

Student Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 6:30pm on 9th of March 2022

University Council Room, Registry Building, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus.

Present: Molly Turnbull (Student President), Emily Williams (General Secretary), Ange Nishimwe (Education Officer), Alivia Vickers (Women's Officer), Darlyn Tan-Sik (Welfare Officer), Manasi Dharmesh Bhanushali (International Students Officer), Madeline Wood (First Nations Students Officer), Billy Greet (Environment Officer), Jamie Keegan-Treloar (Social Activities Officer), Jess Williams (Mature Age Students Officer), Riley Jones (General Council Member), Lachlan White (General Council Member), Sharleen Kabiri (General Council Member), Fletcher O'Leary (Student Representation and Development Officer), Sarah Harding (Student Representation Support Officer) and Nikki Esmaeili (Minutes). **Present online:** Lucas Clayton (General Council Member)

Observers: Claire Gibbins (Empire Times), Tahlia Dilberovic (Empire Times), Jessica Rowe (Empire Times), Lockhart Tynan and Noah Richmond.

Apologies: Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer) and Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement).

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Name and Pronoun Round

3. Apologises and Guests

4. Previous Minutes

4.1 Motion: That Student Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held 16th of February 2022.

Moved: Lachlan White (General Council Member)

Seconded: Ange Nishimwe (Education Officer)

Passed

5. Executive Decisions

5.1 Motion: That Student Council ratifies the decisions of the Executive Committee made since the 16th of February meeting of Student Council

Moved: Billy Greet (Environment Officer)

Seconded: Riley Jones (General Council Member)

Passed

6. Old Business

6.1: The President and the First Nations Students Officer will provide a verbal update on the consultations with stakeholders regarding First Nations student voting processes.

Discussion: Madeline Wood (First Nations Students Officer) explained that they have organised to travel to the Northern Territory Campus to speak with students and involve them in this process.

Madeline also explained they are creating a timeline for this process and meeting with Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement) to plan what this timeline will look like. Molly Turnbull (Student President) explained that meetings with relevant stakeholders have been organised and Madeline added that they encourage First Nation Students to join these meeting.

7. New Business

7.1 Reports

7.1.1 Student Council Member Reports

Student Council Members who have not submitted a written report were provided a verbal report.

Lachlan White (General Council Member): Lachlan reported he has had meetings with Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement) and Sarah Harding (Student Representation Officer). Lachlan also said he is working on a motion with Darlyn Tan-Sik (Welfare Officer).

Sharleen Kabiri (General Council Member): Sharleen had nothing to report at this stage.

7.1.2 Manager, Student Engagement Report

Ben Smith (Manager, Student Engagement) was absent and therefore did not speak to his report. Fletcher O'Leary (Student Representation and Development Officer) offered to take any questions on notice.

7.2 Matters for Decision

7.2.1 World Water Day Raffle Prizes – Billy Greet

Discussion: Billy Greet (Environment Officer) spoke to this motion. Billy explained the money from this motion will be used to purchase prizes for a competition being Run on World Water Day. Billy explained that since they are going on leave, the original date (22nd of March) for a small educational campaign will have to be pushed back. Billy has already discussed this with media and events and therefore would like to amend this motion.

Motion: Student Council Endorses the expenditure of \$500 from the Environment Officer Initiative budget to purchase prizes for a competition being run on World Water Day (22/03/2022). Prizes are likely to include a portable water tank and other ground water related items. While the raffle will run on the 22nd, the campaign will be pushed back slightly.

Moved: Billy Greet (Environment Officer)

Seconded: Jessica Williams (Mature Aged Students Officer)

Passed

7.2.2 Who are Mature Age Students? – Jessica Williams

Discussion: Jessica Williams (Mature Age Students Officer) explained that she created this motion as it important to identify the number of mature age students on campus. Jessica said that a survey will be created to run over 4 weeks and then report will be generated from the results. Jessica explained that she has heard multiply stories regarding students with children struggling to study and work

enough to cover childcare fees. Therefore, this survey is important to show how many mature age students there really are on campus, how diverse the group is and struggles they are having. Jessica also added that she has had some pushback from the projects she has tried to organise and therefore this one is very important. Molly Turnbull (Student President) added that she thinks this is a great campaign and really supports it.

Motion: Student Council endorse the Mature Age Students Officer to survey students through an online form.

Student Council also endorses the Mature Age Students Officer to run a competition giving 3 prizes to randomly selected participants. Student council approves the purchasing of these prizes for the cost of \$297 to be taken from the Mature Age Student Officer's budget.

Moved: Jessica Williams (Mature Aged Students Officer)

Seconded: Lachlan White (General Council Member)

Passed

7.2.3 Club Affiliation – Emily Williams

Discussion: Emily Williams (General Secretary) explained this is a motion to approve the affiliation of the Flinders Neurodivergent Study Support and Advocacy Network.

Motion: Student Council approve the Flinders Neurodivergent Study Support and Advocacy Academic affiliation with FUSA.

Moved: Emily Williams (General Secretary)

Seconded: Lachlan White (General Council Member)

Passed

7.3 Matters for Discussion

7.3.1 Did you Know we have Feelings too? – Emily Williams and Melanie Amarasooriya

Discussion: Emily Williams (General Secretary) explained that when she was in the position of Postgraduate Students Officer the lack of support for Higher Degree Research (HDR) students was an issue that was raised. Emily explained that statistics show that mental health struggles for HDR students is increasing and supervisors do not always have the training to deal with these areas. As HDR is a large cohort in the University, blog posts and wellbeing lunches are not enough, this is a systematic issue which needs to be combated. Manasi Dharmesh Bhanushali (International Students Officer) added that as postgraduate student, she has had issues with HDR lecturers who were not able to help her with matters of disclosure and therefore thinks this motion is very important. Alivia Vickers (Women's Officer) added that as she does a lot of disclosure training and therefore knows the importance of this training, especially for HDR staff.

Motion: Student Council endorse the Postgraduate Student Officer and the General Secretary to develop a campaign to combat welfare issues of Postgraduate Students.

Moved: Emily Williams (General Secretary)

Seconded: Manasi Dharmesh Bhanushali (International Students Officer)

Passed

7.3.2 Your Vote Matters – Emily Williams and Molly Turnbull

Discussion: Emily Williams (General Secretary) explained that there is a gap in civic education and therefore with need to work with stakeholders on teaching students how to vote, filling out a ballot and understanding who your candidates are. Molly Turnbull (Student President) encouraged anyone who wants to be involved to join the working group by contacting her or Emily Williams (General Secretary). Lachlan White (General Council Member) and Ange Nishimwe (Education Officer) also added that this is very important and a great campaign.

Motion: Student Council endorse the Student President, General Secretary, and any other Student Council members to form a working group

Student Council endorse the Student President and General Secretary to liaise with AEC, YACSA, NUS and any other key stakeholders for nonpartisan information and possible education sessions on the voting process.

Student Council endorses Student President and General Secretary to work with FUSA's Media Team and Videography to create content for this campaign.

Student Council approves the expenditure of \$1000 from the Student President initiatives budget to be used for content purposes

Moved: Molly Turnbull (Student President)

Seconded: Emily Williams (General Secretary)

Passed

7.4 Matters for Noting

7.4.1 I just need some space. Additional LGBTQIA+ Spaces – Shanii Sparrow

Discussion: Riley Jones (General Council Member) spoke on this motion on behalf of Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer). Riley explained that this motion is being passed as the current Queer space it not big enough for the planned library system. Darlyn Tan-Sik (Welfare Officer) added that due to COVID restrictions, and classes resuming for the year, there are lot of questions on how students can socialise and hence why there needs to be more space. Riley also added that they have organised with Sarah Harding (Student Representation Support Officer) to create a survey with QR codes for the Queer space and on FUSA social media to get some feedback on what new spaces should look like.

Motion: Student Council support the creation of additional LGBTQIA+ safe spaces.

Moved: Riley Jones (General Council Member)

Seconded: Darlyn Tan-Sik (Welfare Officer)

Passed

8. Any Other Business/Good and Welfare

8.1 POC Officer – Ange Nishimwe

Discussion: Ange Nishimwe (Education Officer) presented the proposal for a People of Colour Officer position on FUSA Student Council for discussion. The following briefing was read aloud by Ange *verbatim*.

“Motion 7.4 in Student Council’s inquorate November 2021 meeting, later presented and approved by Executive, was that “Student Council recommend the incoming council submit a motion at the next Annual General Meeting to include a new People of Colour Officer voting member role.” After four years of Student Council members identifying this as an area of urgent necessity, especially following the Black Lives Matter movement, we are of the conviction that it is crucial this role is implemented immediately. At present, support for People of Colour and their experiences are by default offered by the First Nations Students Officer and International Students Officer, due to their lived experiences with racism and where they intersect with these existing portfolios, or by other Students of Colour on Council in addition to their portfolio responsibilities. However, these named roles do not appropriately engage and represent all Students of Colour in the University, as they are not designed to represent the students of the Global Majority who are neither First Nations nor here on international student visas. The Education Officer has worked with Black, Indigenous and / or People of Colour on Student Council past and present as well as community to ensure that this is actioned. The motions below will put to the next General Meeting a proposed alteration of the constitution to create a People of Colour Officer role. It also sets the expectation that we will work to have this in place by the Annual Elections and directs the Executive to work with relevant staff to draft any changes required to Regulations, to be submitted to Student Council for approval at a subsequent meeting.”

Sharleen Kabiri (General Council Member) added that while this sounds like a good motion, they are concerned that ‘POC’ might not be completely inclusive of all races. Riley Jones (General Council Member) explained that POC includes all persons who do not identify as white. Ange also added that she welcomes all feedback and encourages Sharleen to approach her to discuss any other questions or concerns.

Motions:

That Student Council supports the creation of a People of Colour Officer position on the same basis as other Student Council Officers named in the FUSA Constitution.

That Student Council will aim to have all necessary changes to put into practice this role before the Annual Elections.

That Student Council directs that the following motion be submitted to the next Annual General Meeting of the Association, or to the next General Meeting of Members (whichever is held sooner):

Motion: That the following be inserted into the Constitution:

10.5 The Student Council members with a portfolio (Student Council Officers) are:

(...)

k. the People of Colour Officer

That Student Council directs the Student Council Executive and Student Representation and Development Officer to draft any changes to Regulations that will be required following the alteration

of the Constitution to place the new People of Colour Officer on an equivalent basis as other named Student Council Officers.

Moved: Riley Jones (General Council Member)

Seconded: Darlyn Tan-Sik (Welfare Officer)

Passed

8.2 Access to Student Council meetings

Discussion: Lachlan White (General Council Member) raised the issue of remote access to Student Council meetings for Empire Times. They agreed to have further discussions and add this matter to the agenda in the April meeting.

9. Meeting Closed – Next Meeting

Meeting Closed: 7:22pm

Next Meeting: 6/4/2022