
MINUTES OF THE AUSA STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021



OWEN G GLENN BUILDING, 260-317 | 6PM - 8PM

PRESENT: *Anamika Harirajh (President, AUSA), Alan Shaker (EVP, AUSA), Makayla Muhundan (eNVP, AUSA), Ishie Sharma (WVP, AUSA), Alofa So'olefai (Treasurer-Secretary, AUSA), Emma Cooper-Williams (PGO, AUSA), Lavi Abitbol (QRO, AUSA), Vivien Whyte (WRO, AUSA), Ash Singh (President, SAMS), Blake Scanlen (President, SOMSA), Rishi Khattar (President, OPTOM), Holly Mace (President, ALES), Lucy Collier (President, ESSA), Jessica Kim (President, APSA), Liam Davies (President, ASO), Kevin Guo (ISO, AUSA), Nikita Turoa (Co-President, AUPHSA), Likhith Dukkupati (Vice-President, AUMSA), Navdi (AUCSA Rep.), Tanuvi Garimella (President, AULSS), Sam Robertson (President, AUMSA), Jade Boyle (President, SUPA)*

LATE: *Mihiterina Williams (Tumuaki, NTM)*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Temi Adelekan (Class Rep. Manager), Nissa and Kevin (Flexible Learning and Teaching Representatives), Bridget Kool (Pro Vice-Chancellor Education)*

APOLOGIES: *Hannah Colquhoun-Petherick (President, SciSA), Vira Paky (President, AUGSS)*

MEETING COMMENCED 6:09PM

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed each President and President representative. Presidents and President representatives introduced themselves to one another and also to the attendees.

1.2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR

THAT the AUSA Student Council minutes of the previous Student Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10 March be taken as a true and accurate record.

Carried Unanimously

3. FLEXIBLE LEARNING AND TEACHING

Nissa discusses that the university are considering many projects where the movement is currently towards developing a proper online flexible learning and teaching rather than emergency learning. To start of these discussions, Nissa brings up some key points of this movement such as ensuring flexibility in the work environment being echoed at university, levelling the playing field so no student feels disadvantaged, and acknowledging different types of impacts on the livelihood of students amongst other things.

AUSA MSO ENTERED THE MEETING AT 6:14PM

There is a real desire from students to access content but also the desire to build a community of learning this is what makes this project a bit difficult. Nissa breaks the attendees into groups to discuss the characteristics of learning and engagement that encourage students to come onto campus, and the characteristics that student value about the university. The Student Council responded as follows:

Regarding **Learner Experience Engagement**, the SC recognises the need for:

- Structural flexibility by design
- Blended and hybrid - the ability to review at your own pace
- Clear structure of the programme.
- More discussions about pathways after the first year
- Inclusive in nature ensuring all feel welcome and catered to.

Regarding **Learner Content Engagement**, the SC recognise the following:

- Meaningful interactions with staff/academics but not overwhelming the staff
- A need for a unified layout on Canvas
- Interactions for a smaller class is different to a larger class thus an umbrella solution will not work

Other notes:

- We need to take a layered approach to the postgraduate level c.f. the PhD induction process.
- The problem may not necessarily lie with the system or the flexibility. Sometimes it is just the ability of the lecturers themselves to teach a course.
- The SC highlights that students generally only come to campus if they have compulsory tutorials and lectures. There are those who come for the sense of community but tying the percentage to the lectures and/or the tutorials will force students to come onto campus.
- If students see that the university is unequipped for their needs e.g. underwhelming number of power points, not enough study spaces, etc, they will prefer to study at home or elsewhere.

- The SC note that they would prefer a satellite campus/study hub near their home to be primarily for study rather than lectures or tutorials. The SAMS Presidents highlights the overcrowded use of the Grafton library as an example.

NISSA AND KEVIN LEAVE THE MEETING AT 6:34PM

4. NZUSA MEMBERSHIP

The Chair explains the following: AUSA was a founding member of NZUSA and in its beginning phase, NZUSA has been great at advocating for the needs of the students nation-wide. However, the levy of \$45,000 paid by AUSA fails the marginal cost-benefit analysis within the eyes of AUSA over the recent years. NZUSA has great potential just like any other nation-wide union, but given the current benefits that AUSA gains, the lack of influence that AUSA has within NZUSA, AUSA's financial status and the benefits that student bodies gain regardless of their membership status, AUSA is ultimately looking to submit a 12-month notice of leave to NZUSA. Within the span of the 12 months, AUSA would still be a member of NZUSA as per the NZUSA Constitution, and AUSA will be working to better the current NZUSA in a way that will perhaps allow AUSA to stay as well as entice other University Associations who haven't joined to do so. The current problem that AUSA faces with leaving the union is the media backlash as well as the repercussions that this has on Te Mana Akonga as well as Taura Pasifika which are the Maori and Pacific national student body respectively.

One of the Presidents questions whether this an individual concern and if other universities are thinking about leaving too? The Chair replies that this conversation has been going on for about 5 years and there have been no actions from NZUSA to improve their status of representation.

Another President asked that assuming AUSA withdraws, where would the funds be reallocated to? To this, the Chair highlights the fact that AUSA is running on minimum viable product where we only have one person looking after all the class reps on Campus. We also only have one event manager running events such as the O-Week festival, and our two advocacy managers who look after approximately 30 cases per week. The funds could be allocated to hiring another person to lighten these loads, or likewise we could allocate a portion of this to the student needs such as the foodbank which has increased its usage over the past year.

Action point: The Chair to send the Pastoral Care Policy to the Student Council

The AULSS President talks about the national law student body which she deems appropriate and effective. This is supported by Bridget Kool. The Chair speaks to this and states that this is the goal for NZUSA that AUSA has. However, currently, this is not the case, hence why AUSA is looking to leave.

A President asks whether the executive of the NZUSA is fulltime to which the Chair responds that there are fulltime positions such as the Vice President and the President. The funds are used to pay their salary as well as their travel to other associations during the year.

Action Point: The Chair to circulate the Change Proposal V1 to the Student Council.

BRIDGET KOOL LEAVES THE MEETING AT 7:14PM

5. STUDENT COUNCIL SECTION ON AUSA WEBSITE

The Welfare Vice President leads the meeting into a mental health workshop.

Due to the nature of the topics discussed, this section was removed from the minutes for the safety of those who read this document. The notes and details of this section will be included in the Mental Health report that will be formed by the AUSA Executive to present to the University upon completion.

Action Point: The Chair to circulate the consultation process to the Student Council.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next Student Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 May, 6pm. Location to be confirmed.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8:30PM

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

Action 1: Send the Pastoral Care Policy to the Student Council

Action 2: The Chair to circulate the Change Proposal V1 to the Student Council

Action 3: The Chair to circulate the consultation process to the Student Council.

SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anamika Harirajh', written over a horizontal line.

Anamika Harirajh, Chair of the AUSA Student Council