MINUTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING 25.02.2025

Location: 315.101 | 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Present: *Gabriel Boyd (President, TRK AUSA & Chair), Matthew Lee (UGEVP, TRK AUSA), Fania Kapao (PGEVP, TRK AUSA), Praneel Gupta (FoVP, TRK AUSA), Lola Afeaki (WEVP, TRK AUSA), Kalana Piramanage (EnVP, TRK AUSA), Artie Ho (QRO, TRK AUSA), Emelia Martin Moses (WRO, TRK AUSA), Hisham Haq (ISO, TRK AUSA), Ayolabi Martins (DRO, TRK AUSA), Mick McDonough (PGO, TRK AUSA), Suzy Jung (APSA), Jessica Luo (AESA), Amelia Eden Orr (AESA), Matilda Fletcher (AUES), Rebecca Gladstone (AUGSS), Apurva Anand (AULSS), Daniel Lavin (AUMSA), Sankalp Lanka (AUPHSA), Aurora Chen (AUCSA), Prag Prasad (MISA), Egao Yamaguchi (NASA), Joanna Cao (OPTOM), Dylan Jon Evaristo (SAMS), Zhitong Li (SciSA), Alanah Jones (SOMSA), Antony Lu (SUPA)*

Online: *Brianna Verspeek (AUCSA), Olivia Lee (DSA), Isabella Bunyan (AUPSS)*

In Attendance: *David Fulton (General Manager, TRK AUSA), Mauricio Lozano (Student Voice Manager, TRK AUSA), Abhi Gandhi (Student Representative Advisor, TRK AUSA), Bridget Kool (Pro-Vice Chancellor Education), Gemma Sinclair (Product Manager - Education and Student Experience), FaAfuhia Fia (Council Rep), Te Hira Mayall-Nahi (Craccum)*

Absent: *Hiwa Majurey (MSO, TRK AUSA), Matiu Rei (MSO, TRK AUSA), Ronette Va'ai (PISO, TRK AUSA), Ken Hu (AUES), Sandra Heruela (AUPHSA), Cameron Dobbs (SUPA), Supreet Kaur (SciSA)*

PRELIMINARY MATTERS
6:00 - 6:20

Address by TRK AUSA President, EVP

- Welcome and opening Karakia by Matthew
- Apologies by Gabriel
- Terms of Reference – No questions, concerns, or objections. The ToR thereby passed unanimously. Discussed briefly by Matthew. Gabriel highlighted a couple

of expectations to highlight the importance of the SC as well as to set standards for the attending members of meetings for the entire year.

– Student Rep Adviser briefing

UPDATES BY PRO VICE CHANCELLOR EDUCTAION
6:20 - 6:40

Address by Bridget Kool

– **Enrolment Numbers**

Enrolment numbers are on the rise. A special thank you was extended to the Student Council (SC) members for their exceptional efforts, going above and beyond their roles as students.

– **Taumata Teitei**

An introduction to Taumata Teitei was provided, outlining its significance in the university's strategic planning, particularly in relation to education and student experience. The reintroduction of the CFT (Curriculum Framework and Teaching) was discussed, highlighting its four core elements. New elements will be rolled out this year. A pilot of the WTR (Work-Integrated Learning) course was conducted last year, with feedback gathered for review. The council is currently reviewing three elements: WTR, transdisciplinary courses, and flexi choice. Draft recommendations are under review by the faculty and will be presented to the Senate before returning to the Council. The status of these elements includes:

- o **WTR:** Approved
- o **Transdisciplinary Courses:** Pushed to 2027
- o **Flexi Choice:** Pushed to 2027

A review of the timeline was also conducted.

– **Student Academic Complaints System/Statute**

An overview of the new Student Academic Complaints System was given, explaining its purpose and the need for its implementation. A complaints portal will be established with an online form that ensures complaints are directed to the appropriate individual based on context. Volunteers (6-10 students) are being sought to assist with the system, with a compensation of $30 each. Additionally, two students will be called to join the steering committee, starting in March and continuing through the year.

– **Questions and Clarifications:**

– **WTR Course Setup:** A question was raised by an SC member regarding the setup of the WTR course. It was clarified that the WTR course is designed

specifically for undergraduate students, though some digital artefacts will be made available to postgraduate students.

- **Student Academic Complaints System:** A question was posed regarding how the system would set expectations for students from diverse backgrounds. This concern is under consideration, and further discussion will take place on how best to address it.
- **Transdisciplinary Courses:** There was an inquiry about the setup and expectations for transdisciplinary courses. Details are still being developed, and further updates will be shared.
- **WTR Course and GPA Impact:** A question was raised about how the WTR course will impact the GPA. Bridget provided an update that discussions are ongoing regarding this matter, with pros and cons still being evaluated.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to address these issues and provide further updates as needed.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE UPDATES
6:40 - 7:10

Address by Gemma Sinclair

- **Canvas Contract Renewal**
  The Canvas contract has been renewed for another 5 years. This renewal will bring several benefits and new provisions for students. Training is currently underway, and further feedback and details will be provided once available.
- **Canvas Inbox Update**
  The Canvas Inbox feature will no longer be available due to a security incident involving phishing that compromised student security. The issue, actions taken, risks, and mitigation strategies were discussed. It was recommended that the TLQC team implement two-factor authentication for both Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) and students to improve security.
- **Ed Discussion Overview**
  Some faculties have already been using Ed Discussion, and the platform is now being extended to all faculties as a replacement for Piazza. A pilot study showed that Ed Discussion outperforms Piazza, prompting the decision to make the switch.
- **Lucid Suite Integration into Canvas**
  Staff are being encouraged to transition from using Padlet to the Lucid Suite within Canvas for greater consistency across platforms.

- **Access AI Summary Tool on Panopto Trial**
  The AI summary tool for Panopto is currently in a trial phase, and a survey has been conducted to assess its accuracy and quality. The results of the survey were discussed, with student feedback being more positive than staff feedback, although overall responses were mixed, and the response rate was low.
- **Questions and Clarifications:**
- **AI Summarization Tool Accuracy:** A question was raised regarding the accuracy of the AI summarization tool, considering that some staff members had disabled the tool. This concern is being addressed, with further evaluation and improvements ongoing.
- **Captions on Videos/Lecture Recordings:** There was a question about the university's efforts to improve captions on videos and lecture recordings. This is an ongoing priority, and efforts are being made to enhance captioning for better accessibility.
- **Extension of the AI Summary Trial:** A question was raised about the possibility of extending the AI summary tool trial. It was confirmed that the trial was for 30 days, and no extension is planned at this stage.
- **Use of AI – Rules and Regulations:** The use of AI tools, including summarization tools, raised concerns about fairness and regulations. A discussion took place about ensuring that AI is used fairly for all students, with guidelines to be clarified.
- **Inclusion of Visual Aids in AI Summary via Panopto:** There was a query regarding whether the AI summary tool would be able to incorporate visual aids or images into the summaries. This feature is being considered for future development.
- **AI Summarization – Student vs. Staff Preferences:** A question was raised about what would happen if students wanted AI summaries, but the staff member did not. The university's stance is that student preferences will take precedence in such cases, as part of the effort to prioritize student needs.
- **Piazza Replacement Costs:** A concern was raised about the expenditure involved in replacing Piazza, especially considering the unclear value or use of Piazza among students. This will be reviewed as part of the transition to Ed Discussion, with ongoing assessment of the platform's effectiveness.

The meeting concluded with plans to continue monitoring these developments and provide further updates as needed.

Address by TRK AUSA President & EVP

– **Address by AUSA President**

– The AUSA President opened with an update on **ATSA (Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association).** A press release is currently being drafted by a three-person team including the AUSA president and will be released soon. The president discussed the differences between **NZUSA** and **ATSA**, highlighting the price difference and the lack of perceived benefits from NZUSA. Unlike NZUSA, ATSA does not charge a joining fee and operates as a body where presidents volunteer their time to discuss campaigns, updates, and advocate for students' voices. The ATSA website and social media will be shared soon.

– **Supporting the Paid Placements Aotearoa Campaign**

– AUSA President representing UoA is actively involved in the **Paid Placements Aotearoa Campaign**, which addresses gender inequalities in paid placements and other related concerns. A press release about the campaign will be released shortly.

– **Address by EVP (Education Vice President)**

– The UGEVP provided a background on **VSM (Voluntary Student Membership)** and its impact on AUSA. A discussion followed on how the relationship with the university has changed since the introduction of VSM. The AUSA Exec expressed their intention to oppose VSM and advocate for **Universal Student Membership (USM)**. Support from **Otago University Students' Association** was mentioned. Documents outlining the formal intentions and proposals will be released by the AUSA Exec soon. Feedback and suggestions from the SC members were encouraged. The financial benefits of USM for AUSA were discussed, including the potential reduction of student levies currently paid to the university.

– **Open House Initiative**
An initiative to increase student engagement and interaction with the AUSA Exec was introduced, referred to as **Open House**. This initiative will bring AUSA Exec members outside the office and closer to students, encouraging interactions with individual portfolio leaders. Discussions were held regarding potential locations and the frequency of these events.

– **MoU for Campaigns Overview**
The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for campaigns was presented. It will be offered to registered campaigns at the discretion of the AUSA Exec. This MoU aims to strengthen the freedom of expression for students and the role AUSA will play in supporting student campaigns. Feedback and thoughts on the MoU were invited.

- **Suggestions for AUSA Exec Monthly Report Accessibility**
  A suggestion was made to provide a **summary of the report** to make it more concise and accessible for both students and SC members. Additionally, adding a **table of contents** was recommended to improve the ease of reading.
- **Clubs and Content Sharing**
  There were comments on the content and instructions to be shared with clubs, which were addressed by Kalana.
- **Event Suggestions for Grafton Campus**
  A point was raised about holding more events at **Grafton Campus** to increase student participation and engagement. This was discussed further as a potential way to improve outreach.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to follow up on the initiatives mentioned and provide further updates as necessary.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS
7:40– 7:45

- **Proposed Sub-Committees**
  Several sub-committees were proposed to address key areas of student engagement and advocacy:
- **Grafton Campus Engagement Sub-Committee:** This sub-committee will be led by Kalana and will focus on increasing student participation and engagement at Grafton Campus.
- **AI Sub-Committee:** This group will participate in discussions about the use of AI for students. It will represent the student voice in university discussions and forums where AI-related issues are being debated.
- **Overview of Academic Complaints Process**
  An overview of the **academic complaints process**, highlighting the role of AUSA in supporting students at various levels of the complaints and appeals process. This aid is crucial in helping students navigate their complaints effectively.

The meeting concluded with all proposed initiatives being noted, and the respective sub-committees will begin their work shortly.

CLOSING AND CONFIRMATION FOR NEXT MEETING
7:45– 7:50

The next Student Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th March 2025

Location: 315.101 | 6:00PM