



Flinders University Student Council Meeting
Agenda of the Meeting held on 6:30pm, 24th August 2020
Council Room, Bedford Park Campus

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1. Acknowledgement of Country

All meetings of Student Council take place on stolen land. The land that we meet on belongs to the Kaurna people. We begin every meeting by acknowledging that this land was stolen, it was never ceded, and always was and always will be, aboriginal land. We also pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Che Cielens, Kane Abraham and Victor Ephraims Duruji.

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3. Name and pronoun round

Members of Student Council, Guests and Observers are invited to introduce themselves and state which pronouns they use.

4. Previous Minutes

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5. Executive Decisions

-

6. Reports

-

7. Matters for Decision

7.1 Graduation Ceremony Carry over – Benika Bhoola

Preamble

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Universities around the world have been unable to hold large gatherings of people. This includes graduation ceremonies for finishing students. Many students view their graduation ceremony as an important milestone in their educational journey and are understandably saddened that the hard work they have put in over their years of university will not be formally recognised.

Platform

FUSA acknowledges the personal milestone that a graduation ceremony represents to many students and understands that the loss of this formal milestone may be upsetting too many students.

FUSA acknowledges that the ceremonies are unable to take place at this current time, due to the pandemic, but believes that it falls on Flinders University to make alternative arrangements when it is safe to do so.

Motion

FUSA calls on Flinders University to invite all students who were unable to attend their graduation ceremonies as a result of Covid-19 to be included in the next ceremonies that are able to take place.

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7.2 Omnibus Amendments to the FUSA Election Regulations – Josh Rayner

Preamble

The recent FUSA Education By-Election showed that even with the constraints of social distancing students are still incredibly passionate about their representatives and are willing to participate in the democratic processes of student unionism.

As currently elected representatives, it is important that we encourage and foster this engagement, and ensure that our own bias does not interfere with democratic process. The regulatory amendments proposed here intend to address some concerns raised by previous Returning Officers and members of the FUSA Election Tribunal, to ensure that University interference does not occur, and that students have every capacity to engage in the democratic process whether as a candidate or voter.

FUSA has a proud history of diverse student engagement with elections and representation, and stands well above many other student unions and associations that have attempted to limit student participation.

Motion

Student Council amend the FUSA Election Regulations as detailed in Appendix 1 with immediate effect.

Student Council direct a member of Association Staff to complete the amendments outlined in Appendix 1 and update the Election Regulations on the FUSA Website accordingly.

7.3 Student Council Roles and Duties Regulations Amendments – Sean Henschke

Preamble

To ensure that our Roles and Duties Regulations remain aligned with our Election Regulations, the following amendments have been proposed.

Motion

Student Council amend the FUSA Student Council Roles and Duties Regulations as detailed in Appendix 2 with immediate effect.

Student Council Student Council direct a member of Association Staff to complete the amendments outlined in Appendix 2 and update the Student Council Roles and Duties Regulations on the FUSA Website accordingly.

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7.4 Mental Health Awareness Campaign Funding – Lana Tikhomirov

Preamble

- FUSA as having students' best interests at heart naturally has a great responsibility for student mental health and wellbeing
- The SSAF funded 2020 Mental Health Awareness campaign has been fronted by mental health professionals, students and student council members.
- The campaign is now headed in a direction which could shape campus culture and student wellbeing. Campaigns like these need all the funding they can get to reach the entire student cohort.

Motion

To pool Lana Tikhomirov's 1x General Councillor (\$1000) budget into the funding for this campaign.

7.5 Mature Aged Students Officer Vacancy – Josh Rayner

Preamble

As of the recent resignation of our previous Mature Aged Students Officer the position is now vacant. Sub-clause 15.4(a) determines that 'Student Council may elect a student who would be eligible to stand for the position in accordance with the Constitution and the Regulations' should the position become vacant on or after 'July 1st'.

Motion

Student Council elect ... to be fulfil the role of Mature Age Students Officer immediately following administrative processes.

7.6 General Council Member Vacancy – Josh Rayner

Preamble

As of the recent election of Benika Bhoola to Education Officer, we currently have a vacancy for one General Council Member. Sub-clause 15.4(a) determines that 'Student Council may elect a student who would be eligible to stand for the position in accordance with the Constitution and the Regulations' should the position become vacant on or after 'July 1st'.

Motion

Student Council elect ... to be fulfil the role of General Council Member immediately following administrative processes.

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7.7 In-Camera Item – Josh Rayner

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Proposed Amendments to the FUSA Election Regulations

The following definitions are to be added to section 2:

'Groups of Candidates' refers to both candidates, campaigners and campaign assistants who share approved election material;

'University Staff' means any staff member employed by Flinders University. This includes, but is not limited to, staff of the Flinders University Student Association, staff of the Office of Student Engagement, staff of University Administration, staff of Yunggoendi and staff of Oasis;

Reasoning: These definitions are currently included or alluded to throughout the regulations but belong in section 2.

The following definitions be adjusted in section 2:

- The word 'engage' be replaced with 'engaged' and the word 'the' be removed so that the definition of Returning Officer now reads:

'Returning Officer' means a person or organisation engaged by Student Council to conduct an election;

- The words 'Flinders University Student' be added so that the definition of Constitution, Manager, Student Engagement and Student Council now read:

'Constitution' means the Constitution of the Flinders University Student Association as approved by University Council;

'Manager, Student Engagement' is the person employed by the University responsible for ensuring open and effective communication and liaison between the University, the Flinders University Student Association and students;

'Student Council' is the governing body of the Flinders University Student Association;

Reasoning: Fixing a previous typo and ensuring that the only reference to FUSA as just "the Association" comes after section 2.

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The following change be made to clause 4.5

- Remove the word 'or' from sub-clause 4.5(d)
- Amend sub-clause 4.5(e) to now read;

'not be the Manager, Student Engagement; or'

- Insert sub-clause 4.5(f):

'not influence any decision of the Returning Officer.'

Reasoning: It is highly unlikely that an Assistant Returning Officer ever be appointed outside of FUSA staff. The role is completely voluntary and they are not empowered to act in place of the Returning Officer. If a Returning Officer is removed then the regulations allow for a replacement, this would not be an Assistant Returning Officer. The inclusion of sub-clause 4.5(f) clearly shows that Student Council views this role as an administrative support role.

The following changes be made to section 9:

- Amend sub-clause 9.1(a) to read:

'only students who identify as women are eligible to be a candidate for the position of Women's Officer;'

- Amend sub-clause 9.1(b) to read:

'only students who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex or Asexual are eligible to be a candidate for the position of Queer Officer;'

The following changes be made to sub-clause 13.1(a)

- The word 'with' be replaced with 'within'

Reasoning: Typo

The following changes be made to section 15

- The phrase 'team of candidates' be replaced with 'groups of candidates' in sub-clauses 15.6 and 15.7

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Reasoning: The phrase 'groups of candidates' is used more commonly throughout the regulations. With the introduction of a definition, the switching of phrases would keep language consistent throughout the regulations.

- The words 'Societies or Student Representative Networks' be replaced with 'Collectives or Academic Associations' in sub-clause 15.8

Reasoning: Language such as societies has been replaced with collectives and associations in other FUSA regulations. This amendment is to simply use shared language throughout all regulations.

- Sub-clause 15.9(a) be abolished
- Sub-clause 15.9(b) and 15.9(c) be amended so that clause 15.9 reads as follows:

'Any FUSA Election, including the Casual Vacancy Selection Process, shall be free from interference from University Staff.

a. Interference may take the form of endorsement, encouragement, criticising decisions of students or student representatives, expressing opposition or approval of certain student representatives or student political groups (e.g. factions, parties, clubs, collectives or associations), offering unsolicited opinions or advice, endorsements or disendorsements of certain candidates or groups of candidates, or any other actions which may cause any student(s) to modify their involvement in elections in any way, whether as a candidate or a voter.

b. University staff who are also concurrently students may participate in any FUSA Election without falling afoul of sub-clause 15.9(a), provided they do not engage in any form of interference through their course of duties as University Staff.

c. Sub-clause 15.9(a) does not prevent University Staff from promoting and encouraging the casting of votes at a polling booth during the period of an election, or providing information to candidates, groups of candidates or candidate assistants. Such information must be strictly limited to procedural, logistical and regulatory matters under these regulations. Staff cannot advise on techniques and/or strategies, or provide observations or any other matter relating to the running of a campaign.

- Include the following below clause 15.9

For example: Clause 15.9 allows University staff to advise candidates about what is permitted to be posted on social media under these regulations, however, at no point can a member of University Staff advise about what might be posted on social media to maximise chances of electoral success.

Reasoning: Sub-clause 15.9(a) is now included in the definitions thus is no longer required. While it has been suggested that the regulations as they stand inhibit FUSA's capacity to provide

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candidate information sessions and provide advice regarding campaign etiquette, the 2019 FUSA Election Tribunal ruled that contents of a candidate information session that specify how a candidate should run their campaign to maximise electoral success is in breach of regulation 15.9, not the sessions themselves. This amendment intends to clarify that Student Council supports FUSA encouraging democratic student participation, without enticing students or groups of students to participate in a way that they otherwise wouldn't have.

The following change be made to section 16

- Sub-clause 16.5 (c) be amended to read as follows:

'suspend other campaigners or campaign assistants who have campaigned for the candidate in question or as a part of their group of candidates from campaigning for a period of time;'

Reasoning: Removes the only remaining reference to the word 'ticket' as this word is too difficult to define in the context of our elections.

- Clause 16.8 be amended to read as follows:

'In the event that a candidate lodges an appeal against a decision of the Returning Officer, the Returning Officer must call a meeting of the FUSA Election Tribunal as soon as practically possible and no later than close of business the following business day or twenty-four (24) hours, whichever is met first, after the receipt of the application to appeal, excluding weekends and Public Holidays.'

Reasoning: FUSA Election Tribunal members are volunteers who are already under pressure to act at very short notice over the course of an election. While Tribunal members often work business hours and may have to meet on weekends, it seems unfair to force them to meet over a weekend, particularly as they may have family and other personal obligations to attend to outside of work hours.

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Proposed Amendments to the FUSA Student Council Roles and Duties Regulations

The following change be made to sub clause 10.1(a)

- Amend to read as follows:

'identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex or Asexual;'

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