

MINUTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING · 16/04/2024



Location: 109-G07 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Present: Alan Shaker (President, AUSA) (Chair), Sarah White (Treasurer-Secretary, AUSA), Layba Zubair (EVP, AUSA), Jade Butler (EnVP, AUSA), Yueyang Chen (ISO, AUSA), Ben Bonné (PGO, AUSA), Te Tuhiwhakaura o te Rangi Wallace-Ihakara (MSO, AUSA), Jimah Ruland-Umata (MSO, AUSA), Anna Sue (WRO, AUSA), Jack Towers (President, AUES), Louis Hewitson-Townley (President, President, ASA), Ayolabi Martins (President, AUDSA), Isabel Possenniskie (President, AUGSS), Will Dalzell (President, AULSS), Lachlan Markovina (President, AUMSA), Nicole Lay (Co-President, AUPHSA), Ruchitha Narayan (Co-President AUCSA, on behalf of Co-President Thomas George), Emily McIntosh (Co-President, NASA) on behalf of Co-President Amelia Brown, Hector Leong (President, OPTOM), Jack Chen (Co-President, SCISA on behalf of Co-President Anotida Chitando), Ivan Zhang (President, SOMSA), Julia Stjärnhage (President, PGSA), Hala Barakat (UOA Council Rep), Raewyn Wang (President, MISA), Mandy Peng (Co-President, SUPA on behalf of Co-president Carmen Tan)

Apologies: Jenny Lyu (President, AUPSS), Kirti Raju (President, ESSA), June Jeong (President, SAMS), Jennifer Setefano (WVP, AUSA).

In attendance: David Fulton (GM, AUSA), Mauricio Lozano (Student Voice Manager, AUSA), Rose Akkerman (Vice President APSA, on behalf of Tiran Archary), Bridget Kool (Pro Vice-Chancellor Education), Mark Thomson and Eilidh Thorburn (Student Disability Services), Nicky Rawnsley (Associate Director for Library Services -Learning, Teaching & Research), Valerie Linton (Provost).

Not Present: Raewyn Wang (President, MISA), Luna Lyra le Fay (QRO, AUSA), Andrea Vaai (PISO, AUSA), Celesti Tan (Co-president, AUPHSA).

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1. Welcome and opening Karakia.

1.2. Apologies

1.3. Declarations of Interest.

- None Declared.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

CHAIR / EVP:

THAT the minutes of the Student Council 20th February and 19th March be adopted as a true and accurate record. *Carried unanimously.*

3. SPECIAL PROCEDURES CONDITIONS

- Presented by Mark Thomson and Eilidh Thorburn from Student Disability Services.

Growth in the number of students with disabilities at University.

50% increase likely due to better reporting. Important as the retention rates are lower. Students who access support do achieve better reported academic outcomes.

- Assessment adjustments, and transfer these conditions from school to University.
- Policy on special conditions but no implementation procedures at the moment. Inconsistent student experience, especially across faculties.
- The exam office does this for students unless certain variations are requested by the students. More contacting is occurring from Assessment Services to the students to clarify conditions.
- Some faculties do this automatically; some do not. What do they do if the student does not get back to them?
- The interaction with a lecturer could be uncomfortable for students and the disclosure of the information for consent purposes needs to be protected.
- There is a policy for lecturers to follow. No procedures. Inclusive learning and teaching guidelines.

Week 6 is the deadline to apply for special conditions; it used to be two weeks.

Suggested this be changed to week 4. Need time to implement this for semester tests. Student Council was generally supportive of this.

Suggested this is automated within the course enrolment to make the process all at once.

Push canvas notification on the homepage.

Communication to staff pilot tool is the disability case management system, it has a separate portal for faculties. This has resources, policies, application forms, and disclosed disabilities.

- Question of response time. 7 days after contact from the lecturer? Is there a risk of the student not seeing it because they are not expecting it? Should this be an opt-out option rather than an opt-in?

Student Council to take this to their faculties for feedback. Within 3-4 weeks - implementation for the end of the year.

4. GRAMMARLY GO

- Presented by Nicky Rawnsley (Associate Director for Library Services -Learning, Teaching & Research).

Premium licence funded by the University, up to 40,000 users. Currently, 36,000 students.

Grammarly Go is an AI co-creator.

- Instruction, ideation prompts.
- Currently available on free accounts too, but a limited version.
- Premium accounts have 1000 prompts per month. We have an educational licence so can turn it off or on; currently, it is off.
- Academic prompts - used for drafts and improving work, but unable to type a prompt and receive an entire essay. The tool does not learn from itself either as some other tools do.
- Can give counter feedback to work submitted.
- Able to export the chain of commands requested.
- Ideation and brainstorming focus.
- Some customisation ability.

Need to go to TLQC.

- Academic integrity is still to be considered.
- Bring to the board of graduates. Graduate profile affect.
- The weighting of some assessments still go into structure – which this tool does for you.
- Equity point of view of accessibility.
- Postgrad vs under-grad impact.
- Takes away from the integrity of the University to enable such a tool.
- Uni of Sydney - two assessment directions: Yes AI, No AI.

5. BRIEFING ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO FACULTIES

- Presented with Valerie Linton, Provost.

Formation of a new faculty; Arts, Education, Social Work and CAI. Engineering may merge some of CAI.

- Information is publicly available.
- Feedback through to the 23rd of April.
- The review panel will look at the feedback and make recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor. There is student representation on the panel.
- Process is still in consultation; it still needs to be confirmed.
- Presented to Council on 12th June.
- Usually takes about two years to work through.
- Arts and EDSW cannot continue how they have been. Even if this is not the decision, something must be done. Not doing anything is not an option as student numbers in these disciplines are decreasing. We want to preserve these and retain programs and choice.
- The government is reviewing the entire tertiary sector and the University wants to be proactive not reactive.
- Think of the identity of the new faculty.
- The concern of losing niche faculties' identities. Concern was from staff also at the FSCC.
- Transdisciplinarity would work within the new faculty.

- Questions were raised of how this affects student-centric staff roles like student advisors. These would remain the same or better with scale.

Comparison with FMHS. Distinct programs and cultures, but a wider faculty culture too.
Question of the measure of success: Student experience, staff and student retention etc.
strategicinitiative@auckland.ac.nz for questions.

6. BRIEFING ON THE AUSA CONSTITUTION

The chair went through the proposed changes.

15 May AGM 1 pm in Shadows! As a reminder, Student Council members are expected to attend and bring five of your Executives.

7. FUNDING

- Presented by Alan Shaker (AUSA President), Sarah White (AUSA Treasurer-Secretary) and David Fulton (AUSA General Manager).
- AUSA is seeking additional funding from the University to better serve our students.
- AUSA is currently one of the worst-funded student associations and are now seeking to be funded to a level that is on par with some of the other Universities and student associations
- Slides will be provided after this meeting.

8. STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

Support needed, and SDS not working?

EVP to provide emails for SDS.

There may be research into the experiences of MBChB students with disabilities. This is not FMHS wide but may still have useful information that could be used to guide further university research and guide policy and decision-making.

9. POSTGRADUATE SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the sub-committee were attached for the Student Council's reference.

PGO raised that in their sub-committee meeting, some students had asked about AUSA's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Student Council agreed that AUSA's statement remains sufficient. FMHS is outside their perspective, but supporting students that directly helps - doctors without borders.

The meeting closed at 8:14 pm.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st May, location TBC.

SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Shaker", written over a horizontal line.

Alan Shaker, Chair of the AUSA Executive.