

# MINUTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING · 18/04/2023



Location: **119-130 CLOCKTOWER** | 6.00PM - 8:00PM

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**PRESENT:** Noor Randhawa (**AUCSA**), Sarah White (**AUCSA**), Talisa Gan-Setu (**SciSA**) *via Zoom*, , Kirti Raju (**ESSA**), Ivan Zhang (**SOMSA**), Juliette Lim (**NZOSS**), Madeleine Roe (**APSA**), Jenny Luo (**AUMSA**) *via Zoom*, Celesti Tan (**AUPHSA**), Julia Stjarnhage (**PGSA**), Alex Cox (**ADSA**), Luke Fowlie (**NASA**), Hala Barakat (**UoA Council Rep**), Alan Shaker (**President, AUSA**), Qun Ma (**WVP, AUSA**), Mahek Nagar (**ISO, AUSA**), Folau Tu'inukuafe (**EnVP, AUSA**), Varsha Ravi (**EVP, AUSA**), Layba Zubair (**WRO, AUSA**), Marguerite Sandleback (**QSC Rep, AUSA**).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Temi Adelaken (**AUSA Student Voice Manager**), Peter Shand (**CFT Academic Lead**), David Hayward (**Academic Qualities Office**), Bridget Kool (**PVCE**), Steve Leichtweis (**Manager, Learning & Teaching Design Team**), Leuaina Andrea Vaai (**President, AUPISA**), Ana Halaufia (**VP, AUPISA**), Frankun Yin (**MISA**), Rhea Yin (**Secretary, AULSS**), Mike Sun (**Co-President, SUPA**)

**LATE:**

**APOLOGIES:** Lachlan Pearce (**AUES**), Anna Sue (**AUGSS**), Atakura Hunia (**MSO, AUSA**), Theo van de Klundert (**QRO, AUSA**), Charmaine Yu (**AUPSS**), Francine Mula (**MISA**), La Marie Fernandez (**SUPA**), Amol Kumar (**Treasurer-Secretary, AUSA**), David Tuifua (**PISO, AUSA**), Sue Roberts (**University Librarian and Director, Library**) and Joanne Brown (**Director, Academic Services**).

**Meeting opened at 6.00pm**

## 1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS (TIME & DURATION)

### 1.1. *Welcome, Opening Karakia and Introductions.*

1.1.1. EVP opened with a Karakia

### 1.2. *Approval of leave.*

- Rhea Yiin in place of Kevin Guo
- Apologies from Fran Mula
  - Frankun Yin in place of Fran Mula
- Apologies from David Tuifua.
  - Leuaina Andrea Vaai and Ana Halaufia in place of David Tuifua.
- Apologies from Lachlan Pearce
- Apologies from La Marie Fernandez.
  - Mike Sun in place of La Marie Fernandez.
- Apologies from Amol Kumar
- Apologies from Anna Sue

- Apologies from Joanna Browne
- Apologies from Sue Roberts.

**1.3. Declarations of Interest.**

- No declarations of interest.

**1.4. Previous Minutes.**

**Chair/WVP**

*Chair moves minutes of the previous Student Council to be accepted and deemed as an accurate record.*

*Unanimously carried*

## 2. "DISABILITY" DEFINITION

- ***The DAPRG (which includes staff and students with lived experience) have come up with a suggested new definition of disability for the University. They are now seeking further feedback.***
- *Presented by Carley Fletcher(Student Equity Manager), Mark Thomson(Student Disability Services Manager) and Julia (PGSA, President; member of the DARPG).*
- The DARPG is a community that consists of both students and staff.
- Mark informs the Student Council regarding the "Disability" definition's survey deadline being the 28th of April 2023.
  - Link to survey:  
<https://auckland-access.symplicity.com/surveys/UniversityDisabilityDefinition>
  - Survey responses are anonymous.
- Mark briefly talks about the Disability Action Plan which is driven by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), Disability Services Office and Equity Office. TEC wants the universities to do better as Tertiary Education Institutions .
  - The number of students identified coming to university with a diagnosed disability is 9% - lower than expected for the general age bracket. Students with Disability have a 4% lower pass rate than those that don't have a disability.
  - There is also not a lot of information available when it comes to assessing the success rates of students with disability transitioning from university into employment.
  - TEC recommended changes to improve access to education - barrier free access - underserved groups plus other groups.

- The goal of this Action plan is to ensure that students with disabilities progress better at university and take part in wider university life, particularly in academic life.
- In order to understand the current situation better and follow an evidence based approach, the action plan will pay specific attention to who is coming to uni, what our representation is like, is it proportionate to our general population - how are they progressing with their degrees - graduation destination - post grad etc.
- PGSA President, Julia informs the group that in order for policy to support disabled students a definition is required. Certain nuances cannot be captured but needs to be a general definition that can cover the majority. There will be more definitions later on that are more niche towards certain communities. Therefore it is not to generalise but it is to get a foundation of definition that can be open and inclusive.
- Disability is around a disability type
  - E.g. Scholarships will define a little more closely than this definition.
- Definition is broad encompassing and is a starting point.
- Carley would like the student council to provide feedback and to act as an initial soundboard.
- Temporary vs Long term Disabilities- asks whether that discussion is relevant for this definition. PGSA President, Julia advises that they wish to separate that discussion from this definition as this definition is meant to be all encompassing.
- Mark provides examples of temporary disabilities - e.g. broken legs - students get support, but students should not be getting the same access as those that have long term barriers to their education. Definition is quite broad, a particular process will look at more nuanced definitions.
- Student Council critiques the use of the term “university life” - very similar to the term “student life” - outside of the classroom, they question whether this will create confusion. They ask for specific mention for “academic” as part of the definition. They also suggest the phrase “University life and teaching” instead.
  - Julia says nobody associated student life with that and that is something to take into consideration.
- Carley confirms that it will go through a more formal consultation process post the 28th of April 2023.

### 3. CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK TRANSFORMATION

#### 3a. Student Admission & Regulations

- Presented by Lynley Pritchard (Associate Director, Academic Services) and Prof. Bridget Kool (Pro-Vice Chancellor, Education).
- This project is working alongside CFT this year.

- Its aim is to address the issues of enrolment and communications surrounding admissions, to simplify the process of admission & regulations.
  - Student representatives on this working group are AUSA President, Alan Shaker and PGSA President, Julia Stjarnhage .
  - It is important to simplify the student experience of education administration and to improve accessibility to the University through guiding frameworks.
  - The working group has established a set list of principles that aim to guide the regulations and guidelines.
    - These principles are to act as a design guide to improve student communication.
    - The goal of such a document would be to ensure there are control mechanisms in place for the application of these principles and guidelines.
    - To remove labour intensive progresses that can be automated
    - Presentation included a few problem statements - barriers to admissions and enrolment and progression are the key features they wish to focus on.
    - Transparency of what is required - so that it is clear from the beginning
    - Moving away from vague requirements like approval of the course directors etc.
    - Who we select for admission into a programme - changing the traditional approach which looks at past qualifications and GPA - this is not a good way to gauge success of a student - broader range of prior learning and prior experience. Do not want to set people up for failure.
    - Benefit statements that are providing the working group a guide to develop these principles and guidelines.
    - Focus on creating more students from a more diverse background get access to education
  - Student Council raised whether the University has considered creating a platform/software combining my programme requirements, degree planning and enrollment? She shares that AUT has done so with the help of SAP and maybe is something UoA should consider.
    - PVC Education, Bridget says there is another piece of work that is looking at a curriculum management system.
    - Associate Academic Director, Lynley shares that there is an upcoming Advisory model - replacement for my programme requirements. She acknowledges that we are not too well served by our technology.
  - The Student Council also raises concerns specific to international students. They share student experiences of entering the country with a visa but not having enrolled and being unable to enrol as classes are filled up. They also ask that these regulations look at working close with Immigration New Zealand and their regulations.
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### 3b. Canvas Baseline Practices

- Presented by Steve Leichtweis (Manager, Learning & Teaching Design Team).
- Steve presented the student council with a Reddit post that shared a query regarding “why it was so hard for course coordinators to keep the course canvas updated”. He said this along with feedback from past student council meetings is the reason this project received a greenlight.
- Steve informs that over the next 3 years they will be working with every single course and every single programme to assist academics on how to use canvas efficiently and consistently. Focus on courses taught for the first time next year.
- Steve acknowledges that there was not a good transition from Cecil to Canvas - staff were not trained effectively on how to use every aspect of canvas or structure and effective ways of presenting content - time management, when and what is expected - all the capability that canvas has built in, staff have no idea how to use and how to leverage. Steve’s goal is to change that so it is much better in supporting our students.
- Steve sits in the CFT under the Baseline Practices project - 10 staff just hired to work on this project and support the upkeep of these courses.
- Steve is not solely focusing on certain individual courses ideally suited to use canvas, but is rather using these courses to promote good practice - he wants one course in every programme to upkeep this to influence other courses.
- Academics see their course as separate to other courses and there is no cross course dialogue to ensure the student experience is consistent.
- Drivers for the change
  - Student feedback
    - Integrating canvas better since when it was adopted in 2016.
    - Some of the behaviours and results we have received through canvas is because of lack of staff training around canvas.
    - We want to change the way staff and students look at canvas as a learning tool.
- Process timeline - spread over 3 years. This year’s focus is on every single stage 1 course that will be taught in 2024 - 300 courses. Classified in red, yellow, green - triage process.
- Steve is looking at accessibility as well - University has agreed to purchase a tool that allows it to audit courses and fix them quicker - this will allow accessibility to be assessed better and will have a better response rate for solutions.
  - UDOIT tool - assesses accessibility and supports transformation of documents

- Students are provided options to access information in different formats - this tool allows that.
- Applies to anything that is a pdf.
- Staff are being supported to be better users of the tool so the student experience can be better.
- In 3 years time the aim is to have gotten through every single course. Including post grad courses.
- Student Council highlights the Canvas exemplar library - institution wide course templates would be a good idea.
  - Steve - Templates takeaway choice and agency from the academics. So instead there is a library of templates, with principles that are focused on the baseline practice. If there is a look and feel that can sustain then that is the goal. They will sit with academics and see what works best for their individual faculties.

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### 3c. FIT Feedback

- Presented by Varsha Ravi (Education Vice President, AUSA).
- A chance for Faculty Presidents to openly discuss how engagement has been with the CFT Faculty Implementation Teams - a general update from those that wish to share.
- AUUSA - no replies to email, no communication Commerce.
- SUPA - slow replies,
- Medical and Health Sciences - good so far
- Science - trying to set up a working relationship, discussions about CFT, using SCISA as a contact for feedback - good news
- ESSA - couple of emails, one on one, group meeting, inclusive
- Engineering - Council Rep Hala says it is a juggling act - to follow up with AUES President, Lachlan for more detail.
- PGSA - Julia - postgrad changes, staff are unaware so can't interact with students.

## 4. STUDENT SERVICES

- Postponed to the next Student Council Meeting.

## 5. TA/GTAs

- Presented by Julia Stjarnhage (President, PGSA).
- A discussion regarding Students' experiences with Teaching Assistants and Graduate Teaching Assistants.
- Proportion of the complaints are from students who are finding it difficult to transition to in person learning post covid.
- Student Council questions what the requirements to become a GTA/TA are?
  - PGSA President, Julia says it is quite an informal process of hiring and there is no past teaching experience/passion required to apply for this role. Usually just good GPA and good grades.
- There is no centralised requirement for teaching and learning
- They are currently opening up applications and PGSA President, Julia would like the Student Council to endorse a letter to approach GTAs/TAs with better care and consideration so it does not affect students' learning.

## 6. UPDATE FROM SUBCOMMITTEES/EXECES

- Presented by ISO, PGO, QRO, WRO, PISO and MSOs.
- AUSA ISO, Mahek, highlights that International Week is coming up.
- AUSA QSC rep, Marguerite updates Student Council around the success of Pride Week and the Anti Posie Parker protests.
- AUPISA President, Andrea updates the Student Council regarding the progress in creating the Pacific Student Council and the way forward with AUPISA.

## 7. REMINDERS & OTHER MATTERS

- An opportunity to bring up any other business.
- AUSA EngVP, Folau updated the Student Council regarding the initiative SciSA President, Talisa and herself have engaged in to create a stronger connection between Tuakana and the Faculty Student Associations. They aim to create a better relationship with Tuakana Science and SciSA.
- AUSA EngVP also updated the Student Council regarding NISSA - the 'Nesian Indigenous Science Students Association. This student association is currently inactive and Folau is working alongside SciSA President, Talisa to resurrect it.
- AUSA EVP reminded the Student Council that 3 major policies are currently up for consultation. She asks that every faculty association discuss these policies with their executive and submit a submission should they wish to criticise, change or comment on these policies. She says that these policies will come back as an Agenda item for the Student Council to discuss in groups in great depth so that the Student Council can collectively provide a submission as well. The 3 policies up for Consultation are:
  - [Resolution of Student Academic Complaints Statute - DRAFT](#)
  - [Resolution of Student Academic Complaints Procedures - DRAFT](#)

- [Recording of Teaching Policy and Procedures - Draft](#)

## 8. 02/05/2023 - NEXT MEETING

The next student council meeting will be held on Tuesday 02nd May 2023, 6.00pm. Location: TBC.

**SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD**



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**Alan Shaker (Chair), President of AUSA**