant proportion of the FUSA budget has remained unspent. At present we have a temporary Disabilities Space in the Student Hub, however this space is too small and requires modifications including the fitting of an automatic door, plumbing for an accessible kitchen (as the downstairs kitchen is very inaccessible) and possibly soundproofing. A very rough estimate of the total cost of these works to have a fully fit for purpose permanent space is \$35,000.

Several funding options have been explored, however with FUSA's current favourable financial position this funding route would likely be the quickest and most efficient way to get at least some of the major works done including removing a wall to make the space larger, installation of an automatic door and soundproofing (if needed) in a timely manner and to demonstrate some of the hard work that FUSA has been doing during COVID-19.

### **Motion**

FUSA endorses the re-allocation of \$20,000 of unspent FUSA funds to facilitate works including wall removal, installation of an automatic door and soundproofing (with consideration of further funding toward plumbing for an accessible kitchen to be considered at a later date after reconsideration of FUSA's financial position and at exhaustion of other funding options) to establish a permanent, fit for purpose Disabilities Space in the Student Hub in a timely manner.

## **7.21 'My Disability Ain't Going Away Next Semester' – Anu Francis**

### **Preamble**

Access Plans provided by the Flinders Disability Service are currently only valid for 12 months and swipe card access to the Adaptive Technologies Room must be requested every semester. For students with permanent disabilities and medical conditions, having to renew swipe card access and their Access Plan every semester and year respectively is not only an unnecessary use of these students' time but also places increased strain on the already under-resourced Disability Service. Furthermore, it has been reported that students' requests to gain swipe card access to the Adaptive



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Technologies Room are often not fulfilled in a timely manner, thus reducing students' access to this vital resource.

The success of degree-long Access Plans has been proven by The University of Adelaide, with their Disability Service offering students to meet with a Disability Advisor at any point during their degree should they need to make adjustments throughout their studies.

### **Motion**

FUSA endorses degree-long Access Plans and access to the Adaptive Technologies Room for students with permanent disabilities and medical conditions.

## **7.22 Creating an Indigenous Art Display – Molly Turnbull**

### **Preamble**

Creating visible voices of Indigenous people is an important way to break down stigma and draw attention to the culture and community of the owners of the land on which we live. This can be done by having a visible art display to students. The Indigenous Students Officer has been working with FUMA to design an art display, of which the estimated cost to create an art display is \$350.

### **Motion**

Student Council approves the expenditure of \$350 from the Indigenous Student Officer's Campaigns/Initiatives budget line towards renting two pieces of Indigenous Art works from FUMA to be installed in the FUSA front office.

## **7.23 Flags Are Us – Molly Turnbull**

### **Preamble**

It is important that FUSA does its part in recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the owners of the land, and displaying their flags is a simple way to do so. The Australian Aboriginal Flag was designed by artist Harold Thomas. It was first flown in South Australia in July 1971 at Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square) on "National [Aboriginal People] Day". It is important that when displaying important cultural symbols, we understand what they represent. The Aboriginal flag is made up of three key symbols: the Black panel represents the Indigenous people of Australia, the red represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and First Nations people's spiritual relation to the land, and the yellow circle represents the sun - the giver of life and protector.

The Torres Strait Islander flag represents the First Nation people of the 114 islands within the Torres Strait off the coast of north Queensland. Following a community competition, Bernard Namok won the competition with the design of a symbol of the unity between the First Nations peoples. The flag is made up of 4 symbols: three panels separated by horizontal black lines and the white Dhari (traditional headdress) in the centre above a five-pointed white star representing peace. The black line represents the people indigenous to the Torres Strait, the green top and bottom panels represent the land, and the wider blue middle panel represents the sea.



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### **Motion**

Student Council approves the expenditure of \$440 from the Flexi Fund towards purchasing high quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags to be displayed in the FUSA front office.

FUSA is required to have the flags on display unless otherwise directed by the Indigenous Students Officer.

### **7.24 Translations – Molly Turnbull**

#### **Preamble**

Everyday interactions with Indigenous culture and language provide a deeper appreciation and understanding of Indigenous people. Flinders University is mostly situated on land of the Kurna people. To promote greater inclusivity and cultural awareness of First Nations people on campus, Kurna translations of signage around the university should be provided on the signs.

With the recent release of Flinders University's Reconciliation Action Plan, the University has indicated a willingness to contribute to and embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inclusion and culture. Integrating more Kurna language in a meaningful way on campus is an excellent first step in doing so.

#### **Motion**

Student Council directs the Indigenous Students Officer to work with the Media Team to develop and design appropriate signage for the university in Kurna with the assistance of a local Kurna Elder. FUSA endorses the installation of Kaura translations of signage around the University. The Indigenous Students Officer, and other interested Student Council members and staff, will meet with appropriate staff from Property, Facilities and Development regarding the ordering and installation of translated signage.

### **7.26 Nothing to see here, move along – Kane Abraham**

#### **Preamble**

The FUSA Queer Space is a safe space on campus where queer students can socialise with their autonomous peers and engage in productive discussion and networking. Often though, people using this space may not be open, or out, about their own sexuality or gender. Often people fear for others outside the community seeing them enter or use this space, potentially outing themselves as queer when they were not intending to. Of concern, the privacy frieze on the glass wall of this space, which faces the popular hub study space, does not extend to the floor and ceiling. This has in the past caused concerns that people outside the space may be able to identify those inside based on their personal footwear. In the past, this has been addressed by moving furniture and seating to cover this gap in the window, but this is inconvenient and not effective.



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Extending the privacy frieze on the glass wall of the Queer space down to the floor will ensure the confidentiality and privacy of the individuals who use this space. Overall, this change will ensure the safety and comfort of queer students on campus into the future, and promote the use of the queer space, ensuring its users are not at risk of people looking in or identifying those who utilise the space from the outside.

**Motion**

FUSA will extend the privacy frieze on the glass wall of the Queer Space, extending down to the floor, to provide additional privacy and safety.

FUSA will investigate funding options for extending the privacy frieze on the glass wall of the Queer Space, completing this project as soon as possible.

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

**Moved:** Josh Rayner (Student President)

**Seconded:** Clara Santilli (Mature Age Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 8. Matters for Discussion

### 8.1 Building the Black Lives Matter and Anti-Racism Movements on Campus – Son Le

Over the last month we have seen a tremendous rise in the Black Lives Matter and Anti-Racism movements globally. Our Indigenous Students Officer Molly moved a motion at our last meeting, emphasising the damage of racism and anti-blackness on our black, First Nations and people of colour students and staff. It also demands the solidarity of everyone in the Flinders University community.

One post on Facebook can be the beginning, but if we stop there, we fail our BIPOC fellows.

The entire responsibility of supporting our classmates dealing with anti-Chinese and anti-Asian sentiment during the Covid-19 pandemic has fallen on people of colour. It has been really exhausting for everyone joining in this campaign, providing emotional labour, educating our white classmates, and demanding that being nice isn't enough, and that we all must be actively anti-racist.

I have begun a photo campaign in which students have been taking photos with various placards of statements from the Black Lives Matter movement. We will continue this campaign into the new semester, but we need the support of everyone in our university community. Anti-racism is not just the responsibility of people of colour and I would strongly encourage the support of everyone in FUSA and our university to support our campaign moving forward.



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The purpose of this matter for discussion is to develop some ways we can foster collective action toward our anti-racism campaign. Should we establish a people of colour collective? Should we establish an anti-racism standing committee? What work can we all do together to support the growing Black Lives Matter and Anti-Racism movements on our campus?

8:24pm Clara Santilli left the room

### **8.2 Academic Assessment Policy Consultation – Josh Rayner**

Find the draft policy in appendix 10, other resources pending details being received from working group.

### **8.3 Shared values and directions (or “the BBQ Pitch”) – Ben Smith**

Recently the staff team has been meeting to consider the question; “What do we stand for?” We are interested in exploring how a media officer, advocate, events officer etc etc, in a Student Association, is distinctive from the same role in any other kind of organisation. It has been a very useful process, and we want to test our thinking by inviting our Student Council to engage in a similar process so we can compare notes and learn from you.

Ben proposed that given lack of time to start tonight, a day be set aside during the break for those of Student Council who can, to gather and have a conversation around FUSA values and aspirations. General agreement to this suggestion noted, Ben will send out an invite. Noted that there will be individual follow up for those who cannot make it.

## **9 Matters for Noting**

### **9.1 Next Student Council Meeting – Josh Rayner**

The next meeting of Student Council shall take place on Wednesday August 5th at 6:30pm. Location TBC pending social distancing requirements. Please submit all agenda items for consideration in writing to the General Secretary no later than 5pm Friday July 31st. Agenda items presented after this deadline may not be considered at the next meeting.

### **9.2 Consent Training – Sean Henschke Student**

Council will be undertaking consent training facilitated by Yarrow Place on Monday July 20th from 1:00 to 4:30pm. Please indicate if you will be in attendance to Ben as soon as possible.

### **9.3 Progress! We have Progress! – Jesy Murphy**

The gender-neutral bathrooms working group has receive results of the audit of the bathrooms on campus and is working towards our goal of ensuring gender neutral bathrooms by 2025 in alignment with the University’s commitment to gender neutral bathrooms by 2025.



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With cost estimates and ideas, we can mark out a clear pathway forward. Step 1 in the plan is to repurpose 34 accessible bathrooms across Flinders-owned campuses. This will result in 1 bathroom in every building to ensure there are gender neutral bathrooms by the end of the year. This step will prevent the dangerous outcomes of having no safe options for gender diverse students to use.

**Meeting Closed: 8:35pm**