

## Minutes of the meeting held 6:30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2022

Alere Café, Function Room, Flinders University Bedford Park Campus

Present: Molly Turnbull (President and Chair), Jamie Keegan-Treloar (Social Activities Officer), Lockhart Tynan (General Council Member), Shanii Sparrow (Queer Officer), Alivia Vickers (Womens Officer), Sharleen Kabiri (General Council Member), Melanie Amarasooriya (Postgraduate Officer), Jessica Williams (Mature Age Students Officer), Ange Nishimwe (Education Officer), Billy Greet (Environment Officer), Emily Williams (General Secretary), Lucas Clayton (General Council Member – Online, left 6.57pm), Riley Jones (General Council Member, arrived 6.41pm).

Observers / Visitors: Sarah Harding (Student Representation Support Officer), Fletcher O’Leary (Student Representation and Development Officer; Minutes Secretary), Jessica Rowe (Empire Times Editor), Tahlia Dilberovic (Empire Times Editor).

### 1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.37pm. The Chair began the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country. The meeting held a name and pronoun round. The Chair noted that apologies had been received from Madeleine Wood (First Nations Students Officer), Darlyn Tan-Sik (Welfare Officer), Helen Laity (Manager, Student Engagement), Manasi Bhanushali (International Students Officer), Anu Francis (Disabilities Officer).

### 2. Previous Minutes

The Chair took the minutes of the previous meeting as read.

*Motion: That Student Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April.*

*Moved: Ange Nishimwe                      Second: Lachlan White                      Carried*

### 3. Executive Decisions

The Chair noted that executive decisions can be found on the Executive Channel of the Student Council 2022 Teams group.

*Motion: That Student Council ratifies the decisions of the Executive Committee made since the 6<sup>th</sup> of April meeting of Student Council.*

*Moved: Shanii Sparrow                      Second: Lockhart Tynan                      Carried*

### 4. Old Business

First Nations voting process: As the First Nations Students Officer is on leave, discussion was deferred by the Chair to the next meeting.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1. Reports

#### a. Student Council Member Reports

Student Council Members who had not submitted a written report were invited to provide a verbal report. Alivia Vickers (Womens Officer) provided an update. Most work has been focused on the revamp of the Women's Space, as well as undertaking training relevant to the portfolio. Lockhart Tynan (General Council Member) helped out at a stall at Clubs Fair and has been working on the motion presented to this meeting (5.2.h). Lachlan White (General Council Member) had nothing to report.

*Motion: That Student Council accepts the reports of Student Council.*

*Moved: Billy Greet*

*Second: Melanie Amarasooriya*

*Carried.*

#### b. Manager, Student Engagement Report

As the Manager, Student Engagement was unwell, the Chair asked that any questions from the report were taken on notice.

The Chair invited Council Members to star items. Two items (5.2.i. and 5.2.j) were unstarred and put.

*Motion: That FUSA Student Council approve the Flinders University Undead Poets [and Writers] Society for Non-Financial Affiliation.*

*Motion: That FUSA Student Council provide conditional approval for the Flinders University Arts Students' Association; to be approved upon providing an updated Membership List with dates of application (or approximate date of application, if not available) for each member to [clubs@flinders.edu.au](mailto:clubs@flinders.edu.au).*

*Moved: Emily Williams*

*Second: Shanii Sparrow*

*Carried.*

### 5.2 Matters for Decision

#### a. Make ET Official

The Chair invited Billy Greet (in his capacity as ET Liaison Officer) to present the matter for decision. Shanii Sparrow and Lachlan White both expressed support for the motion.

*Motion: That, per s.22 of the FUSA Constitution regarding regulations, the Standing Orders be amended as follows:*

*Insert –*

*9.2 The Editors of Empire Times are deemed Official Visitors to all Student Council meetings. The Editors will receive the notice for each meeting at the same time and in the same form as members of Student Council.*

*Motion: That Student Council grant Empire Times Editors remote access to Student Council meetings upon individual request to the chair.*

*Moved: Billy Greet*

*Second: Jessica Williams*

*Carried.*

b. Formalising the Feedback Loop

Jessica Williams was invited by the Chair to present the matter for decision. Shanii Sparrow, Billy Greet and Ange Nishimwe spoke in favour of the motion. Discussion focused on the opportunity that a more formal feedback mechanism presented for staff and Student Council.

*Motion: That Student Council endorse the Mature Age Students Officer to set up a survey in collaboration with FUSA staff members that can be incorporated into the beginning of Student Council meetings and feed back to the Manager of Student Engagement.*

*Moved: Jessica Williams*

*Second: Ange Nishimwe*

*Carried.*

c. Oh my Gosh, Karen, you can't just ask people why they're gay- Addressing Flinders Transphobia

Shanii Sparrow was invited to present the matter. While the University had already actioned what was presented in the motion, Shanii advised that they wanted on the record that they had previously been in contact with University staff regarding inappropriate materials on the website, and had received a commitment to have that material updated – but that this had not been done.

Lachlan White and Ange Nishimwe also spoke in favour of the motion.

*Motion: That Student Council support the immediate removal of anti LGBTQIA+ language on the Flinders University website and commit to holding the university accountable in its use of LGBTQIA+ inclusive language and safe learning environments.*

*Moved: Shanii Sparrow*

*Second: Riley Jones*

*Carried.*

d. Social Transition is enough. – Making name and gender updates more accessible

Shanii Sparrow presented the matter, highlighting that there were specific, known, and ongoing issues with the way that the University system identifies students that leads to deadnaming, even in instances where the student has notified the University of their name. The University needs to focus on supporting social transition, as there are often barriers (including financial costs) to providing legal documentation of name or gender changes. Riley Jones and Molly Turnbull also spoke in favour of the motion.

*Motion: That Student Council commit to continuing exploring more accessible and inclusive admin avenues for transgender and gender diverse students, that will allow easier access to changing and updating information surrounding name and gender.*

*Moved: Shanii Sparrow*

*Second: Billy Greet*

*Carried.*

e. We need Space, we need Visibility.

Jessica Williams presented the matter, with Ange Nishimwe and Alivia Vickers speaking in support of the recommendation. Jessica highlighted the demographic of the student population and that a space for the specific needs of Mature Age students will help improve engagement.

*Motion: That Student Council endorse the Mature Age Students Officer to set up a pop-up space in the vacant room in the student hub to act as a safe and visible space to engage with Mature Age Students. Student council approve the spending of \$2098 from the Mature Age Students Officer's budget to add furnishings to the space.*

*Moved: Jessica Williams*

*Seconded: Lockhart Tynan*

*Carried.*

## f. Financial Grant for Postgraduate Students

Melanie Amarasooriya presented the matter. This matter, and the two following (5.2.g and 5.3.a), are key elements of the Postgraduate Officer's plans for the year – with a focus on financial stress and mental health, as well as identifying the key issues of concern for postgraduate students. Billy Greet and Shanii Sparrow spoke in favour of the motion.

*Motion: Student Council endorse that we create a PhD grant worth of Aud 3500 to support maintenance of a PhD student who is has no access to university scholarships or stipends.*

*Motion: Student Council endorse the Postgraduate Students Officer to liaise with Health and Counselling and Student Advocacy for the feasibility of the grant.*

*Moved: Melanie Amarasooriya*

*Seconded: Sharleen Kabiri*

*Carried.*

## g. Survey to Identify areas of attention among The Postgraduate Students

The Chair invited Melanie to speak to the next item. Alivia Vickers also spoke in favour.

*Motion: Student Council endorse that we conduct a short survey among the PG students to identify the issues that they face during their candidature.*

*Moved: Melanie Amarasooriya*

*Seconded: Shanii Sparrow*

*Carried.*

## h. Bringing the life back to Flinders

The Chair invited Lockhart Tynan to present on this matter. The proposal is for the development of a culturally-conscious native vegetation space on the Bedford Park campus in the GROW, EAT, LEARN space currently managed by the Flinders University Sustainability and Environment Club (FUSEC), based on consultation with First Nations experts. Shanii Sparrow, Sharleen Kabiri, Molly Turnbull and Billy Greet spoke in favour.

*Motion: Student Council allocates \$1,000 of Lockhart Tynan's initiative budget towards purchasing plants and materials for the project.*

*Moved: Lockhart Tynan*

*Seconded: Molly Turnbull*

*Carried.*

## 5.3. Matters for Discussion

### a. Mental Health Among Postgraduate Students

Melanie Amarasooriya reported back on her first meeting with the Dean, Office of Graduate Research. It had been a productive meeting, and there was an in-principle agreement to work together to boost information on mental health and support in the postgraduate field. This would include campaigns for students, and possible inclusion of more resources and information in i.e. inductions, but also to provide information to staff who may be called upon to support students who are struggling. Emily Williams spoke to her experience as Postgraduate Officer in 2021, and that this was a positive step. Shanii Sparrow asked about statistical stacking when it came to some of the figures regarding mental health (i.e are subsections of the postgraduate population more at risk – such as women and gender diverse). The proposed survey (5.2.g) will be able to provide further information on this.

*Motion: That Student Council will request the Dean, Office of Graduate Research to incorporate a mental health learning module in the Higher Degree by Research online induction.*

*Moved: Melanie Amarasooriya*

*Seconded: Sharleen Kabiri*

*Carried.*

### b. We need help – Funding Rural Placements for Paramedic Students

Emily Williams was invited to present the matter. Molly Turnbull then spoke to the matter – with the President, General Secretary and Education Officer working with the Paramedics Students Association on the resourcing and personal costs for students undertaking rural placements. Molly stated that the Student Council members are working with FUSPA and will let the Paramedic Students guide their involvement in the issue.

*Motion: Student Council endorse the Education Officer, Student President, and General Secretary to commit to continuing this conversation and to advocate for Paramedic Students.*

*Motion: Student Council endorse the letter written by FUSPA, with support from the General Secretary and if/when appropriate Student Council will promote the letter in an open campaign.*

*Motion: Student Council stands in solidarity with all Paramedic Students facing financial difficulties and will continue to explore the ways in which FUSA can assist Students below the Poverty line.*

*Moved: Emily Williams*

*Seconded: Melanie Amarasooriya*

*Carried.*

## 5.4. Matters for Noting

### a. National Reconciliation Week 2022

The Chair spoke to the upcoming National Reconciliation Week events.

Action: President and SRDO to circulate an email to Student Council members on resources and how to support NRW.

### b. National Sorry Day 2022

The Chair spoke to National Sorry Day.

c. FUSA AGM

Fletcher O'Leary spoke to this, inviting Student Council to see the [fusa.edu.au/agm](http://fusa.edu.au/agm) webpage for full details. Fletcher explained that the Questions part of the event is for members to ask officer about their roles and issues from the past year, and that the questions are sent to staff for moderation.

d. 10-year anniversary of FUSA

Fletcher O'Leary advised Student Council that August was the provisional date for a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for FUSA. Further details will be forthcoming.

## 6. Any Other Business

The Chair advised that there were two items of business to consider that were not on the agenda.

a. Flinders University Drama Association

*Motion: Student Council conditionally approves the Flinders University Drama Association for Non-Financial Affiliation with the Flinders University Student Association.*

*Motion: The affiliation will be fully approved once the club adopts a Member Protection Policy at its next Annual General Meeting.*

*Moved: Shanii Sparrow*

*Seconded: Emily Williams*

*Carried.*

b. Team Building day

The Chair invited Sarah Harding to take suggestions on team building activities in a general brainstorm.

## 7. Meeting Closed

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.06pm.