

MINUTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING · 19/09/2023



Location: **303-G16** | 6.00PM - 8:00PM

PRESENT: Noor Randhawa (**AUCSA**), Sarah White (**AUCSA**), Talisa Gan-Setu (**SciSA**), Rhea Yin (**President, AULSS**), Lachlan Pearce (**AUES**) **via Zoom**, Kirti Raju (**ESSA**) **via Zoom**, Juliette Lim (**NZOSS**), Jenny Luo (**AUMSA**), Francine Mula (**MISA**), Celesti Tan (**AUPHSA**), Julia Stjarnhage (**PGSA**), Alan Shaker (**President, AUSA**), Qun Ma (**WVP, AUSA**), Folau Tu'inukuafe (**EnVP, AUSA**), Amol Kumar (**Treasurer-Secretary, AUSA**), Varsha Ravi (**EVP, AUSA**), Marguerite Sandleback (**QSC Rep, AUSA**).

IN ATTENDANCE: Angeline Xiao (**President of Women in Science**), Maureen Volentras (**Co President of Pacific Island Law Students Association (PILSA)**), Maketi Ulufonua (**Co-Treasurer of AUPISA**), Malia Lui (**Co-Treasurer of AUPISA**), Tayla-Rae Hall (**President of Commerce 'O Pasifika**), Lahaina Toleafoa (**President of Auckland Univeristy Cook Island Students Association (AUCISA)**), Will Ilaoa (**Public Relations Offcier of Tongan Association University of Auckland (TAUA)**), Kavika Sione (**Member of Malosi Project & Univeristy of Auckland Samoan Students Association (UASSA)**), Mele Ame Pasi (**Secretary of TAUA**), Aiden Tukuitonga Samasoni (**President of Auckland Univeristy Niue Aga Fakamotu Association (AUNAFa)**), Cecelia Wacokecoko (**Sports Officer of AUPISA & Communications offcier for AUCiSA**), David Fulton (**General Manager, AUSA**), Blake Monk (**Advocacy Manager, AUSA**), Martin Shepherd (**Senior Projects Lead: Enabling Environment**), Gillian Lewis (**Directory of The Sustainability Hub**), Peter Shand (**CFT Academic Lead**), Justin Horan (**Assocaiate Director of Student Hubs and Client Services**), Avette Kelly (**Academic Engagement Manager**) & Mel Wall (**CFT Co- Lead**)

LATE:

APOLOGIES: Anna Sue (**AUGSS**), La-Marie Fernandez (**President, SUPA**), Ivan Zhang (**SOMSA**), Madeleine Roe (**APSA**), Hala Barakat (**UoA Council Rep**), Kelly Misiti (**PGO, AUSA**), David Tuifua (**PISO, AUSA**), Layba Zubair (**WRO, AUSA**) & Mahek Nagar (**ISO, AUSA**).

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS (TIME & DURATION)

1.1. *Welcome, Opening Karakia and Introductions*

1.2. *Apologies.*

- Apologies were received from:
 - Anna Sue (**AUGSS**)

- *La-Marie Fernandez (President, SUPA)*
- *Ivan Zhang (SOMSA)*
- *Madeleine Roe (APSA)*
- *Hala Barakat (UoA Council Rep)*
- *Kelly Misiti (PGO, AUSA)*
- *David Tuifua (PISO, AUSA)*
- *Layba Zubair (WRO, AUSA)*
- *Mahek Nagar (ISO, AUSA).*

1.3. Declarations of Interest.

- No declarations of interest.

1.4. Previous Minutes.

- No corrections needed and minutes accepted.

2. PRESENTING PLANS FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF LEVEL 1 & M OF GEN LIB.

- Justin Horan (Associate Director Student Hubs & Client Services) and Avette Kelly (Academic Engagement Manager) presented their final plans for the redevelopment of level 1 & M of the General Library.
 - There will be major upgrades in the student study spaces in terms of:
 - Improved quality of furniture.
 - Better lighting.
 - Improved connectivity (WIFI).
 - More Power Outlets.
 - Increased number of Pacific and Maori Spaces.
 - More breakout rooms available for bookings.
 - Renovations will begin in the first week of October and will finish before O' Week 2024.
 - Other Spaces will be made available as a temporary study space.
 - Most likely ground floor.
 - Features:
 - Maori and Pacific elements to be incorporated into design.
 - Spaces to showcase student work.
 - Space will be bookable for events.
 - Lowlying bookshelves to allow for natural light.
 - L1 and M will not be quite spaces.
 - Epsom Campus.
 - Epsom campus will be shutdown and its resources will come to Level 1.
 - Level 1 will have children's books and will be a great place for kids.
 - Additional Information:
 - You will be able to eat on both levels.

- Full time staffing is being investigated.
- Booking Process:
 - There will be a booking process for space.
 - They will also aim to streamline AV hire.
- Mobile TV Screens will be in the space.
- AUPISA and NTM were consulted regarding design.
- Disability services were consulted about disability resources needed in space.

3. GRADUATION & GRADUATION SURVEY

- Martin Shepherd (Senior Projects Lead, Enabling Environment) engaged in discussion/feedback with the Student Council regarding Graduation Ceremony and the Graduation Survey structure & questions.
 - Key Points:
 - A major issue has been many people and families leaving graduation early which leaves a small crowd for the people graduating at the end.
 - This is both sad and disrespectful.
 - There are about 900 students per graduation ceremony which takes about 3 hours to complete.
 - A working group was set up to address this issue. SC also gave feedback:
 - A key point was to always remind people that graduation is about celebrating each person for their achievement and not about efficiency.
 - There should be some sort of celebration both before and after.
 - Reintroduction of the graduation procession will be nice.
 - Doing an entire faculty in one session rather than separate ones.
 - Possibly doing short graduations with less students.
 - This will mean that there will be that academic staff may be invited in place of other university officials due to scheduling constraints.
 - SC sees no issue with this.
 - The introduction of valedictorian or a successful alumnus.
 - More emphasis on correctly pronouncing names.
 - Maybe get a professional speaker.
 - Audio on pronunciation.
 - Implementation of technology.
 - Having majors read.
 - Only announcing first class honours.
 - Having PhD students go first so they are not left with an empty stadium as the majority of graduates are undergrads.

- Also knowing their research as it is disrespectful to them for their thesis to be mispronounced considering how much time they spent on it.
- Allowing for 2 Regalias.
 - 2023 was a bit more relaxed on this.
 - Will be good to publicise this a little bit more.
- Stage Presence.
 - Would rather have people students know than Council.
 - For student reps from AUSA, NTM and AUPISA to be on stage.

4. SUSTAINABILITY -

- Gillian Lewis (Director of Sustainability Hub) would like to share with the Student Council the recent updates surrounding Sustainability at the University.
 - UoA wants to be net0 carbon emissions by 2030.
 - UoA wants to focus on the SDG goals.
 - Biggest issue at University is pollution due to flights. Academics and International students contribute to this and UoA takes responsibility for this.
 - Gillian asked Student Council about how UoA can focus on better sustainability:
 - Using more technology to better track KPIs when it comes to rubbish.
 - We can have faculties competing with each other when it comes to recycling and reducing waste.
 - Focusing on the free fares campaign.
 - Will get more people off the road and into a form of transport that is not as carbon emitting.
 - Having a Travel policy.
 - Sustainability cannot always be put first especially when it comes to equity issues.
 - Eg when it comes to the Universities period poverty approach, pads are much more convenient than cups especially for emergency situations.
 - How can we communicate this?
 - Social Media.
 - Students also want to see how things directly impact them. It will be good to see methods to hold people accountable.
 - These initiatives need to be much more viable.
 - There is a disconnect between students and the university and how we are working towards the CDG together.
 - This needs to be fixed.

5. WAIPAPA TAUMATA RAU COURSE - CFT

- Mel Wall (CFT Co-Lead, Waipapa Taumata Rau Course) engaged with the Student Council to gain an insight regarding how best to engage with Faculties when developing this course.
 - Key points:
 - A brief overview of the Waipapa Taumata Rau Course was given.
 - 15 points contributing to GPA.
 - Compulsory from 2025.
 - Will be a class where students can connect with one another as well as build soft skills.
 - The course will be slightly different depending on your degree.
 - Core degree knowledge will be implemented in this.
 - Knowledge about New Zealand and the values of this country will also be incorporated.
 - Feedback was given on how we can better engage with students:
 - More Labs/Tutorial style classes.
 - Work alongside student associations and clubs.
 - Science and Arts will be piloting this next year.
 - The course will try to improve the student experience.
 - Questions arose on how this course can be a selling point on your CV:
 - Your Degree is only important for your first job.
 - No one will look at your transcript after this.
 - This course will help you land a job from the skills you learn from this.
 - Can this course have a pōwhiri?
 - Historically this was done at the marae but due to H&S issues it no longer occurs.
 - It happens in lecture theatres now.
 - A virtual pōwhiri has been created for this course.

6. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

- Items skipped due to time constraints.

7. REMINDERS & OTHER MATTERS

- An opportunity to bring up any other business.
 - This is the second to last student Council.
 - The last Student Council will also include the next generation of presidents so AUSA asks for handover info to be passed to us.
 - Student Council Dinner left.
 - Monday 13th November 6PM.

The next student council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th October 2023, 6.00pm. Location: TBC

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.01PM

SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD



Alan Shaker (Chair), President of AUSA