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## Flinders University Student Association Student Council Meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Council Room, Registry Building, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus

18:00

**Present:** Sean Henschke (Student President), Molly Turnbull (General Secretary), Benika Bhoola (Education Officer), Emily Williams (Postgraduate Students Officer), Rubayat Sarwar (International Student Officer), Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer), Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer), Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer), Ange Nishimwe (Social Activities Officer), Ethan Zimmermann (Mature Age Students Officer), Rafael Aquino (General Councillor), Thi Minh Hieu Hoang (General Councillor), Kaylen Scurrah (General Councillor), Darlyn Tan-Sik (General Councillor), Callan Alexander (General Councillor) and David Hopkins (Minutes)

**Guests:** Jose Paulino (Manager, International Student Services) and Matt Taverner (Director, International Engagement)

**Meeting Opened: 6:30 PM**

#### 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:** Rachel Hemer (General Councillor), Jesy Murphy (Welfare Officer), Luca Sardelis (Women's Officer), Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement) and Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer)

Sean Henschke (Student President) welcomed Jose Paulino (Manager, International Student Services) and Matt Taverner (Director, International Engagement).

#### 3. Name & Pronoun Round

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

#### Guest Presentation

Jose Paulino (Manager, International Student Services) and Matt Taverner (Director, International Engagement) gave a presentation on the international student experience at Flinders University, emphasising the work of International Student Services.

Jose Paulino (Manager, International Student Services) and Matt Taverner (Director, International Engagement) left 6:46pm

Keenan Smith (Indigenous Students Officer) left 6:48pm.

#### 4. Previous Minutes

No minutes have been received from Manager, Student Engagement.



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## 5. Executive Decisions

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

**Moved:** Sean Henschke (Student President)

**Seconded:** Ethan Zimmerman (Mature Age Students Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 6. Reports

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

**Moved:** Sean Henschke (Student President)

**Seconded:** Rafael Aquino (General Councillor)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 7. Matters for Decision

Sean Henschke (Student President) called for starring of matters.

Starred items: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6, 7.8, 7.11

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

[7.5 Yeet Me to Port Dougie \(to the tune of 'Teach Me How to Dougie' by Cali Swag District\) – Callan Alexander & Darlyn Tan-Sik](#)

**Preamble:** LGBTQIA+ individuals continue to face discrimination in society. To make the Flinders University campuses a safer place that can proudly and appropriately advocate and support the LGBTQIA+ community, student council members should have further development and training. The Equality Project holds an annual LGBTQIA+ focused conference called the Better Together Conference. In past years, FUSA has supported the participation of these conferences. The Equality Project is holding a master class which is suitable for further development in the Student Council. This year the advocacy master class will be held from 21 March to 23 March in Port Douglas Queensland.

**Motion:** FUSA approves to spend the amount appropriate from the members of Student Council travel budgets who are seeking to attend the Equality Project's Advocacy Masterclass in Port Douglas, Queensland, including travel and accommodation costs. That all who seek to attend will submit a budget to executive for approval.

### [7.7 FUSA Endorses the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Keenan Smith](#)

**Preamble:** The Uluru Statement from the Heart was issued to the Australian people in May 2017, following two years of work and a gathering in Uluru to finalise the statement in 2017. The statement



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calls for structural reform (including constitution change), aiming at establishing a new relationship between First Nations Peoples and the wider nation based on justice and self-determination. Structural reform looks like a First Nations Voice to parliament and a Makarrata Commission to oversee a process of agreement making and truth-telling. These reforms are: Voice, Treaty and Truth. Unfortunately 'Malcolm Turnbull' the then prime minister at the time denied the statement, by claiming that it constitutes a third chamber of parliament and again rejected by 'Scomo'. The Uluru Statement movement is still ongoing and support is needed not only by First Nations Peoples, but also the wider community to raise awareness and education around what the statement calls for.

**Motion:** Student Council endorses the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and distributes (social media and stalls at university events e.g. O'Week) out resources to raise awareness and educate the Flinders University community on what the statement is and calls for.

### 7.9 WE NEED MAPS! – Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** I would like to buy AIATSIS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian Maps for FUSA to have in the offices. To promote a more inclusive environment for Indigenous people.

Each AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia cost: \$14.95.

I would like 5 AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia. Total price of maps is \$74.75 with shipping will be \$19.95, the sum up total is \$94.70.

**Motion:** Student Council to approve spending from the General Secretary Budget, the sum of \$94.70 for 5 AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia plus postage to be use in the FUSA office spaces.

### 7.10 International student support – Sean Henschke

**Preamble:** International students are facing incredible stress and a unique array of challenges during the COVID19 pandemic. Many students have spent their summer isolated from their families and unable to return home, increasing the risk of poor mental health with no end in sight. The COVID19 Pandemic has resulted in loss of employment and financial support for many international students. Students are now facing poor housing conditions, limited income, and relying on emergency financial assistance, local charities and food banks to be able to eat and pay rent. This has resulted in requests for Emergency Financial Assistance at FUSA to jump from 353 in 2019-1374- 2020 and as the deadlines for fees approach students will face more and more challenges. Flinders University scholarships available to international students such as the go beyond scholarship. This is currently only eligible to First Year students who are linked to academic performance. It is challenging for students to excel academically if they are going without food and experiencing financial stress. There is limited opportunity for student who are not first years and those whose circumstances have changed due to the pandemic. There are no options for international students to study part time. There is also uncertainty for how long the fee extensions will be available for future semesters, making it difficult for students to plan. Students who have been unable to return to Australia that are enrolled at Flinders University are paying the same fees as if they were on campus. This is despite offshore students not having access to equivalent services, on campus experience, and course and topic options as onshore students.

**Motion:** FUSA will work with the International Student Officer and International Students to create a Flinders Campaign. FUSA student council supports the #StudyLocalSupportLocal and National Union of Students Let Us back in campaign.



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

**Moved:** Darlyn Tan-Sik (General Councillor)

**Seconded:** Ethan Zimmermann (Mature Age Students Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 7.0 Starred Matters for Decision

### 7.1 A Parking Fee Increase?? In This ECONOMY?! – Benika Bhoola

**Preamble:** Flinders University has chosen to implement a campus car parking hike from \$200 to \$420 over the next three years. These changes will cause irrefutable damage for many students who chose to study at Flinders in the coming years.

These price increases will unfairly impact students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, those with disabilities, students supporting families, students living in rural areas (or outside of the train lines) as well as all students that are already facing financial strains due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

The price increases further discourage student attendance on campus and will risk lower participation in both course work and community culture. This is something which in the aftermath that the pandemic had on students in 2020, the University should actively avoid risking. Furthermore, these unaffordable increases will put the safety of many of its students in jeopardy, especially those who may then be required to take public transport after-dark.

These increases to parking fees atop the government increase to course fees will only create further economic barriers for students and inevitably hinder accessibility to higher education for students most affected by the pandemic. In the long-term these changes will create significant barriers for many prospective students.

**Platform:** FUSA acknowledges the extensive negative effects that these price increases will have on Flinders students' access to education, safety, and financial stability.

Student Council recognises that FUSA has a primary responsibility to fight for students who are experiencing financial and academic hardship.

Student Council commends the work that has been done by the Executive Committee in the creation of the petition which has allowed upwards of a thousand people to voice their disgust on the price hikes and show their solidarity with the students at Flinders University.

**Discussion:** Benika Bhoola (Education Officer) spoke to the motion. Rafael Aquino (General Councillor) commented on the comprehensive nature of Benika's motion and compared Flinders University parking costs to UniSA's costs, which are far less expensive. Sean Henschke (Student President) stated that motions 7.1 and 7.4 were contradictory in meaning or intent and explained the process of dealing with foreshadowed motions as detailed in FUSA's Standing Orders. Rafael stated that he is happy for Motion 7.1 to take precedence over Motion 7.4 (authored by himself).



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Motion 7.1 A Parking Fee Increase?? In This ECONONY?!! And Motion 7.4 Halt the Parking Fee Increase were debated together as per FUSA's Standing Orders. See below for the text of Motion 7.4.

**Motion:** Student Council directs the Student President, General Secretary, Education Officer, and Welfare Officer to continue their student-led and public pressure campaign on the University by calling on President and Vice Chancellor Colin Stirling to not only cease the gross parking price hikes but also:

- Implement a concession rate for low-income earners and Health Care Cardholders.
- Allocate a minimum of \$50,000 worth of parking permits for students accessing financial assistance through FUSA Student Assist.
- Allocate a minimum of \$50,000 worth of financial assistance for students with disabilities who do not qualify for a South Australian disability parking permit.
- Implement a fortnightly direct debit payment option for the annual and semester permits.
- Increase Flinders Loop Bus services after-hours and outside semesters.
- Fight to ensure an increase of regular and after-hours bus services to the University, especially to outer suburbs.

**Moved:** Benika Bhoola (Education Officer)

**Seconded:** Ange Nishimwe (Social Activities Officer)

*All in Favour.*

**Motion carried.**

#### 7.4 Halt the Parking Fee Increase – Rafael Aquino

**Preamble:** On January 14th, Flinders University administration made the decision to increase the parking fees for both teachers and students. The planned fee restructure is projected to take place over 3 years, from 2021 to 2023, and displays a significant swelling in price every year (Appendix 4). This fee change represents a substantial increase from the fee structure previously in place and could affect the financial position of students and prevent positive outcomes in their university and personal lives. Furthermore, referring to University of South Australia's (UniSA) current parking fee structure (Appendix 4), when compared to Flinders' proposed parking rates, the Casual maximum fee is less than half of Flinders' proposal while the yearly fee of UniSA is considerably lower than that of Flinders. These changes portray Flinders University as being alarmingly out of step with other comparable institutions within the state in an important aspect of student life.

**Motion:** Student Council compels FUSA Executive to lobby to Flinders University Administration for a suspension in the proposed restructuring of parking costs and to look for possible alternatives.

Motion 7.4, the foreshadowed motion, was not put to a vote by the chair because Motion 7.1, the substantive motion, passed.



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## 7.2 Employability support campaign Round 2: Electric boogaloo – Benika Bhoola

**Preamble:** In June 2020, FUSA Student Council approved General Council Member's (Benika Bhoola) motion for the Employability Support Campaign which saw that \$30,000 was allocated to assist students. The remodelling of the existing Development Grants Program allowed for students to receive financial aid when completing qualifications such as First Aid Certificates, RSAs, and other upskilling courses to help boost their employability.

The campaign was originally launched to acknowledge financial difficulties students were facing during the Covid-19 pandemic and was created to help support students when re-entering the workplace as jobs began opening again. The campaign was extremely well received by students but was only open for a short time. There is still an ongoing need for financial support for students looking to upskill in areas to boost their employability. Thus, a reopening of the grants should be considered with a pre-emptive attitude - that if they are once again well received - that there is an opportunity for them to become a permanent fixture at the University.

**Discussion:** Benika Bhoola (Education Officer) spoke to the motion. Rafael Aquino (General Councillor) enquired about the purpose of the campaign.

**Motion:** Student Council approves that the Employability Grants be reopened on the same basis that they previously were created.

Student Council endorses the Education Officer to work with the Student Representation & Development Officer and Manager, Student Engagement to allocate \$10,000 to be allocated towards the Employability Grant Scheme in each of the first three terms of 2021.

**Moved:** Benika Bhoola (Education Officer)

**Seconded:** Rafael Aquino (General Councillor)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 7.3 Terracycle stationary recycling program expansion – Amy Tschirn

**Preamble:** An essential component of studying is notetaking, and there are recall benefits to manual writing as opposed to digital notetaking. Currently, stationery cannot be recycled kerbside. Students should not have to choose between effective studying and waste reduction. Terracycle is an Australian company that operate recycling programs for difficult to recycle products at a nominal fee per collection box. This program was trialed in the Hub during 2020, and I would like to expand it the Sturt Library, Medical Library, and Tonsley campus.

**Discussion:** Ethan Zimmerman (Mature Age Students Officer) spoke in favour of Amy Tschirn's (Environment Officer) motion in her absence.

**Motion:** Student Council approves the expenditure of \$579 from Environment Officer's Initiatives budget to purchase three Small Office Supplies Zero Waste boxes from Terracycle to be placed at Sturt Library, Medical Library, and Tonsley campus.

[https://www.terracycle.com/en-AU/zero\\_waste\\_boxes/office-supplies\\_au](https://www.terracycle.com/en-AU/zero_waste_boxes/office-supplies_au)

**Moved:** Ethan Zimmermann (Mature Age Students Officer)





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**Seconded:** Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 7.6 Pauline Hanson You Are Not Indigenous, Please Explain! – Keenan Smith

**Preamble:** Currently the position on Student Council that represents and advocates for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at Flinders University, is referred to as the 'Indigenous Students Officer' and is referred to as within FUSA's constitution and regulations. The term Indigenous is outdated and is recently being used by members in the far-right conservative movement (i.e. Pauline Hanson), who believe being born in Australia equates to Indigeneity. A more appropriate term that is widely adopted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples today is First Nations.

**Discussion:** Molly Turnbull (General Secretary) spoke to the motion. Molly stated that FUSA's Constitution does not allow this motion to be moved in a general meeting of Student Council and instead must be moved at a FUSA AGM. Sean Henschke (Student President) stated that the next AGM would likely occur between August and September of 2021.

Molly proposed an amendment to the motion. The amendment removed the original text of the motion: "Student Council accepts the name change of Indigenous Students Officer to First Nations Students Officer, and to be reflected within FUSA's governing documents (i.e. constitution and regulations)." This text was replaced with "Student Council endorses the in-principle name change of 'Indigenous Students Officer' to 'First Nations Students Officer'. Student Council directs all staff and members to begin using the title 'First Nations Students Officer' where appropriate. Student Council directs the General Secretary, Indigenous Students Officer and relevant FUSA Staff to prepare a motion and necessary background documents and information to be presented at this year's FUSA AGM so that a motion can be put to amend the FUSA Constitution to rename the position of 'Indigenous Students Officer' to 'First Nations Students Officer'. On the assumption that a motion be successfully moved at this year's FUSA AGM to rename the title of FUSA First Nations Students Officer, Student Council directs the General Secretary and Indigenous Students Officer to prepare a document outlining all references of the title in FUSA Regulations. This document will then be provided to Student Council with an accompanying motion to amend our regulations to reflect the name change."

Thi Minh Hieu Hoang (General Councillor) asked for clarification regarding why the name change was needed. Molly stated that First Nations has become more commonly used and is a more appropriate term.

**Motion:** Student Council endorses the in-principle name change of 'Indigenous Students Officer' to 'First Nations Students Officer'. Student Council directs all staff and members to begin using the title 'First Nations Students Officer' where appropriate. Student Council directs the General Secretary, Indigenous Students Officer and relevant FUSA Staff to prepare a motion and necessary background documents and information to be presented at this year's FUSA AGM so that a motion can be put to amend the FUSA Constitution to rename the position of 'Indigenous Students Officer' to 'First Nations Students Officer'. On the assumption that a motion be successfully moved at this year's FUSA AGM to rename the title of FUSA First Nations Students Officer, Student Council directs the General Secretary and Indigenous Students Officer to prepare a document outlining all references of the title in FUSA Regulations. This document will then be provided to Student Council with an accompanying motion to amend our regulations to reflect the name change.

**Moved:** Molly Turnbull (General Secretary)



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**Seconded:** Rafael Aquino (General Councillor)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

### 7.8 Employment opportunities for Student with Disabilities – Thi Minh Hieu Hoang

**Preamble:** After graduation from university, students with disabilities (SWDs) will face multiple layers of disadvantage with regards to employment, compared to students without disabilities. Therefore, it is critical to raise awareness of employers to strengthen employment opportunities for SWDs and provide trainings for SWDs in terms of skills preparation for getting a job, including resume, application process, interview skills and soft skills needed by the labour market.

**Platform:** FUSA recognises the importance of supporting university students with disabilities to become job ready, for when they graduate.

**Discussion:** Thi Minh Hieu Hoang (General Councillor) spoke to the motion. Emily Williams (Postgraduate Students Office) spoke the importance of the motion.

**Motion:** The FUSA General Council member will work with FUSDA, an association of students with disabilities in Flinders University to organise a half day-workshop to provide training on job opportunities and skills by experts of local organisations for SWDs in the university. The expenditure for experts, logistics and stationaries is estimated at \$600.

**Moved:** Thi Minh Hieu Hoang (General Councillor)

**Seconded:** Emily Williams (Postgraduate Students Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

### 7.11 Transgender Health – Shanii Sparrow

**Preamble:** While the university has been making great strides in making a more gender diverse/transgender inclusive environment, with the addition of things such as preferred names and pronouns; gender dysphoria is still prevalent within many Trans and gender diverse students. Accessing gender affirming products such as binders/ binding tape have presented as inaccessible to most students due to the cost. This financial inaccessibility often forces students to resort to unsafe binding methods to alleviate their dysphoria. Gender dysphoria heavily contributes to a trans-person's mental health which influences their academic performance along with other areas in their personal life. Furthermore, with the Covid19 supplement soon coming to an end, many students will, once again, be forced below the poverty line. Students will be focusing on their fundamental needs to survive, let alone afford access to products which affirm their gender and maintain a healthy wellbeing. By providing healthy gender affirming products to the university's gender diverse community, it prevents students from making sacrifices to their health, thus affecting their academic career.

**Discussion:** Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer) spoke to the motion. Rubayat Sarwar (International Students Officer) spoke to the motion.

**Motion:** Student Council endorses the Queer officer to explore the options for providing financial aid to LGBTQIA+ students to allow them to access gender affirming products.

**Moved:** Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer)





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**Seconded:** Rubayat Sarwar (International Students Officer)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 8. Matters for Discussion

### 8.1 Pronouns

Benika Bhoola (Education Officer) mentioned that a pronoun list that would be used within FUSA has been created. Benika invited members of Student Council to speak with her if they would not like their pronouns to be included.

### 8.2 Mental Health First Aid Training postponed

Kaylen Scurrah (General Councillor) raised the point that tomorrow's Mental Health First Aid Training had been postponed.

**Meeting Closed: 7:24 PM**