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## Flinders University Student Association Student Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Council Room, Registry Building, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus  
18:30

**Present:** Sean Henschke (Student President), Molly Turnbull (General Secretary), Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer), Keenan Smith (First Nations Students Officer), Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer), Ange Nishimwe (Social Activities Officer), Ethan Zimmermann (Mature Age Students Officer), Darlyn Tan-Sik (General Council Member), Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement), and David Hopkins (Minutes).

**Meeting Opened: 6:57 PM**

### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

Sean Henschke (Student President) acknowledged that the Student Council meeting was taking place on the land of the Kurna people.

### 2. Apologies & Welcome of Guests

**Apologies:** Rubayat Sarwar (International Students Officer), Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer), Thi Minh Hieu Hoang (General Council Member), and Benika Bhoola (Education Officer).

**Guests:** Dr Lydia Woodyatt (Associate Professor), Fletcher O'Leary (Student Representation & Development Officer), Nathan Cheetham (Empire Times Editor), Billy Greet (Observer), Alivia Vickers (Observer), Jamie Keegan-Treloar (Observer), Jessica Williams (Observer), Manasi Dharmesh Bhanushali (Observer), Riley Jones (Observer), Lachlan White (Observer), Shaylem Wilson (Observer), Alfred Lowe (Observer), Lockhart Tynan (Observer), Madeline Wood (Observer), and Melanie Amarasooriya (Observer).

### 3. Name & Pronoun Round

Those present introduced themselves and their pronouns.

### Guest Presentation

Dr Lydia Woodyatt (Associate Professor) gave a presentation to Student Council on the development of Flinders University's Wellbeing Strategy and answered several questions from members of Student Council.

Dr Lydia Woodyatt (Associate Professor) left 7.15PM.



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#### 4. Previous Minutes

**Motion:** Student Council accepts the minutes of the August 2021 meeting.

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

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

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

#### 5. Executive Decisions

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

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

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

*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:** Molly Turnbull (General Secretary)

*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, 7.5, 7.7, 7.8, 7.14, 7.15

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

##### 7.6 Rep Hub – Ange Nishimwe

**Preamble:** Our reps have grown exponentially over recent years and it is crucial they are able to communicate and share resources. The pop-up Disability Space will be vacant after the new Disability Space is opened. This is an opportunity to connect our reps to the broader FUSA office and provide a location for students to meet their representatives.

**Motion:** The Student President, General Secretary and incoming Education Officer will explore opportunities to create a rep hub.



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### 7.9 Financial Affiliation of the Saudi Students Club in Flinders – Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** Saudi Students Club in Flinders meets all the FUSA club constitution requirements for Financial Affiliation.

**Motion:** Student Council approve the Saudi Students Club in Flinders for affiliation at the Financial level with the Flinders University Student Association.

### 7.10 Academic Association of the Flinders University Computer Society – Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** Flinders University Computer Society meets almost all the requirements the FUSA club constitution requirements for Financial Affiliation. The only one they do not meet is the membership list.

**Motion:** Student Council conditionally approve the Flinders University Computer Society for affiliation at the Academic Association level with the Flinders University Student Association.

Affiliation is approved under the condition that the Flinders University Computer Society amends its membership list to include members' date of application.

### 7.11 Financial Affiliation of the Flinders International Research Students Club– Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** Flinders International Research Students Club meets all the FUSA club constitution requirements for Financial Affiliation.

**Motion:** Student Council approve the Flinders International Research Students Club for affiliation at the Financial level with the Flinders University Student Association.

### 7.12 Affiliation of the Mature Age Collective – Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** Mature Age Collective meets all the FUSA club constitution requirements for Collective Affiliation.

**Motion:** Student Council approve the Flinders Mature Age Collective for affiliation at the Collective level with the Flinders University Student Association.

### 7.13 Sex work is real work – Sean Henschke

**Preamble:** The Student President and General Secretary have met with SIN (Sex Industry Network) about ways we can combat discrimination and accessibility challenges against sex workers. They suggested the importance of confidentiality within service and making Flinders University safe for sex workers to study at.

It is crucial this work is done with sex workers' input and are used to amplify their voices.

The General Secretary as president elect will continue to work with SIN and welcome 2021 incoming Council Members to support the initiative.



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**Motion:**

- That FUSA commits to being a sex worker friendly organisation;
- That Student Council will push for sex worker awareness training to be offered to Health and Counselling and FUSA;
- Explore establishing a student sex worker group of those who have lived experience or are currently sex workers at Flinders to direct future campaigns on the issue;
- Work with the FUSA media team and SIN to draft a post supporting decriminalisation of sex work and provide visibility of FUSA's commitment to supporting sex work.

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

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

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

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

## 7. Matters for Decision

### 7.1 Pooling Remaining Student Council Budgets – Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** As we are reaching the end of the year, we have completed a record number of initiatives, there are still some office bearers who have not spent the full amount of their budget or there is small number of moneys existing in them. Unfortunately, we only have a limited amount of time to spend the remaining Student Council allocated funds (early December) before the remainder is retained by the University. By pooling the remaining funds for expenditure rather than confining them to specific budgets, we will have more flexibility to spend the remaining funds and ensure that it doesn't get absorbed and lost.

**Discussion:** Molly Turnbull (General Secretary) spoke to the motion. Sean Henschke (Student President) stated that this process has been completed annually for several years. Keenan Smith (First Nations Students Officer) asked if NAIDOC funds would be included in the pooling of these budget lines. Sean clarified that NAIDOC funds are separate to Student Council's budget lines and are managed by the FUSA Events Team.

**Motion:** Student Council approve that all Student Council budget lines be pooled for all members to spend as per regular approval procedures.

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

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

*All in favour.*



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**Motion carried.**

## 7.2 Autonomous voting – Keenan Smith

**Preamble:** At the December 2020 meeting of Student Council, a motion was passed as follows: “FUSA will commit to decolonising itself as an institution by reviewing its constitution and regulations to identify how it actively discriminates against First Nations Peoples. Through this review, FUSA will make appropriate changes to the constitution and regulations. FUSA will also acknowledge that this isn’t the sole responsibility of the Indigenous Students Officer, but the responsibility of all FUSA staff and student council members.” As part of this process of decolonisation, the term Indigenous Students Officer has since been changed to First Nations Students Officer.

An essential principle of decolonisation is self-determination: the First Nations students voice should be decided by First Nations students themselves. FUSA can better bring its structures into alignment with this principle of self-determination by requiring that the First Nations Student Officer position be elected solely by the First Nations students’ community at Flinders University.

The attached amendments to the Election Regulations would adopt this principle.

The second motion would direct the responsible members of Student Council to consult with First Nations staff and students on the ways in which this should be implemented. With elections nearly twelve months away, there is ample time for FUSA staff and Council to hold consultations and determine how to implement this principle once it has been adopted.

**Discussion:** Keenan Smith (First Nations Student Officer) stated that those present who are not First Nations should not speak on this matter as it directly concerns First Nations students. Keenan spoke to the motion and invited First Nations students in the room to speak on the motion. Keenan mentioned that a component of the intended motion had not been included in the agenda. Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement) read out the wording of the intended motion: ‘Per s.22.1 of the FUSA Constitution, Student Council approve the amendments to the Election Regulations as detailed in Appendix 1. (Attached)’. Molly Turnbull (General Secretary) and Sean Henschke (Student President) asked for clarification as to whether this was intended to be two separate matters or two components of the same motion. Keenan confirmed that they should be two components of the same motion.

**Motion:**

- a. Per s.22.1 of the FUSA Constitution, Student Council approve the amendments to the Election Regulations as detailed in Appendix 1. (Attached)
- b. Student President and First Nations Student Officer is directed to consult with First Nations students, FISA, Yunggoendi and First Nations staff on the development of an authentic and appropriate decolonised processes for the election of First Nations Students Officer. The Student President will report back to Student Council on the decolonisation process at each meeting.



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**Moved:** Keenan Smith (First Nations Students Officer)

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

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

### 7.3 Hass cuts – Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** On September 28th Flinders announced a plan for further major cuts to Humanities and Social Sciences.

These include cuts to Creative Writing, Geography, Indonesian and Sociology, the merger of the Drama Centre and Drama Critical Studies, and the total removal of Italian language and cultural studies.

It is crucial we fight against these cuts to ensure quality education and opportunities for future students

**Discussion:** Molly Turnbull (General Secretary) moved to amend the motion from ‘Student Council Allocates towards the 550 Fearless Campaign video and 150 protest materials’ to ‘Student Council allocates funds from the remaining budget - \$550 towards the Fearless Campaign video and \$150 towards protest materials.’

**Motion:** Student Council supports Hass students in fighting for their education.

Student Council allocates funds from the remaining budget - \$550 towards the Fearless Campaign video and \$150 towards protest materials

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

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

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

### 7.4 Postgraduate Student welfare – Emily Williams

**Preamble:** Higher Degree Research (HDR) students have reached out saying they are not experiencing satisfactory, meaningful, and genuine contact from the Office of Graduate Research. In response to the Student President letter, the list of services provided from HDR students question how these can be accessed as many students are not aware of these. They have received little to no communication regarding these so-called services being offered by the HDR. Students are calling for more than ‘wellbeing’ lunches and vlogs, we want to see educated responses to mental health disclosures, LGBTIQ+ educated and sexual assault disclosures and will continue to demand mandatory training for all supervisors. There is also a call from students, who are ineligible for flexibility in their PhD, to be able to have greater flexibility for in their first year of candidature. Many students need this flexibility as things that are out of their control such as COVID19 happen



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The open letter in response was recently sent to DVCS office and was posted via the socials of the Postgraduate Students Collective. The Postgraduate Students Officer is yet to receive a response, this project can be built into a campaign with badges for students that wish to display on their office desks, and for banners/posters to be displayed in public shared spaces.

Which is why we recommend educating and training the supervisors to be sensitive to mental health issues, such as; how to detect burn out in a student before it becomes a chronic mental health issue and to respond appropriately to culturally, linguistically, gender and personal differences.

**Discussion:** Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer) moved to amend the motion on behalf of Emily Williams (Postgraduate Students Officer) to read 'expenditure' rather than 'expende'.

**Motion:** Student Council endorse the Postgraduate Students Officer to deliver a public campaign and continue to liaise with HDR.

Student Council approves the expenditure of \$500 dollars from the Flexi Fund to be used for buying materials for this campaign.

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

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

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

#### 7.5 ET liaison – Sean Henschke

**Preamble:** Empire Times Liaison Officer means a member of Student Council who is appointed by Student Council to this role to provide a communication link between the Empire Times Editorial Team and Student Council.

**Discussion:** Sean Henschke (Student President) spoke to the motion stating that as Callan Alexander is no longer a member of Student Council, a new Empire Times Liaison Officer is required. Sean stated that this responsibility would usually fall to the Student President, however, Sean has determined that this would be a conflict of interest. Molly Turnbull (General Secretary) has recently adopted the responsibility.

Sean moved to amend the motion to read 'FUSA Student Council appoint Molly Turnbull to be the Empire Times Liaison Officer.'

**Motion:** FUSA Student Council appoint Molly Turnbull to be the Empire Times Liaison Officer.

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

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

*For: 7*

*Against: 0*



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**Abstain: 1**

**Motion carried.**

### 7.7 Queer History Month – Shanii Sparrow

**Preamble:** This October Flinders is celebrating Queer History Month. As Queer Officer I presented the University with this statement “I grew up with a deaf parent and learned the power and importance of community and visibility at a young age. Visibility is important as it shines a light on marginalised communities and provides them with the opportunity to be seen and heard. It also allows them to create representation for both current and future generations,

Throughout history, stories have been passed down that share the details of different cultures, histories, and events, but LGBTQIA+ people are often left out of these stories, so for lack of a better word, we’ve always been ‘invisible’.

“This is why Queer visibility is so important. It serves as a reminder not just to us and our peers, but to the rest of the world that we’re here, we’re queer and we’re not going anywhere.

In addition to this statement, Student Council and the university worked to install a pride installation that will become a permanent part of the university infrastructure. The installation will be complete with a statement, and language within the middle of the steps.

**Discussion:** Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer) spoke to the motion. Fletcher O’Leary (Student Representation & Development Officer) asked for clarification with regards to the language to be installed on the steps. Shanii stated that this is still in progress but would likely be words of empowerment.

**Motion:** FUSA media team to share the form for the submission of language to be installed on the steps. FUSA supports further visibility for Queer and, otherwise LGBT+ identifying students on campus.

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

**Seconded:** Darlyn Tan-Sik (General Council Member)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

### 7.8 Dual Signage at FUSA – Molly Turnbull

**Preamble:** I have recently reached out to Kurna Warra Karrpanthi (KWK) which was formed by Kurna Elders Dr Alitya Wallara Rigney and Dr Lewis Yerloburka O’Brien in collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Rob Amery to promote the Kurna language and provide oversight of and direction for the Kurna language movement. KWK emailed back with a questionnaire form and an estimate price range - \$100 to approximately \$200.

Having both the Kurna word and the English word on a sign would support the plan to decolonise FUSA. The reason for just starting at FUSA is that when the rest of the university see how it works and





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that Aboriginal and Torres Staite Islander language is an important part of supporting decolonisation. The rest of the university might be more willing to look in to applying it to the rest of the university not just here at Bedford but the rest of the Flinders University campuses.

**Discussion:** Molly Turnbull (General Secretary) spoke to the motion, emphasising the importance of language and stating that the initiative could be expanded throughout the University. Keenan Smith (First Nations Students Officer) stated that they support the initiative but questioned why the First Nations Students Officer was not involved or consulted on this project and other projects that concerned First Nations students. Molly and Sean Henschke (Student President) clarified that reaching out to the KWK is the only step that has been taken on this project. Keenan stated that they would have been happy to be involved in this initial step. Sean raised the possibility of solidifying processes with FUSA staff to contact specific office bearers on ideas that concern their portfolio. Keenan agreed that this would be beneficial.

Molly moved to amend the spelling of 'expenditure' in the motion.

**Motion:** Student Council approve the expenditure of \$3000 from the Student Council Flexi Fund for the fees that come with the translation from KWK.

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

**Seconded:** Keenan Smith (First Nations Students Officer)

*All in favour.*

Motion carried.

#### 7.14 General councilor appointment – Sean Henschke

**Preamble:** As of the recent resignation of Jordon Beveridge and the appointment of Rachel Hemer to Welfare Officer, we currently have a vacancy for two general council members. Following the elections in October the two members who received the most votes were Naz Dehghani and Caitlin Fenwick. As Caitlin is already a 2021 General Council member, the 14.4(b) of the constitution states: "If a vacancy in an office-bearer position or Student Council office position or General Council occurs after the annual elections but before 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the incoming member (or one of the incoming members for that position must be offered an early start to the term in that position, otherwise Student Council may appoint a current member of the Student Council who is eligible for the position or Student Council can decide to leave the position vacant".

**Discussion:** Molly Turnbull (General Secretary) apologised for not including this matter in the circulated agenda. Sean Henschke (Student President) spoke to the motion, stating that Naz Dehghani and Riley Jones had been offered these positions as they received the second and third most votes in the General Council Member poll at the recent FUSA Student Council elections. The candidate with the most votes for the General Council Member position, Caitlin Fenwick, is already a member of Student Council



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**Motion:** Student Council elect Naz Dehghani and Riley Jones to fulfill the role of General Council Member for the remainder of 2021.

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

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

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

#### 7.15 Sustainable period choices program – expanded – Amy Tschirn

**Preamble:** After feedback from students, I would like to expand the choices available to students for the sustainable period products range we are offering to also include menstrual cups. We have previously approved and purchased reusable pads, but to make it more accessible to people of all personal period preferences I think it best if we are offering students both major options.

**Discussion:** Amy Tschirn (Environment Officer) spoke in favour of the motion.

**Motion:** Student Council approves the expenditure of \$1400 from the remaining Student Council budget to purchase menstrual cups to give away to students.

**Moved:** Amy Tschirn (Environment)

**Seconded:** Darlyn Tan-Sik (General Council Member)

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

### 8. Matters for Discussion

There were no matters for discussion.

### 9. Matters for Noting

#### 9.1 MSE reports to Student Council for October

Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement) spoke with relation to the FUSA staff group, particularly for the information of incoming Student Council members in attendance as observers.

9.2 “The Secretary of University Council has contacted FUSA to advise that Council approved the amendment to the Flinders University Student Association Constitution on the 14th of October 2021, to change the title of the Indigenous Students Officer to First Nations Students Officer, as passed at the FUSA AGM. Staff will proceed to amend Copy(s) on-line and in our records as appropriate.”



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**In-Camera Item – Sean Henschke**

**Motion:** To move in-camera.

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

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

*All in favour.*

**Motion carried.**

**Meeting Closed: 7.27PM**