

# MINUTES OF THE AUSA STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING · 21 MARCH 2022



Zoom | 18:00 - 20:00

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**PRESENT:** Alofa So'olefai (President, AUSA), Steven Wijaya (Treasurer-Secretary, AUSA), Alan Shaker (EVP, AUSA), Ishie Sharma (WVP, AUSA), Makayla Muhundan (EnVP, AUSA), Varsha Ravi (ISO, AUSA), Seini Pua (PISO, AUSA/AUPISA), Hyunsang Lim (President, AULSS), Dania Shafiq (President, SciSA), Olympia Robb (President, ASO), George Perry (President, AUES), Anmol Ghuman (Co-President, AUCSA), Joseph Nganu (President, ESSA), Danica Loulie-Wijtenburg (President, AUGSS), Angela Wong (President, SUPA), Tom Swinburn (President, AUMSA), Rhea Colaabavala (President, APSA), Jessica Chun (President, SAMS), Samantha Samaniego (President, AUPHSA), Georgia Cheng (President, NZOSS), Crystyn Pask (President, ALES), Wilene Shen (President, MISA), Eilish Wood (President, NASA)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Temi Adelekan (AUSA Student Voice Manager), Mark Thomson (Student Disability Manager), Stuart Turner (Digital Services - Project Manager), Professor Gillian Lewis (Sustainability Working Group Lead), Associate Professor Peter Shand (Curriculum Transformation Academic Lead), David Hayward (Academic Quality Manager), Professor Bridget Kool (Pro Vice-Chancellor Education), Atamira Walker (Treasurer, NTM), Caroline Rougheen (Strategic Projects Manager), Jo Hammer (Programme Change Manager)

**LATE:**

**ABSENT:** Kelly Misiti (PGO, AUSA), Johnnie Wang (UoA Council Rep), Gareth Jones (AUSA General Manager)

**APOLOGIES:** Benjamin Elwood (President, DSA), Piripi Gordon (Co-Tumuaki/MSO, NTM/AUSA), Anipātene Biddle (Co-Tumuaki/MSO, NTM/AUSA), Folau Tu'inukuafe (WRO, AUSA), Theo van de Klundert (QRO, AUSA)

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**WITH THE PRESIDENT ON APOLOGY, THE PRESIDENT HAS DELEGATED THE EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT TO CHAIR THIS MEETING**

**MEETING COMMENCED AT 18:05**

## 1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

### 1.1. *Karakia & Welcome*

The Chair welcomed each President and Atamira Walker opened with a Karakia.

### 1.2. *Declarations of Interest*

No declaration of interest.

### 1.3. *Approval of Previous Minutes*

#### CHAIR

*Agreed that the AUSA Student Council of the previous Student Council Meeting held on Monday, 21 February 2022 be adopted as a true and accurate record.*

Carried Unanimously

**STUART TURNER ENTERED THE MEETING AT 18:09**

## 2. PROCESS FOR SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN TESTS/EXAMS (MARK THOMSON)

Mark Thomson introduced and presented the Student Council with new/additional changes to further enhance students with disabilities' experiences, specifically when it comes to additional support in tests and exams. He further elaborates that the University of Auckland has developed a new streamlined special conditions application and approval process to ensure students can receive the appropriate support, such as extra time in assessments or access to reader/writers, in a much simpler and more accessible way.

Mark Thomson further notes that students who have participated and tested the new process have commented positively that it was very 'easy and seamless', 'less intimidating' and gave them more control and agency over their requests for support.

**THE ASO PRESIDENT ENTERED THE MEETING AT 18:14**

Temi Adelekan highlights to further include terms of confidentiality at the end of the application process.

**MARK THOMSON LEFT THE MEETING AT 18:17**

### 3. CHANGES TO THE UNIVERSITY GOOGLE DRIVE (STUART TURNER)

Stuart Turner introduced and presented the Student Council with the University's plan of action in regards to Google's recent change in policies (Worldwide). This consequently means that Google will no longer be providing the University and other educational institutes with free, unlimited Google Drive storage.

After over 15 years of free services, the University will be moving away from the use of Google although notes that the University will only be able to access a small storage allocation for each staffs/students. Stuart Turner highlights the purpose of this is to further highlight staff/students to refrain from using Google, tidy up and move relevant files into Microsoft OneDrive.

Stuart Turner further elaborates the transition from using Google Drive to Microsoft OneDrive noticeably highlights:

- OneDrive spaces could be upgraded to 1 TB if needed
- The transition period will take place up until 1 October 2023
- Google Drive (for staff/students) will be provisioned 1 GB worth of Google Drive
- All staff and students will continue to receive an @aucklanduni.ac.nz email address even after becoming an alumni
- Staff/students with more than 2 TB worth of data at Google will be further supported by University staff.

#### **GILLIAN LEWIS ENTERED THE MEETING AT 18:35**

Stuart Turner opens the floor for questions:

The AUSA ISO highlights the importance of communicating such changes in regards to a recent change in policy and the level of importance for students/staff.

Stuart Turner further highlights that consolidating the use of Google Drive could cost the University around \$350,000.

The AUGSS President questions the transfer of ownership (Google). Stuart Turner noted that transfer ownership outside the University workspace is not feasible although is looking at different cloud migration options.

The Chair has a question in regards to the logistics for future alumnus. Stuart Turner noted that once an enrolled student is deemed as an alumni, their google drive will be held and deleted after 3 months.

Temi Adelekan further explained that some operations heavily relies on the use of Google Space (such as Class Reps) and further noted the difficulty of how OneDrive could compensate for such change.

**STUART TURNER LEFT THE MEETING AT 18:44**

**CAROLINE ROUGHEEN AND JO HAMMER ENTERED THE MEETING AT 18:45**

#### **4. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (GILLIAN LEWIS)**

Gillian Lewis, who leads the Sustainability group, introduced and presented about the Sustainability Strategy and how the University of Auckland aims to be a sustainable University by 2030.

Gillian Lewis further opened the floor for discussion while further enquiring the council on how to best engage with students on this strategy when it opens up for consultation in mid-2022.

The AUSA ISO questions how the Sustainability group could further consider International Students' carbon footprints as they travel to New Zealand to further their studies. Gillian Lewis replied that one of the goals of such a project is to enhance the University to be more climate-conscious. In other words, Gillian Lewis further notes the importance of providing students with the right facilities and how students could be engaged (coming from an International Perspective).

The AULSS President enquires whether there is a well-established plan for achieving such goals. Gillian Lewis notes that such strategies are still under-development and expects further consultation which will be drafted by August 2022.

**BRIDGET KOOL ENTERED THE MEETING AT 18:57**

**PETER SCHAND AND CRYSTN PARK ENTERED THE MEETING AT 18:58**

The AUSA ISO enquires whether the University is leading to similar sustainable practices or following such trends. Gillian Lewis noted that the University is following such sustainable practices and is doing more in consolidating and coordinating environmental strategies in aiming to be a sustainable University by 2030.

The AUPHSA President enquires whether Te Tiriti and Te Ao Māori perspectives are considered when developing such strategies. Gillian Lewis notes that such diverse considerations are legally required and having different insights is essential.

Gillian Lewis asks what is the best approach in terms of seeking student consultation. The Chair replied that there are various ways to seek student consultation, ranging from Student Council to specialised clubs/groups.

**THE AUSA QRO ENTERED THE MEETING AT 19:05**

**GILLIAN LEWIS, CAROLINE ROUGHEEN AND JO HAMMER LEFT THE MEETING AT 19:06**

## **5. CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION UPDATE**

Peter Shand gives an overall update regarding the Curriculum Transformation Update. Peter updated the current objectives of the project, further highlighting that the project is currently concentrated towards:

1. Working on emerging recommendations as part of the discussion on the structure of University Programmes
2. An early draft of the consultation document and organising the various strand of work towards such document

Peter further noted that there has not been much of an engagement since the last Student Council Meeting due to limited staff capacity (COVID-19).

Peter further noted the team has conducted numerous group engagements in which conversations revolved around general education and out-of-schedule study. He further notes that the team is in the process of setting up a group-specific engagement (Equity Groups) and ensuring the necessary safe space when sharing varying thoughts/opinions. He further notes more specific conversations will take place when conducting future focus groups in attaining insightful ideas.

Peter encourages students to be part of the working groups. He further notes that using social media as a medium to reach out to students is challenging as communication would often be complicated and could be taken wrongly (due to the nature of the project and emerging recommendations).

The AULSS President notes the importance of having diverse representation in future meetings to account for blind spots and unaccounted perceptions.

**PETER BRIDGET AND BRIDGET KOOL LEFT THE MEETING AT 19:19**

## 6. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

The Chair notes that moving forward, minutes will be attached as supporting documents and important issues will be further discussed under this agenda item.

The AUSA ISO updated conversation within the International Student Subcommittee, further noting their first-ever meeting. The AUSA ISO further reminds the council, relevant faculties, without an International Student Officer to refer international students to the subcommittee.

The AUSA Welfare Vice President updated conversation within the Accommodation subcommittee (Residential Advisory Committee - RAC) in which historically had no AUSA representative. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, 23 March 2022.

## 7. DISCUSSION ON UNIVERSITY FEES

The Chair led a discussion on student queries regarding University Fees despite being online for the first half of the semester. The Chair gave a brief background regarding such an agenda, specifically encompassing the recent VUWSA protest for a student fee reduction although such ideas were quickly rejected.

The AUSA President foresees a similar response with the University when advocating such an agenda and further enquiries the council on ways the University could compensate students, aside from monetary compensation. Arguing for monetary-related compensations is something AUSA could advocate for but rather unsure of the outcome.

The Chair opened the floor for the discussion on student queries regarding University Fees (despite being online for the first half of the semester):

- With everything virtual, the SciSA President suggests alternative academic compensations (e.g., Students being able to use labs on holidays, shadowing a researcher). In the faculty of Science, students have suffered academically without the presence of in-person labs.
- The AUSA Welfare Vice President highlighted the importance of the University cutting out the aegrotat and compassionate consideration fee as it is considered an equity issue.
- The AUSA Welfare Vice President further advocates for the University to consider in-person learning, further considering the recent Government news/decisions on COVID-19 on approaching such an idea.
- The AUMSA President suggested an Out-of-Auckland student fee compensation.

- The ESSA President noted that it is highly unlikely that classes will be moved on-campus. Although from a satellite campuses perspective (usually with less than 100 students), the ESSA President further advocates such campuses be opened for in-person learning especially considering that it is within Government's restrictions.
- The AUSA ISO highlights that off-shore students get a certain degree of compensation (Students Services Fee and Tax Refund of 15%). The AUSA ISO suggested a similar compensation scheme to all students in general. Temi Adelekan supports such an idea and further advocates for the University to be more transparent regarding CSSF/release a report regarding CSSF.

The President further notes that such thoughts are strictly for 2022 as the next AUSA Executive (2023) could see things in a different light, consequently different approaches.

Such matters will be brought to the attention of Anne-Marie Parsons and Adrienne Cleland on what AUSA could do moving forward.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

No additional agenda noted.

## 9. NEXT MEETING

The next Student Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20 April 2022 (TBC) • 18:00 - 20:00**. Meeting format and venue will be confirmed at a later date. Our preference is for in-person meetings, however, we may need to meet via Zoom depending on the Covid situation.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 19:59 WITH KARAKIA BY THOMAS SWINBURN**

**SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD**



**Alan Shaker, Acting Chair of the AUSA Student Council**