



Flinders University Student Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 18th of March 2021

Location: Council room Registry Building, Bedford

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Appendix

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Appendix 2 – Executive Motion

Appendix 3 – Manger, Student Engagement Report.

Appendix 4 – Request for PFD

Appendix 5 – Queer report recommendation.

Appendix 6 – Comments from students, the need for subtitles!

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Meetings of Student Council take place on stolen land. The land that we regularly meet and work on belongs to the Kurna People. We begin each 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.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Rafael Aquino, Emily Williams, and Kaylen Scurrah who was unable to attend this meeting.

3. Name and Pronoun Round

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

4. Previous Minutes

Please see Appendix 1 for minutes of the most recent meeting(s) of Student Council.

5. Executive Decisions

Please see Appendix 2 for a record of the motions considered by the FUSA Executive Committee from the last meeting of Student Council.



6. Reports

Please see Appendix 3 for the written reports of FUSA Staff or their roles and duties undertaken since the last meeting of Student Council. Those who do not submit a report are invited to give a verbal report at this time.

7. Matters for Decision.

7.1 FUSA and O'Week

Preamble

O'Week is a time for new and returning students to broaden and strengthen their relationships with our community. As those who are best placed to determine what students want from their university, FUSA has and shall continue to play an integral role in the delivering of activities and events such as O'Week.

FUSA staff are required to spend months of work preparing for O'Week. A large sum of student money provided to FUSA is allocated to O'Week. Our logo appears alongside O'Week material. It is not unreasonable for the everyday student to assume that O'Week is strictly a FUSA event.

As the governing body of FUSA, Student Council has set an incredibly clear and consistent precedent that our number 1 priority is to ensure a safe and welcoming experience for new and returning students. As such, the capacity to interact with students and O'Week activities is only provided to clubs who are registered or affiliated to FUSA or FlindersOne and private companies that provide products or services that are of interest to the student community. This is to ensure that those who participate can be verified and supported by their most relevant body.

At the Semester 1 O'Week last year, the Director, Student Services and Acting Manager, Student Engagement, overruled the direction of Student Council and granted a stallholder and roaming permit to student groups who did not belong to a club that was registered or affiliated to FUSA or FlindersOne. This action was met with the universal condemnation of Student Council – the minutes of this remain unpublished in violation of our Constitution.

History has repeated itself. Groups of students have once again been invited to participate in O'Week activities despite not being registered or affiliated with FUSA or FlindersOne. This is incredibly concerning considering multiple complaints of inappropriate conduct on campus have been raised against a student who was invited to participate in O'Week.

The FUSA Clubs, Collectives and Academic Associations Regulations clearly state that the responsibility of registering clubs is that of FUSA, and the process for approving affiliation involves the FUSA Clubs & Events Officer, FUSA General Secretary and if required Student Council. Nowhere in any FUSA Regulations, or our Constitution, is the Director, Student Services, or Manager, Student Engagement empower to make determinations regarding our clubs' community.

Motion



Student Council directs the Manager, Student Engagement table an official record of their job description at the next meeting of Student Council to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts of direction at future O'Weeks

Student Council requests that all legal advice provided to the Director, Student Services and Manager, Student Engagement regarding O'Week in 2020 and 2021 be tabled at the next meeting of Student Council

Student Council directs the General Secretary to write an open letter outlining to our club's community that due to miscommunication and misdirection of University Staff groups of students were invited to participate in O'Week at the expense of registered and affiliated clubs

Student Council directs the General Secretary and Clubs & Events Officer to contact all registered and affiliated clubs who did not participate in O'Week activities and arrange an event to provide them with the opportunity to engage with our student community.

Authors of Motion: Sean Henschke & Molly Turnbull & Benika Bhoola

7.2 but did you get advice from Legal?

Preamble

FUSA's main objective as an association is to support students and to continue to advocate for their rights and needs. However, the reoccurring issue that keeps being raised is that information given to members of staff is often not passed on to Student Council.

As can be seen in the motion "FUSA O'Week" a lack of communication between the Director, Student Services and Manager, Student Engagement and Student Council has caused significant tensions over the last two years which has directly resulted in elements of O'Week being negatively impacted.

As the governing body of FUSA, Student Council was elected by students to represent them. However, Student Council cannot make informed decisions without having access to the full information required to make those decisions. Student Council respects that at times FUSA staff will need to get legal advice, but unless Student Council receives copies of that legal advice, it is not possible for Student Council to successfully set the most effective direction for FUSA's future.

Motion

Moving forward Student Council requires that Student Council receive a complete copy of all legal advice that FUSA obtains.

Student Council requires that all legal advice provided to the Director, Student Services and Manager, Student Engagement since December 1st, 2020, be made available to Student Council by the next Student Council Meeting.

Student Council requests that all legal advice be given to Student Council within 5 working days of it being received.



Author of motion: Benika Bhoola

7.3 Speaking rights should be used to empower, not showboat power.

Preamble

On March 9th, the Flinders International Women's Day event was held in the Bedford Park Plaza. MC'ed by the Women's Officer, the event consisted of live music, guest speakers, included opportunities for attendees to receive informational packages addressing

The event was organised by the Office of Communication, Marketing and Engagement (OCME) in collaboration with FUSA. FUSA Women's Officer and Event and Projects Officer was asked By OCME to choose the Key speakers for the International Women's Day event. OCME then told FUSA that the Vice-Chancellor (Students) would be present as a key speaker, to which FUSA expressed concerns about him being a male and speaking first at the event. FUSA feels that this event was a space for women to be given a platform to speak out about their life experience being a women and while FUSA understands that Vice-Chancellor (Students) spoke about women's achievement that the event was not an appropriate place for him to be given a platform to speak on his views.

The Vice-Chancellor (Students) already has a wide and influential platform and should be instead using his existing platform to bring light to these issues, instead of taking up space and valuable speaking time that could have been used to give another women a chance to express their views and contribute to the important conversations happening on International Women's Day.

Motion

Student Council acknowledges the confusion and discomfort that a male speaker at the Flinders International Women's Day event caused for some people in attendance.

Student Council expresses their disgust at the fact that the Vice-Chancellor (Students) was given a speaking position at the Flinders International Women's Day event, against the expressed concerns of both the Welfare Officer and President of the Women's Collective, and Women's Officer.

Student Council advises that the Vice-Chancellor (Students) instead of insisting to speak at an event created to platform disadvantaged minorities, uses the platform he already must voice his opinions and bring light to current issues.

Author of motion: Luca Sardelis



7.4 Harmony Day

Preamble

Harmony day is observed in Australia on every 21st March to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into the community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world. All people who migrate to Australia bring with them some of their own cultural and religious traditions, as well as taking on many new traditions. Collectively, these traditions have enriched this nation. As 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia, we should celebrate this.

I want to organize an art workshop for international students on this occasion. They will paint as their traditional arts and we will show up the harmony among races through our arts. I will arrange this workshop at Oasis, and I will provide canvas, paints and other tools. I will ask 10 international students to join in. I will ask students to participate through our International students' collective page. First 10 respondents will get this opportunity.

One of my art exhibitions is running at ISS (International Students Services) now. A lot of students are getting inspired from it.

Platform

FUSA recognizes the importance of embracing the inclusive and diverse multicultural environment at Flinders University.

Motions

Student Council endorses the International student officer to get involved in the program with thoughts, ideas and activities which will confirm FUSA's engagement with a broad interest. Total expenditure of \$300 will come from the International Student Officer's initiatives budget.

Author of Motion: Rubayat Sarwar

7.5 Give financial assistance to those who need it most – it's a no brainer!

Preamble

Each year Flinders University offers an array of scholarships and grants to assist a variety of students to ease the financial strain whilst studying or to travel abroad for their studies. Whilst these scholarships/grants are diverse in their offerings and criteria, in recent years there has been a



notable lack of assistance for students with disabilities and for continuing students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds.

A recent article entitled 'Disabled young people living on poverty-level benefits rises 300% in Australia', in which both the Children and Young People with Disabilities Australia (CYDA) President and the FUSA Disabilities Officer were interviewed for, highlights the disproportionate number of students with disabilities aged 20 to 25 who rely on youth allowance. This, when combined with the un- and under-employment statistics for people with disabilities highlight a demographic of Flinders University students that are in dire need of financial assistance; a need that is currently failing to be met year after year.

Another need that is going unmet is that of continuing students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds (many of whom will also have disabilities), who may gain access to a Student Access Scholarship in their first year (if they are aware of this in time to apply) but are then ineligible for the vast majority (if not all) of scholarships/grants for the remainder of their time at university, despite demonstrating the greatest financial need.

Motions

FUSA endorses Flinders University to allocate funding for the provision of scholarships/grants to students with disabilities from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as for continuing students without disabilities who are from low-socioeconomic backgrounds.

Article: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/feb/22/disabled-young-people-living-on-poverty-level-benefits-rises-300>

Author of Motion: Anu Francis

7.6 BYE-BYE STRESS, HELLO PUB-CRAWL

Preamble

University students spend a large proportion of their degree doing purely one thing. Studying. Watching lectures, attending tutorials, revising for exams, etc. Hence, a barrier that all university students inexplicably experience is stress. Stress from a range of different things that all ultimately stem from the strain of studying and trying to maintain a standard work/life balance.

Throughout 2020 students were faced with an overwhelming amount of stress due to the global pandemic. What added to that burden was the fact that they had no proper means of releasing their stress or experiencing a "normal" university social life as the array of different social activities on offer were no longer available.

One of the most iconic and anticipated events in student social calendars are pub crawls. This year alone, several pub crawls have already been successfully held with a significantly high turnout. Some



primary examples being the Summer Crawl that hosted 2,000+ individuals for their 'BACK TO UNI PUBCRAWL' that occurred on the 12th of February and USASA's upcoming 'Neon Night Crawl'.

Flinders has had a long, extensive history of hosting some of the most successful pub-crawls in the state and it would be unjust if they were halted. To celebrate the significant fact that students were able to overcome the difficulties of the pandemic, support local businesses and allow students to experience a well-rounded school life whilst engaging in the community it is increasingly evident that the annual pub crawl must be held.

Motion

Student Council approves of the Social Activities Officer collaborating with FUSA Events and Media staff to organise a pub crawl for Semester 1.

Student Council to ensure that there are safety measures put in place for students and other attendees of FUSA pub crawl events.

Author of Motion: Ange Nishimwe

7.7 Plushies cure everything <3

Preamble

There have not been many events recently to promote mental health and with COVID restrictions being lifted a little bit, it might be a nice idea to have a fun event that promotes the improvement of mental health. Plushies are an item that you can hug and keep with you and are an item that people might have relied on a lot during COVID due to social distancing. An event which allows students to have a social event with their plushies and would be a lovely transition out of strict social distancing rules. A picnic type event would be a good event as FUSA can provide a little bit for the event but most of it will be provided by the students, so it is much easier to stay COVID safe.

Motion

FUSA Student Council approves the Welfare Officer to run an event focused on the improvement of student's mental health using their own or provided plushies in the event.

Author of Motion: Jesy Murphy



7.8 Pretty fly, for a pride ally

Preamble

In the past year, Flinders University has released a Flinders Queer Report with twelve recommendations that showcase ways that the university strives to be more queer inclusive. One of these recommendations is “Flinders University Actively [promoting] diversity and inclusion in the queer community on campus through a commitment to visibility via public displays of support throughout the university” (Henschke, Hemer, Martin, Cheetham, Perry & Deller-Evans, 2020). A clear way of following this recommendation would be raising a Pride Flag among the Flinders University campuses to actively promote the support and acceptance of the queer community.

Motion

FUSA Student Council approves and endorses for Pride Flags to be raised at all Flinders University campuses.

FUSA Student Council endorses Student President, Sean Henschke to send appendix 4 request to properties facilities development.

Authors of Motion: Darlyn Tan-Sik

7.9 Postgraduate Student Spill the tea

Preamble

To provide a support group for postgraduate students, where they can meet, discuss and exchange journal articles. This will allow them the opportunity to meet colleagues, and students from cross-disciplines bridging the gaps from masters and PhD. The idea is to have the postgraduate association/postgraduate officer present to collect any queries or concerns about common issues with study and resources, to read a journal article and come back monthly to talk about the previous month article. It will also provide a platform and build a community for postgraduate students to exchange their ideas and talk about their research. By building shared goals, mutual accountability and communication across disciplines will bridge the isolation felt by students as postgraduate study with supervisors can be distance, online education or other commitments affect the student’s ability to engage with the university.

This will be a continuous event occurring once a month and the money will be to provide beverages and light morning tea to the participants of the events.

Motion



Student Council to approve the expenditure of \$200 from the Postgraduate Students Officer Initiatives.

Postgraduate Student Officer to work with FUSA events and media for this event.

Author of Motion: Emily Williams

7.10 Affiliation Application Maniac Dance Club

Preamble

Maniac Dance Club are applying for Financial Affiliation. This club has appropriate executive composition and meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, AGM minutes, Membership list and Bank Account.

Motion

FUSA Student Council approve the Maniac Dance Club for Financial Affiliation.

Author of Motion: Molly Turnbull

7.11 Affiliation Application Palestinian Students Association

Preamble

Palestinian Students Association are applying for Financial Affiliation. This club has appropriate executive composition, AGM minutes, meets requirements, Membership list, Bank Account, the club has copied the constitution of the International Postgraduate Students Association (FLIPSA) almost verbatim, and has references for FLIPSA and its activities throughout the document. The club has also kept the executive position structure of FLIPSA, however did not fill these roles in AGM. The club is consequently already in breach of the constitution that it has supplied.

Motion

FUSA Student Council reject the application for Financial Affiliation and invite the club to reapply when it has updated its constitution accordingly.



Author of motion: Molly Turnbull

7.12 Affiliation Application Flinders University Amnesty Club

Preamble

Flinders University Amnesty Club are applying for Financial Affiliation. This club has appropriate executive composition and meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, AGM minutes, Bank Account. The club's membership list does not have the date of application listed for its members.

Motion

FUSA Student Council provide conditional Financial Affiliation of the Flinders University Amnesty Club; on the condition that an updated Membership List with the dates of application for each member are provided to FUSA's Clubs Officer via adam.rau@flinders.edu.au.

Author of Motion: Molly Turnbull

7.13 Affiliation Application Flinders University Disabilities Collective

Preamble

Flinders University Disabilities Collective are applying for Financial Affiliation. This club has appropriate executive composition and meets all FUSA regulation requirements for their constitution, AGM minutes, Bank Account. The club's membership list does not have the date of application listed for its members.

Motion

Student Council conditionally approve the Flinders University Disabilities Collective as a Collective, on the condition that an updated version of the membership list with the dates the members applied is sent to the Clubs Officer.

Author of Motion: Molly Turnbull

7.14 Cool Art for Club Space

Preamble

The wooden wall in the club space needs some sprucing up with some amazing artwork and putting the club's awards on display on the wall. This artwork will be designed by the General Secretary and



the FUSA media team, then will organise an event like a pizza painting night for clubs to get involved in. This could also help clubs to feel as if space is theirs and will be more willing to utilise this area in the future.

Motion

Student council to approve \$700 to be used for this project to come from the General Secretary initiatives budget.

Author of Motion: Molly Turnbull

7.15 Victoria Square

Preamble

The University has 3 satellite campuses, these include Tonsley, Sturt and Victoria square.

Student council have worked hard to establish spaces and connection on all satellite campuses.

The Student President is working on finalising a proposal to PFD upgrade the student space on floor 6 of Victoria Square to include club spaces, improved faith room facilities, bookable study rooms and social

spaces for students. Though to ensure these upgrades and spaces our visibly student spaces it is important we make FUSA visible. The Student President is continuing to work with the Communications and Media Coordinator to establish these changes.

Motion

Student Council Approves \$1,000 from flexi fund towards upgrading the Victoria Square Spaces

Student Council supports continuing to expand connections to our satellite campuses

Author of motion: Sean Henschke

7.16 Space for Mature Age students.

Preamble

Mature age students make up one of the largest groups at Flinders but have limited community resources. The Mature Age Officer has met with the library to resources establishing a mature age study space and a Creche on campus. These two projects will create much needed support and connections for Mature Age students



Motion

FUSA supports the establishment of a Mature Age Study Space

FUSA Supports the establishment of a Creche for students who are parents and bring their kids to school.

Author of motion: Ethan Zimmermann

7.17 Wage theft Campaign

Preamble

As our recent Facebook post detailed "The stark reality is that underpayment of International Students is systemic and widespread. 77% of International Students are paid below the minimum casual hourly wage of \$19.84/hr. 26% of all international students earned half the minimum casual hourly wage or less. 18% of International Students engage in unpaid work. In 2020, there were over 680,000 international students in Australia. Over half of those in paid employment are in the food, accommodation and retail sector where casual work and cash payments are common. Many International Students are reluctant to complain about fear of adverse consequences and are often told by their employers to not complain. In many cases International Students are not aware of who they can turn to for trusted help. FUSA is committed to support students and the student president have been working with the Postgraduate officer, Cappa, leaders in the international community and those who have experienced wage theft to develop a campaign

Motion

FUSA Student Council Supports running a campaign on Wage theft

FUSA student council allocates \$1,000 towards a wage theft campaign

Author of motion: Sean Henschke

7.18 Sean Regional Campus Plan

Preamble

The Student President and Director of student service attending the Flinders NT campuses across February, which met the commitment to visit every regional campus in this term's Student Council.

Student Council have also visited SA Flinders University's regional campuses in Renmark, Mt Gambier, Murray Bridge, Darwin in a concerted effort to establish community links between the regional and metropolitan campuses. These visits demonstrated a great need for connection between the services offered by FUSA and those attending the regional campuses. Attached in



appendix is a plan forward to cement these new founded connections and establish normal interaction and connection between FUSA and the regional campuses. The establishment and maintenance of such community links will provide students studying at Flinders University's regional campuses increased resources through student assist, club funding and greater access to FUSA campaign materials.

FUSA's increased presence at regional campuses aims to also increase and foster student social engagement at regional campuses.

Motion

Student Council endorses the FUSA regional Campus Plan.

Student Council Approves \$1,400 from the flexi fund towards creating student friendly spaces

Student council approves \$2,400 from the Student Events Budget towards Community Building projects

Student Council Approves 1,000 from education officer budget, \$1,000 from the social activities travel budget the Callan 1,000 1,000 from the General Secretary from the flexi fund budget towards regional campus travel

Student Council Encourages student assist staff to accompany student council on further visits.

Author of motion: Sean Henschke

7.19 Gender Neutral Language Guideline Document Creation and Dissemination

Preamble

The use of gendered language is one of the ways in which gendered power dynamics can be upheld within society. To dismantle unjust power structures, FUSA calls on Flinders University staff to review and address the use of gendered language in teaching materials. In accordance with recommendation 4 in the 2020 Flinders Queer Report (see Appendix 5), Flinders University staff should strive to create a more inclusive teaching environment by adhering to using gender neutral language where appropriate. A document outlining correct and appropriate usage of gender-neutral language will be created and disseminated by FUSA Student Council members and members of the Queer Collective to staff and students at Flinders University. Through changing the language used in teaching environments, a more inclusive and accepting atmosphere to women and gender diverse students is hoped to be achieved.

Motion



FUSA approves the creation and dissemination of a document to staff and students outlining guidelines on how to use gender neutral language in lectures, tutorials, workshops and other such teaching environments in accordance with recommendation 4 in the 2020 Flinders Queer Report.

Author of motion Callan Alexander

7.20 Subtitles are cool, USE THEM!

Preamble

The increase in online learning produces unique issues for accessibility for student learning at Flinders University. Currently those students with hearing impairments are being faced with increased and unjust barriers in the form of a lack of subtitling options for online lectures, workshops and tutorials. Current students studying at Flinders University have raised the issue of a lack of subtitling options on platforms such as the Facebook group 'Overheard at Flinders University' (see appendix 6), however this has been a known issue for some time now. With the recent Covid-19 pandemic, resources have been spent by the university to increase the amount of student learning and engagement that can be accomplished online. With more and more time passing since the beginning of the pandemic and the subsequent shift towards online learning, the crucial need for these increased online accessibility options becomes more evident. Programs exist presently that can achieve the goal of creating subtitles for online materials, the responsibility now lies on Flinders University to seize the initiative and implement these crucial accessibility options. Members of student council will lobby the university to implement the changes proposed in this motion.

Motion

FUSA approves the implementation of subtitling options for online teaching materials, including the implementation of live subtitling software to be added to Collaborate to reduce the likelihood that students with hearing impairments participating in online tutorials are not left at a disadvantage.

Author of motion Callan Alexander

8 Matters for Discussion

8.1 Pronoun and name list for Student Council and FUSA staff – Benika Bhoola

8.2 In camera Item

7 Matters for Noting.



Flinders University Student Association

Student Council Meeting Agenda

Date 18/03/2021

7.1 MSE reports to Student Council for February