

# MINUTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING · 23/07/2024



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), Ben Bonn  (PGO, AUSA), Sara Mckoy (Acting WRO, AUSA), Te Tuhiwhakaura o te Rangi Wallace-Ihakara (MSO, AUSA), Jimah Ruland-Umata (MSO, AUSA), Jack Towers (President, AUES), Ayolabi Martins (President, AUDSA), Isabel Possenniskie (President, AUGSS), Will Dalzell (President, AULSS), Lachlan Markovina (President, AUMSA) via Zoom, Nicole Lay (Co-President, AUPHSA, on behalf of Co-President Celesti Tan), Ruchitha Narayan (Co-President AUCSA, on behalf of Co-President Thomas George), Kirti Raju (President, ESSA) via Zoom, Emily McIntosh (Co-President, NASA) on behalf of Co-President Amelia Brown, Hector Leong (President, OPTOM), Raewyn Wang (President, MISA), Jenny Lyu (President, AUPSS), Mandy Peng (Co-President SUPA, on behalf of Co-president Carmen Tan)

**Apologies:** David Fulton (GM, AUSA), Andrea Vaai (PISO, AUSA), Jennifer Setefano (WVP, AUSA), Louis Hewitson-Townley (President, ASA), Tiran Archary (President, APSA), June Jeong (President, SAMS), Jack Chen and Anotida Chitando (Co-Presidents, SCISA), Ivan Zhang (President, SOMSA), Hala Barakat (UOA Council Rep).

**In attendance:** Mauricio Lozano (Student Voice Manager, AUSA), Peter Shand (CFT Lead), Alan Wu (Craccum News Editor), David Hayward (Academic Quality Office), Steve Leichtweis (Head of the eLearning Group, Ranga Auaha Ako | Learning & Teaching Design Team), Gemma Sinclair (Product Manager, Digital Services), Justin Horan (Associate Director, Student Hubs).

**Not Present:** Julia Stj rnhage (President, PGSA), Luna Lyra le Fay (QRO, AUSA).

## 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, Tuesday 25th June 2024, be adopted as a true and accurate record.

*Carried unanimously.*

### 3. BRIEFING ON THE NEW STUDENT ACADEMIC COMPLAINTS STATUTE AND PROCEDURES

Presented by David Hayward.

- The existing statute was made in 2012 and covers academic complaints. This will be replaced by the two documents: principles and procedures, as attached to the agenda.
- Scope of complaints: Admissions to programs are no longer in scope. Disputes for programs will later be fitted in per program; this statute is not to cover that.
- Marking is not in scope. Failing in how the assessment has been designed is in scope. This is clarified better in this statute. Delivery of courses and post-grad supervision included.
- There is a 3-month time limit for making a complaint.
  
- Informal and formal processes - acknowledging that in many situations, informal processes will be faster and have less risk if they work. If the informal process is inappropriate, then can have the formal process. The 3-month limit does not apply here if you have been through the informal process and then switched to a formal one. Informal is not prescribed what that looks like.
- Have the ability to compile complaints - multiple students, for efficiency. However, individuals still get individual resolutions.
- Role of the academic head - key individuals to receive and undertake an investigation. Conflict of interest is made clear in the new statute.
- Right to respond and request a review - handled by Provost.
- Better record and gives a report on the complaints to key committees - such as SCG.
- The policy is inclusive for students and safe and free from bias. AUSA advocacy team would be informed on how to navigate the processes in order to assist students.
- The system is not yet set up. Work with AUSA to make sure Advocacy is up to date with any portal that gets set up for accessibility.

### 4. UPDATE ON CANVAS BASELINE PRACTICES PROJECT

Presented by Steve Leichtweis (Head of the eLearning Group, Ranga Auaha Ako | Learning & Teaching Design Team)

The goal has been to create consistency regardless of faculty, on Canvas pages.

- The project is coming to an end.
- Has been underway in most faculties except for medical and health sciences.

- Templates can be downloaded into the courses to provide ease for the course coordinators.
- Started with stage one and two courses. Positive feedback. Staff understand the need for accessibility.
- About 600 courses have been updated, end of year, about 700. Over 3000 courses at the University. Quality assurance is hard - this is where student feedback comes in. Then turned over to faculties to complete and do this themselves. Staff have been trained. Student voice and feedback are critical for this.
- Accessibility issues with pictures and cartoons.

How do we ensure that this baseline is maintained?

- No question in SET to provide that feedback.
- Could have question prompts for class reps on canvas.
- No one at the university holds the academics accountable for this canvas change.
- The lecturer should be able to make changes based on feedback.
- Templates provided directly to class reps? What it should look like.
- Question regarding Gen AI and canvas. Canvas chatbox as a search button is a function that is looking to be included in the future.

## 5. CANVAS UPDATES

An update from Gemma Sinclair (Product Manager, Digital Services), around enabling personal pronouns on Canvas.

- Pronoun options were checked and confirmed with the Student Engagement team. It is a dropdown box of options. PVC Equity advised on the communication plan.
- Shows up in discussions, the people tab, own profile and user settings. Instructors can see in a few other areas.
- Users can edit in settings.
- To advertise in the Teachwell newsletter and the Loop.
- A canvas announcement could be good. (Note that this has since been actioned).

## 6. UPDATE ON THE NEW LIBRARY SPACES

Presented by Justin Horan (Associate Director, Student Hubs).

The new library spaces have been completed and thus far received good reviews.

- Students can book on demand to make space for studying using a QR code.
- Māori and Pasikifa collection and space. Work with student groups to use and book the spaces. Engagement advisors working with students.
- Reo space for practising Te Reo.

- Feedback has been listened to, such as adding height to some tables to fit the chairs better.
- More tables were purchased, so students aren't moving them around when needed.
- Committing to a semester review.
- Monitors for the booking system are there to let you know when the space is free. On pillars. Working to draw more attention to the screens.
- Touch screens could be used for bookings like in the Davis Library.
- Justin to check if rooms are locked on weekends.
- Intent to continue this work on other floors; however, the question is on the life of this building and whether it is worth the investment if a new building is being considered.

## 7. CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK TRANSFORMATION

There are six new Transdisciplinary Futures courses, making 12 in total. The list of courses being reviewed for approval were discussed in the previous Student Council meeting.

- Migration futures
- Democracy
- War and Peace
- AI and society
- Our place in space
- Hazards
- Environmental Future
- Contemporary sexualities
- Lifestyle Behaviours
- Health and Wellbeing
- Future Food
- Renewable Energy Transition

There will likely be 3 cycles for each course, then the course reviewed. Students will be giving feedback right from the very beginning. Looked at the graduate profile in the making of these changes.

## 8. UPDATES FROM THE STUDENT VOICE MANAGER

Nominations for elections are open! These are open for two weeks.

9 am 12 August - 23rd August voting.

Please get in touch with the AUSA Student Voice Manager if you have any questions about positions, processes or election timelines.

## 9. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

No minutes attached or to provide an update on.

AUSA has appointed an Acting WRO; please join us in welcoming Sara Mckoy to the team!

AUSA International Week is the week of the 5th of August! Get involved and attend the club events.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The AUSA Open forums will be held on the 13th of August, 6-8 pm.

Opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions of the University, directing to relevant University staff.

- Roundtable discussions.
- Closing the loop
- Open to club executives. (Note: since this meeting, the forums have now been opened to all students).
- Please register with the link provided to you.

## 11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 20th August at 6pm. Location TBC.

***The meeting closed at 7:54 pm.***

SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD



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Alan Shaker, Chair of the AUSA Executive.