
MINUTES OF THE AUSA STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2021



ZOOM | 1PM - 2PM

PRESENT: *Anamika Harirajh (President, AUSA), Alan Shaker (EVP, AUSA), Makayla Muhundan (EnVP, AUSA), Ishie Sharma (WVP, AUSA), Alofa So'olefai (Treasurer-Secretary, AUSA), Emma Cooper-Williams (PGO, AUSA), Vivien Whyte (WRO, AUSA), Ash Singh (President, SAMS), Rishi Khattar (President, OPTOM), Hannah Colquhoun-Petherick (President, SciSA), Lucy Collier (President, ESSA), Sam Robertson (President, AUMSA), Blake Scanlen (President, SOMSA), Vira Paky (President, AUGSS), Liam Davies (President, ASO), Nikita Turoa (President, AUPHSA) Junyi Wang (UoA Council Representative)*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Temi Adelekan (Class Rep Manager), Will Watterson (AUSA General Manager), Bridget Kool (PVC Education), Brett, Jeff, and Nicola (Digital Strategy Representatives)*

APOLOGIES: *Kevin Guo (ISO), Lavi Abitbol (QRO, AUSA), Holly Mace (President, ALES), Jessica Kim (President, APSA)*

MEETING COMMENCED 1:08PM

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed each President and attendees.

1.2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR

THAT the AUSA Student Council minutes of the previous Student Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 May be taken as a true and accurate record.

Carried Unanimously

3. DIGITAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Brett, Nicola, and Jeff are presented more on the University's Digital Strategy. Equity, digital dexterity and ease of access and use were the three main themes that the Student Council highlighted at the last

Student Council meeting. The Digital Strategy team are here to consult the Student Council on how this strategy can be used to make the lives of students and lecturers easier. Nicola explains the potential responses to Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusiveness through partnership across the numerous university functions. In addition, partnership with HR will help respond to digital dexterity for the staff. For students, there are a few programs already in place to assist this. Regarding ease of access and use, the main idea is to reduce barriers to collaboration in research and teaching with smooth digital identity services and to provide basic and essential technology utilities to students such as sockets, wireless networking, and physical spaces.

Brett poses the question: What should we prioritise from *Te Rautaki Matihiko* (The University of Auckland Digital Strategy) that will make the greatest difference to you? One of the Presidents is interested to see what the mana-enhancing strategies look like. Brett responds that this is important but wishes to clarify whether the strategy should explicitly state the mana-enhancing.

The standardisation and diversification of courses are very important for FMHS students since approximately 60% of their degrees in later years are primarily digital. Consultation with program-specific tools will be important for this cohort of students. Bridget discusses that this may relate to the use of course-builder, but we need to think about how to transition away by building on the resources used rather than losing resources. She also highlights how we need to ensure that these resources are still accessible by students.

The Chair asks whether the consultation has included the Disability community and what efforts to involve this group of people? To this, Brett informs that they have talked to the Equity office who have been heavily involved, but they want to consult with stakeholders at all levels, especially at the point of implementation and the service designs.

The Chair raises her annoyance with SCG as they are not the best group to represent the student body. The AUSA Student Council was created for the purpose of representing all groups of students – academic and equity groups – for University consultation and to raise concerns from different faculties and equity group. The Executive elected in each faculty are mandated to provide feedback on strategies and projects that the University is working on. Bridget mentions that she is working on a framework regarding student consultation as this is not the most evident for the University.

Brett questions the best ways to communicate with, engage with, partner with students around the implementation of *Te Rautaki Matihiko* (The University of Auckland Digital Strategy)? The Chair responds that AUSA Student Council is perfect for this. If you are just looking for general feedback, there are many ways to get this either informally through a BBQ in front of AUSA House, or through distribution among the Student Council. Temi raises that we also have over 3,000 class reps that can talk to their classmates about the strategy.

Brett raises practically, what are the ways that we can engage with the student body with the launch of the strategy? Tanuvi voices that the university doesn't really engage in a student-friendly way. Students don't really have time to read documents and a summary doesn't do a disservice. Interactive videos, buzzwords on a poster, etc. infographics and flow charts. When asked how this could be achieved, Tanuvi suggests that social media is one of the most influential ways for the current student body. She suggests the AUSA page but not What's on at Auckland Uni as it does not have a wide reach. Student Council also has their own private groups for their respective faculties so they would be willing to share this on their private pages.

The Chair says that AUSA summarised the Strategic Plan and sent 1 paper to students for them to provide feedback on. This was commonly more read than the actual plan as it outlined the basics: here's what the University is trying to achieve, and this is how they're going to try and achieve that. Anamika suggests partnering with AUSA. They can send it to the student council and to Temi through the Class rep list, they have Craccum, the AUSA EDM, and their social media outreach. For more information.

Is there anything that Brett and the team should be doing? Blake says that it's good that they are picking up what they said before about upskilling the staff. It's well and good that the tech is there, but if they aren't using it then there is no point (digital dexterity).

Are there any other ways that we can communicate this? Temi says that the best way to reach students is through collaboration. Nikita brings up the point that students can just say something before the lectures begin or after and since it's on the recording students would be listening to it.

BRETT, JEFF, AND NICOLA LEAVE THE MEETING 1:46PM

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1. *Re-Orientation*

The AUSA Engagement Vice President discusses the planned activities for Re-Orientation. The plan for orientation. The AUSA Officers spoke on behalf of their sections with the AUSA Operations plan – Student Voice, Student Experience, and Student Support.

4.2. *AUSA Elections*

Nominations are coming up for the AUSA Elections. Over the years AUSA has been able to do many great things due to the students and how great the elections were last year. Will encourages the Student Council to share the elections and to also nominate those who they think will be great for the next Executive.

4.3. *Frenzi Pub Crawl*

Frenzi are a group of people who specialise in hosting social events and they are looking to host a pub crawl with university students. The Student Council is encouraged to sign up and take part to enhance the student culture and to bond with other students. Makayla will send out an email tonight with the relevant details.

4.4. *Curriculum Transformation*

The VC is currently putting together a team who will be tasked with bringing the educational and student engagement operational plan to life. 4-5 staff members per faculty are released 4 days a week to work on this. They will have Maori and Pacific input, sustainability input. This taskforce will continue for approximately 6 months to review the graduate portfolio of those who go to the university. The reviewed changes are estimated to be released by 2024. She has already engaged with NTM and AUSA.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next Student Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 March, 6pm. Location to be confirmed.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7:40PM

SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anamika Harirajh", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Anamika Harirajh, Chair of the AUSA Student Council