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# MINUTES OF THE AUSA STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 2021



The Clocktower 119-130 | 6pm - 8pm

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**Present:** Anamika Harirajh (President, AUSA), Makayla Muhundan (EnVP, AUSA), Alan Shaker (EVP, AUSA), Lavi Abitol (QRO, AUSA), Ash Singh (President, SAMS), Lucy Collier (President, ESSA), Nikita Turoa (Co-President, AUPHSA), Liam Davies (President, ASO), Vira Paky (President, AUGSS), Jessica Kim (President, APSA), Hannah Colquhoun-Petherick (President, SciSA), Emma Cooper-Williams (PGO, AUSA), Alofa So'olefai (Treasurer-Secretary, AUSA)

**Late:** Rishi Khattar (President, NZOSS), Ishie Sharma (WVP, AUSA), Vivien Whyte (WRO, AUSA)

**Apologies:** Kevin Guo (ISO, AUSA)

**In Attendance:** Eda Tang (Editor, Craccum), Temitope Adelekan (Class Rep. Manager), Nick Curry (Representative, SOMSA),

## 1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

6:05pm (5 mins)

### 1.1. Welcome and Check-ins

The Chair greets all the attendees.

### 1.2. Declaration of Interest

No declaration of interest

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### CHAIR

*THAT the AUSA Student Council minutes of the previous Student Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30 June be taken as a true and accurate record.*

*Carried unanimously*

### **3. ACADEMIC AUDIT**

Heather splits the meeting into two to discuss questions posed about the systems that are at the University:

*Rishi enters the meeting at 6:17pm*

Improvement can be made on the following points raised by the Student Council:

- Reward and recognition
- Providing adequate feedback to students in a timely manner
- Representation of students on committees with big decisions regarding their education
- Council Rep needs to be the AUSA President
- Sufficient funds for student associations to fund their events
- Earlier engagement with students regarding consultation
- SCG is seen as ticking a box and is not truly consultative. They are coming to the students when there is already a plan in motion where the student. There is currently no portfolio that looks after students with disabilities on AUSA and being on the SCG would be valuable but there is currently no representation there.
- Has AUSA tried utilising SCG or the back channels to further their agenda? The Chair informs that she has talked to those who set the agenda, yet the agenda is not set by the students nor is the conversation led by students.
- Heather acknowledges that this is the forum in which consultation should take place as they cover however the group acknowledges that if this feedback mentioned in the student council is not carried to the higher ups, then there is no reason to have SC.
- ASO President suggests a name change for SCG or a change in duty to be more representative in what they actually do.
- Is the consultation city centric? There is conscious effort that non-city campus students are involved with the consultation.

### **4. CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY**

Last year with the work within Taumata Teitei, there was a working group thinking about what it means to have a UoA degree in Aotearoa with our strong Pacific cultures.

*Vivien Whyte enters 6:45pm*

The Curriculum Transformation Strategy is current open for suggestions and to achieve this, everything is on the line – how long degrees are, criteria to get in, pathways into the university, how much the courses are worth? Bridget informs the SC that the University is currently looking at overseas models and nit-picking at what we can incorporate into our current system. The plan for this curriculum transformation will roll out over the period of 2022-2024.

The PGO speaks highlighting the fact that there are no Targeted Admission Schemes (TAS) for postgrad. Would it be possible to have TAS for Postgraduate students? In addition, currently, the timetable is focussed on the lecturers rather than on the students. The driver might be to have more tutorial-based classes rather than lectures.

Staff from across the University say that they want to have more content in their courses, yet they aren't willing to drop content, but they complain that they are overworked.

The Student Council highlight that the Working Group for the Curriculum Transformation must be diverse to account for all the needs of different learning groups. The SC would also like to be included in the surveys that will be taking part about what brings students to campus and why. This may spark conversations with Auckland Transport, or even raise the idea about having more Satellite campuses across the country.

*Bridget Kool and Heather Merrick leave at 7:12pm*

*Student Council take a break 7:12-7:18pm*

*Ishie Sharma enters the meeting at 7:18pm*

## **5. HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS ACTION PLAN**

7:00pm (40 mins)

Liz highlights that there is no correct terminology, or the plan and they are looking at suggestions. Even though it's been endorsed as a live plan, there is a lot of work still going on although it hasn't been officially launched. This plan is set to launch 23-27 August through – webpage, live action plan, key areas where the students would be able to give feedback. CCCR training has been going on which is focussed on sexual harm and

disclosures. They are working with Victoria University with their 'Don't Guess the Yes' campaign and working with Shadows to keep people safe. This has led to the drop-in HELP centre on Level 3 Kate which is for all students and staff.

The WRO opens the floor for discussion beginning with the fact that there is a disconnect between what the students know and what is available.

- The President of AUGSS states that Global Studies has a good proportion of their students in first year halls but how would the students know about the plan? The communication about this hasn't been pushed out and she only know is because she is an RA. We need to be mindful as first year students are constantly bombarded with information, so it's about finding the perfect time.
- There is a suggestion about making it like Academic Integrity where you must complete the module to graduate. However, the Chairs says we need to be careful that it's not tokenistic but something that will stick with students throughout their journey at University. Another President comments that this is true but with the module, if we make it memorable, then it's something that the University can continue to push through communications through symbols and slogans so that when students see them, they will know what it is and what it's about because of all the previous communications and the module.
- ASO President highlights that it may also be beneficial to train student executives in handling situations and disclosures as there are times when things go wrong at club events.
- Viv poses the question: If people want to mandate the workshops that are already offered, how do we tell people and who do we tell? The Chair says that a number of people would need to get onto this such as Bridget Kool because it would be something that might prevent people from graduating.
- Students are vulnerable so they might not go to these if they feel that they are being judged. Perhaps an idea would be to make it look like you're helping your friend which can probably be incorporated in the workshop.
- Eda also highlights that Craccum has spaces to advertise.
- A representative from the Music School highlights the events regarding a music teacher earlier this year: What is there in the plan that can prevent things like this happening, given that there wasn't much the University could do once he left? The Chair clarifies that nothing was done due to legalities. Liz offers that because she is a student-facing job, she has options available for students to get help and support.

Likewise, she informs the Student Council that there have been workshops around consent for staff which generated really good discussions.

*Liz leaves 7:48pm*

## **6. DISABLED STUDENTS REPRESENTATION**

There are gaps in the representation structure in AUSA. On University committees and in AUSA committees, there is a gap of disability students in these spaces. The AUDSA had a suggestion that they would have one member sit on the AUSA Student Council and form a MoU with AUSA around this.

Eda speaks to this agenda item saying that the needs of disability students are various and there is no blanket solution. Having a representative from AUDSA will be helpful to have that representation of these students in spaces where important conversations about their learning are being had.

The Chair speaks to this saying that AUSA currently does not have a Disability Officer due to the fact that the main role of the Officers is governance of the association. For their voice to be truly impactful, a seat on the Student Council will be better than an Office on the executive. Depending on AUDSA's formalisation of their club, the goal is to sign the MoU with AUDSA before the end of the year.

### **CHAIR**

*THAT the AUSA Student Council endorse the addition of the Disability Officer to the Student Council and for AUSA to proceed with the formation of an MoU with AUDSA upon becoming an official club.*

*Carried unanimously*

## **7. OTHER MATTERS**

AUSA will be hosting a sausage sizzle next week Tuesday to advertise for elections.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next Student Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 September, 6pm. Location to be confirmed.

*Meeting closes 8:01pm*

**Signed as a TRUE and ACCURATE RECORD**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anamika Harirajh', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large 'A' and 'H'.

**Anamika Harirajh**

Chair of the AUSA Student Council, 2021