



Flinders University Student Council Meeting
Agenda of the Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015.
Meeting Room, Flinders University Student Association.
6:00pm

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FUSA

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Student Council Agenda

Meeting: 3rd November 2015

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- 1. Welcome and Meeting open**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Welcome Guests**
- 4. Accept Minutes of Previous Meeting**
- 5. Reports**

5.1. President January 2015 Report.
Flinders Budget Pressures.

Student council members should be aware that the Vice-chancellor has strangely declared a Flinders budget emergency despite Flinders university being the fastest growing university in South Australia, with an increase of over 5 000 students since 2009. I have had a number of discussions with relevant people in the Flinders community and can state many share the same concerns as I. How can we be in a budget emergency? The university has spent over \$180 million on new building projects and has had steady growth of students and we are more than aware how much the university makes off students.

I am fearful that the VC is positioning himself to attack the hard working staff of our university. The new student council should take a firm position against any job cuts and attacks on wages and conditions of staff. If money is to be saved the starting point should be the VC outrageously high salary. The VC should also join with FUSA in demanding more funding from government. This is an invitation that so far has been ignored – which is disappointing.

Motion: The student council does not support any staff cuts or attacks on wages and conditions in response to any budget shortfall.

The New hub.

The new student hub is exciting for students at Bedford Park and indeed I am sure the SC of 2016 is looking forward to moving into FUSA's new home. However we must remain vigilant to ensure the space is student friendly and controlled. I have continued to raise concerns with the administration in regards to student access and control of the new space. The last thing we need is an Adelaide university situation, where students have no control over their hub space. This means you cannot hand out a leaflet promoting a club event or protest unless the university approves it or you pay the university. I have concerns that non-students events such as fancy corporate events could also be prioritised when any conflict with student events were to occur.

The new hub is meant to be about students and staff, the two groups that make up the core of the Flinders community. For students to be able to use this space, the university must join with FUSA in demanding better welfare provisions for students and a less exploitive situation of international students. Improve this situation and you will have more students on campus. This leads onto the other issue of cheaper food. I still hold grave concerns about a decent selection of affordable food options in the new hub and I know the new SC will keep a watchful eye on food costs.

A final note on the new hub – It was disappointing but not surprising the VC decided to ignore the agreed process of allocation of SSAF funding through a panel process that had equal student and administration representation and unilaterally made the decision to allocate student money from SSAF into some of the capital works at Bedford Park.

Sturt Campus

Sturt campus continues to be a poor cousin in terms of the major Flinders campuses'. I have continued to have correspondence from staff and students at Sturt about some of the appalling conditions there. The latest being about the usability of the toilets. The administration has stated this year that they are planning major works at Sturt and I am sure Caleb and the 2016 SC will continue to keep the pressure up to ensure this occurs.

Lomborg Campaign

We Won! Well done to all the students and staff that contributed to winning the campaign against Lomborg. I had my final interview with Danish media last week 😊

Flinders University – Refugee Welcome zone and scholarships for asylum seekers.

Over 500 names of students and staff have signed the petition supporting the idea of Flinders setting up at least 5 scholarships for Asylum seekers is very heartening. Unfortunately the VC's 'Budget emergency' may be used as an excuse for university not to support.

I have attended many events at Flinders over the last month, two stand out, the Muslim students event about understanding their religion was insightful at this time of heightened anti-Muslim racism and I was fortunate to spend the day at our Victoria Square campus for an event looking at the impact of Domestic violence on young people in the Flinders community.

Concerns regarding academic dates and deadlines

It has been brought to my attention that a number of Flinders students looking to continue postgraduate studies have experienced problems getting correct information in regards to correct processes. One concern was in regards to dates and deadlines. Applications for PHD candidature and scholarships closed on October 31, just days after due dates for honours students, leaving next to no time for the application process. I have spoken to relevant staff however the deadlines are set by the Commonwealth government not Flinders, so this is an issue that FUSA might need to co-ordinate with fellow student associations and national bodies like NUS and CAPA.



5.2. General Secretary Report Bank Account Position: 31 October 2015

Flinders University Student Association	Opening Balance	3,849.33
National Australia Bank, Bank Account	Total Debits	316.00
As at 30/10/2015	Total Credits	
	Closing Balance	4,165.33

Inflow/Outflow transactions

*Note: This statement includes outstanding transactions

Transaction Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
1/10/2015	Balance (c/d)			3,849.33
	Deposit (Construction Party Ticket Sales)*	175.00		
30/10/2015	Paypal Balance (Job Listings)*	141.00		4,165.33
31/10/2015	Closing Balance			4,165.33

SSAF negotiations

The Indigenous Officer and myself were the student council representatives who attended the SSAF funding negotiations with the university administration. This involved preparation in advance – reading a very, very large collection of applications for SSAF funding from just about every area of the university, and for just about every initiative you can imagine, including some really ridiculous ones. I had a meeting with the Indigenous Officer beforehand to go through the documents once more and work out strategy.

The university administration has manufactured a budget crisis (though student enrolments are still fine, and there seemed to be plenty of money to pour into the hub, Tonsley, the VC's exorbitant salary, and the atrocious art in the Laneway), and this means refusing to increase funding where it is needed in a whole range of areas. Underfunded areas of the university only have the option of applying for SSAF funding to cover their needs. This meant that negotiations were tougher than last year. They are made tougher still by the ridiculous student radio issue – the money for student radio never gets spent, and seems to just sit there year after year because it's the pet project of a few people, but it weakens the argument for us to get more of the SSAF funding if there's a huge sum of money that year after year is not spent.

One significant thing to report is that the VC, prior to SSAF negotiations, unilaterally made the decision to take \$100,000 of SSAF funding to put into the Hub. This is outrageous, unfair, and shows blatant disregard for the wishes of students. If the university did not have enough money to build a Hub, it probably should not have built a Hub. Student Council last year took the position that SSAF funding should not be spent on the pet construction projects of uni administrators. I will be writing a motion to reaffirm this position, and I hope to have the support of council once again.

Racism



Just when you think Australia can't get more racist – it does! In the last month, it has been revealed that the Border Force, the Victorian Police, and the Victorian State Government, were not just victims of a poorly worded press release as they claimed. Operation Fortitude, it has been revealed, was indeed intended as a racial profiling exercise, with resources put in place to immediately snatch people off the streets, detain and deport them! I am very pleased that Student Council passed my motion in the last meeting to condemn Border Force, Vic Police, and the Victorian State Government, for their participation in this outrageous and vile racism.

Tony Abbott amazed us all again with his speech to European leaders, urging them to close their borders and turn back the boats. Many Europeans probably wish that the borders would have been closed before Tony Abbott got in. The media has been reporting the case of a refugee on Nauru who was raped, and refused the opportunity to come to Australia for an abortion until her case hit the press. She was then allowed into Australia, but was sent back without her abortion because she requested to speak to a doctor rather than undergo the procedure then and there. Thankfully it looks as if she'll be allowed back, but this case, and the other continuing abuse and scapegoating of refugees legitimizes racism in the minds of many. That's why the Student President, Environment Officer, and myself have been running a campaign for Flinders University to offer scholarships to refugee students, declare the campus a welcome zone, and make public statements welcoming refugees and condemning racism. If implemented, this would not only improve the lives of the individuals offered a scholarship, but also a large institution with a big profile like Flinders taking a stand like this against racism would have a broader ideological impact. We have so far collected hundreds of signatures from staff and students, and spent hours doing so.

This month on campus I was subject to a quite extraordinary attack from a racist. A group of Muslim students witnessed the incident and stepped in. I am very grateful to them and I owe them big time. One of them invited me along to their club event, a Quran exhibition, as a guest speaker, which I attended in my capacity as an activist and as the General Secretary.

This month I have also devoted hours to organizing the next counter rally to Reclaim Australia. Student Council endorsed these counter rallies at a meeting earlier this year, so I have gone ahead and organized the next one alongside the Student President and NUS State Education Officer. The event will be on the 22nd of November. I am pleased to see current and future Student Council members actively commenting on Facebook about the event, it's always great to see racists get trolled, but doing that doesn't mean anything if you don't actually go to the demonstration and help make it as big as possible by promoting it. I would like to see all council members from all factions who oppose racism sharing the Facebook event, putting up posters, and handing out leaflets.

5.3. Education Officer's Report - None Received

5.4. Environment Officer's Report

All were joyed to hear that lomborg would no longer be coming to flinders, or indeed any university in Australia, after it was revealed in the senate that the funding was no longer available. In a bizarre twist of fate, Chris Pyne might've actually been responsible for removing it. He fixed it. He's a fixer.



But in all seriousness, had there been no staff and student campaign against the centre, it'd be established by now. This is rare victory.

The adani carmichael mine site has once again got the go-ahead. Despite the generally-ineffective tactic of taking filthy rich companies to court, it seems the government found them irritating enough to attempt to redefine who has the right to challenge projects such as these based on location. No one with a lawyer lives on the Great Barrier Reef, so good luck there. The significant delays on the project have been enough to give a few investors cold feet, but the project has been re-approved once again.

The national environment officer and I have been in contact over a number of issues. Most notably the continued use of fracking around the country, and the NUS 'land rights, not mining rights' sticker campaign.

The assault on Palestine has deepened, and in addition to some 70 Palestinians having been killed already, some 800 further illegal settlements and roads have been approved for construction. As well as the various industrial zones held by Israeli companies in occupied Palestine (none of which must conform with environmental protection laws), the effects of the assault itself are nearly permanent. A great deal of Palestine's dwindling arable land is covered in segregated roads, and the vast bulk of water available in the west bank is taken by the illegal settlements, some 73% according to amnesty international. Destroyed buildings are often left as is, since construction equipment is scarce, particularly in the west bank.

I've also sent a submission as environment officer to the EPA against the proposed Yeelirrie uranium mine on the lands of the Wangan & Jagalingou people in WA.

5.5. Queer Officer's Report – None Received

5.6. Women's Officer Report

- General administration
 - Regularly updated Women's Collective Facebook and Instagram pages
 - Responded to student emails and queries
 - Advertised events and Women's Collective
- Spoke with next year's elected Women's Officer regarding handover information
- In Her Shoes Anti Poverty Week event
 - Organised event including correspondence with presenters
 - Organised media and Facebook advertising
 - Distributed posters
 - Organised catering
 - Attended event and presented closing speech discussing the role of the FUSA Women's Officer and the Women's Collective on campus
- He Named Me Malala movie night
 - Began organising movie night for end of year Women's Collective celebration
 - Organised pricing of tickets

5.7. International Student's Officer Report – None Received

5.8. Welfare Officer's Report

Mental health week

Much of my time this month was spent organizing and running Mental Health Week with HDC. It went well and was a great opportunity to engage with students and vulnerable group on campus. We gave out free succulents (for when life sucks), had gingerbread people decorating, therapy dogs for students to cuddle/play with, bike operated smoothies, resources, other activities, mental health promises, and live music on the Friday.

Anti poverty week

Student Assist did an amazing job organizing this event. They had free food parcels, stationary, lunch, snacks, and toiletries for students to take, and had ladies from uniting communities to speak about how to reduce utilities costs. This was very well received. I helped for the whole event and with pack up.

Misc

- Student emails
- Brainstorming resource boxes
- Welfare Collective meeting: I held a casual meeting last week. There was a good turn out and students shared what they'd like SC to continue providing in 2016 – namely welfare breakfasts and free yoga.

5.9. Social Activities Officer Report – None Received

5.10. Accessibility Officer's Report – None Received

5.11. Post-Grad Officer's Report

October Post Graduate Report

October 12th 2015 – October 19th 2015: Post Graduate student contacted me as a post grad representative asking for help with tenancy issues so I met her and her husband to discuss tenancy issues and helped them work out a plan. I spoke with her for approximately **2 hours** over the next week and a half and also liaised with ISSU staff and faculty to help them manage the issue with their landlord.

Over the last two weeks I have been liaising with post grad students over a job opportunity for post grad students that has come up from a new international student housing company. I have been writing to, meeting with, and phoning students about this one-off opportunity and have been able to acquire several one-day casual paid positions for post graduate students at Flinders as a representative of the post grad community. This has taken over **3 hours** and is still being managed as the event is November 9th 2015.

I liaised with two post-graduate students who needed help with running for post-graduate officer and international officers. I offered some advice and suggestions and told them how to go about applying for candidacy. The total time spent with these students ended up being **2 hours** approximately.



I met with students from the African association to plan a social event for the end of the year and had regular meetings throughout the month of October. The total time ended up being **3 hours** overall.

I met with a post-grad student who had some questions regarding moving out of her apartment and finalizing her return to her home country this December after graduation. I met with student for two occasions for a total of **2 hours** approximately.

5.12. Indigenous Officer's Report – None Received

5.13. Manager of Student Engagement Report **FUSA Staff**

Student Radio

I have been working towards the appointment of a Student Radio Coordinator. I have completed a draft Position Description. Human Resources have further questions about the role and in particular, the role of the students in the project i.e. the Student Directors and other student volunteers who will be involved in the broadcasting and administration of the station. I have submitted a background paper to Legal Services and am awaiting advice from them to proceed. I will keep Student Council informed of progress.

2016 SSAF Budget Process

The SSAF Budget Advisory Committee (the FUSA General Secretary and Indigenous Officer were in attendance) met on the 7th of October to deliberate over a Draft 2016 SSAF Budget. This budget is still being finalised and will be sent to all students for comment before it is sent to the VC for final approval.

Given that funding requests exceeded funds available, the committee agreed to reduce funding requests from all departments including FUSA. At this stage, we will have approximately \$75,000 reduced from the overall budget of over \$2M and therefore I am confident that this can be absorbed without affecting overall operations. I will forward a proposed revised FUSA/SE Budget once the process has been finalised.

Student Representation Review

Myself, the Student Representation and Development Officer, Education Officer and General Member Jack Harrison attended a workshop outlining a project being led by Professor Sally Varnham, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney. This is an Office of Learning and Teaching Strategic Priority Commissioned Project called '*Student engagement in university decision making and governance - towards a more systemically inclusive student voice*'.

We will be engaging in further discussions with Professor Varnham regarding the prospect of collaborating with her and her team to assist us in our review of student representation mechanisms here at Flinders and the adoption of best practice to ensure that the student voice is present, effective

and meaningful at all levels of the University. The Student Representation and Development Officer and I will be working closely with the Education Officer and Student President around this project.

Student Hub Move

At this stage, FUSA will be moving into the new space in the Hub over the Christmas closure. The Media Officer is working with Building and Property around finalising signage for all FUSA spaces – in consultation with the relevant student groups.

2015 Election

The Student Representation and Development Officer has provided a report (submitted to Student Council) on the 2015 FUSA Election. It is very pleasing to see the significant increase in interest in the election this year. We had a record amount of students nominating for positions (49) and voter turnout has increased by over 80%

	2014	2015
Individual Voters for all Elections	979	1808
Electoral Roll	19411	19667
Percentage	5.043532018	9.193064524

The results can be found here: <http://fusa.edu.au/elections/>

I would like to thank the Returning Officer Associate Professor Mary Heath for the amount of time she committed to the role and also the all of the FUSA staff involved.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the election and to those who won a position in 2016.

Interim Recruitment Freeze

I have received advice from Andrew Parkin – DVC(A) that the Interim Recruitment Freeze introduced by the VC last week does not apply to SSAF funded positions.

The ongoing funding for our student causals is reliant on the SSAF Budget being approved by the SSAF Budget Advisory Committee (after student consultation) and then finally the VC signs off. It's likely that this process will be finalised late Nov/early Dec.

Student Assist Activity Report for October – Prepared by the Team Leader, Student Assist

Casework

The number of students requesting assistance from Student Assist (SA) has remained steady from September, 37 new cases have been opened in October compared to the 40 cases opened in September. The complexity of the issues brought to Student Assist has however increased. The total

hours employed assisting students has increased from 75 to 90 hours, which is a significant increase considering that the team has been understaffed for 25% of the period.

This increase in the complexity of student cases has encompassed a higher degree of mental health incursions into student welfare; protracted cases of academic integrity; other breaches of student conduct and significant difficulties during placements, often ending in termination.

The SAO's and SFAO have assisted with a total of 52 issues (54 in September) comprising Emergency Financial Assistance (13.46%, and down from 18% in September), Requests for remarks (11.53%). Assistance with requests for remission of fees, together with Placement difficulties, Financial Counselling and Loan applications have all been equally represented (9.6%) and they are, after EFA and Requests for assistance with Remarks the 4 most represented issues this month.

In addition, 22 students have contacted the Student Assist general email address for assistance (up from 10 last month). Academic matters generated 72% of the enquiries. Three of these enquiries generated a face-to-face appointment with Student Assist

Students using this medium of communication with Student Assist continue to be mainly domestic (68%) and female (86%).

Case management

Ongoing discussions with Code360 to ensure smooth transition to new CRM platform. Audit underway of current functionality. Proposal being prepared for financial and additional demographic data to be incorporated in new system CASES.

Marketing /Welfare

- Week of the 12th October: Student Assist coordinated Food and Feminine Hygiene product drive during Anti-Poverty Week. Donation boxes were placed at Tonsley, Sturt, FUSA, Flinders Connect and Flinders Living sites and staff/students were encouraged to donate non-perishable food items and female sanitary products.
- 21st October: Antipoverty week at Humanities Courtyard. Uniting Communities also attended and presented Utilities Literacy Information. Up to 40 students engaged with Uniting Communities in meaningful discussions regarding nature of service and information available. Student Assist provided free lunch and drinks along with food parcels, toiletry and stationery items. Event was well received by students and was opportunity to promote financial aid that Student Assist provides throughout the year
- Planning exam campaign: training of casuals

Communications

- Presentation date to staff at the School of Nursing and Midwifery finalised for November
- Discussions underway for Student Council Induction

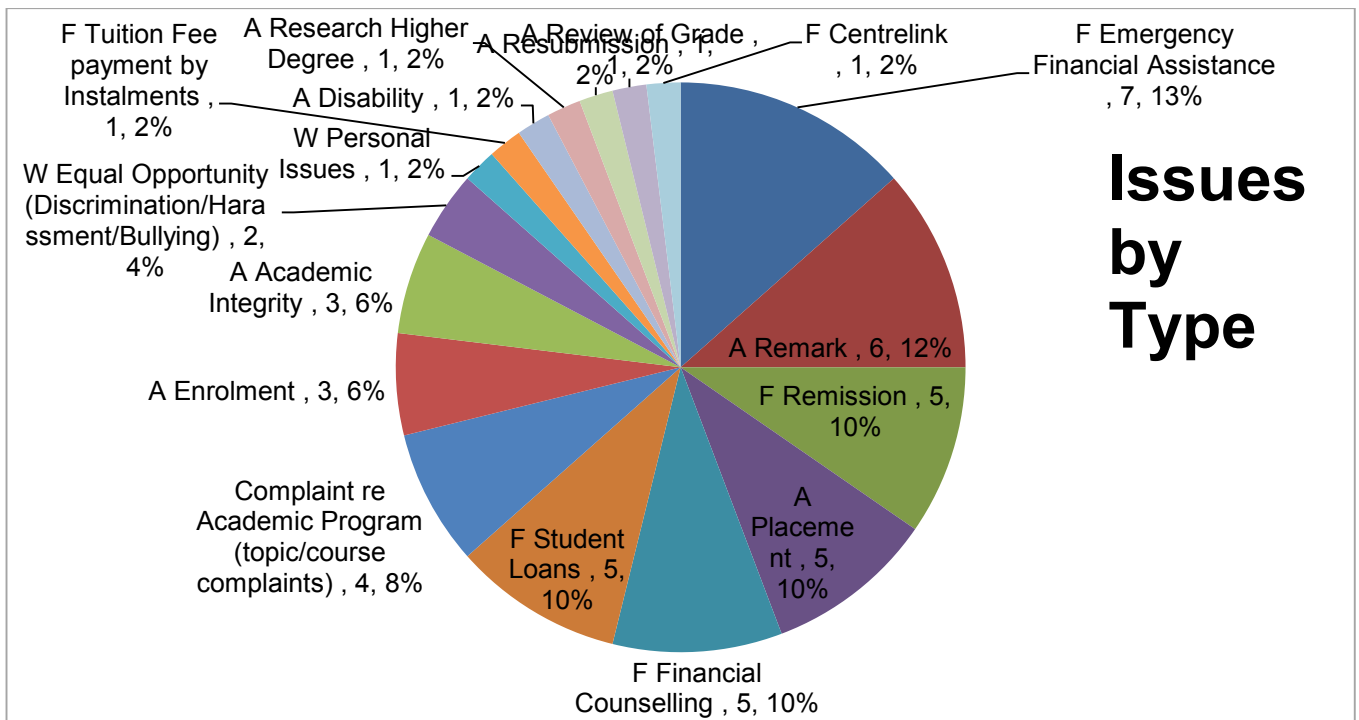
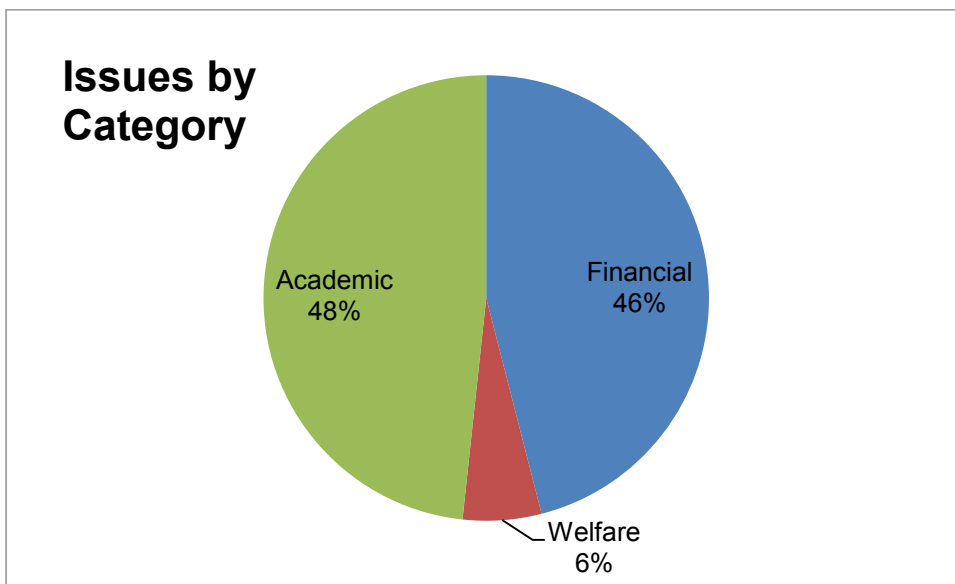


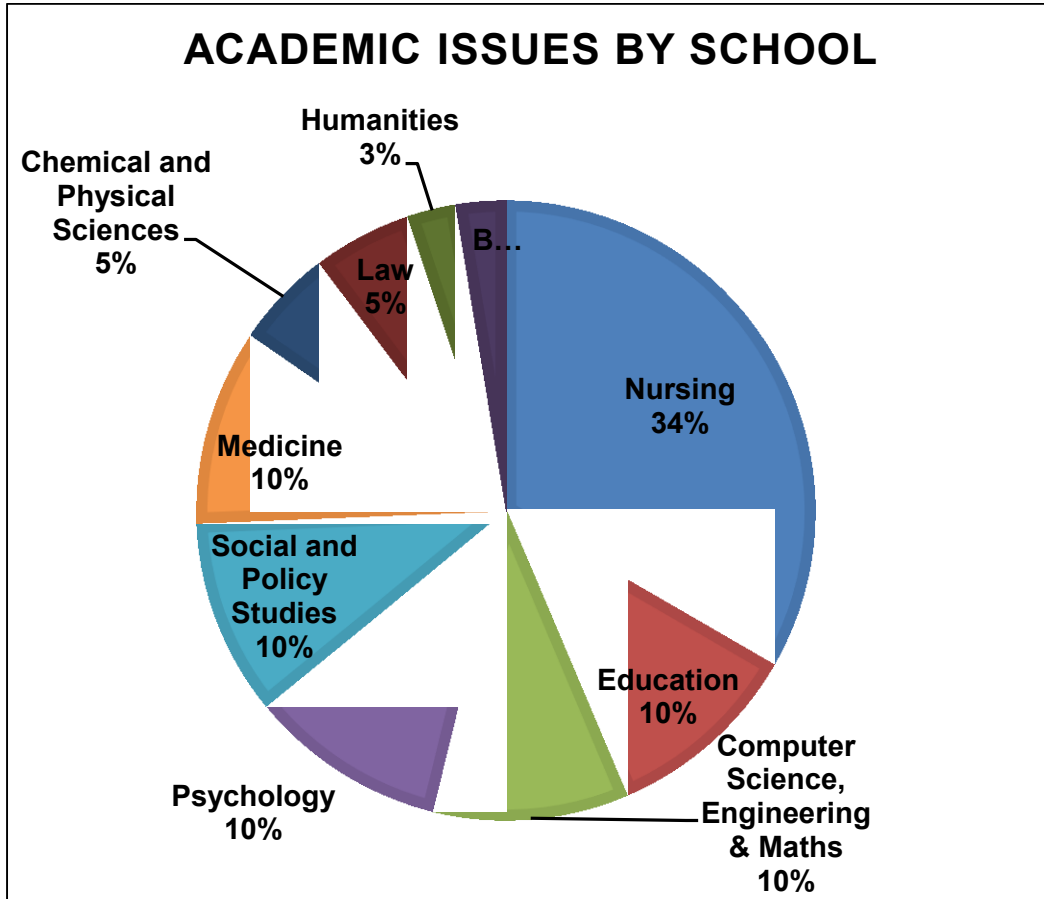
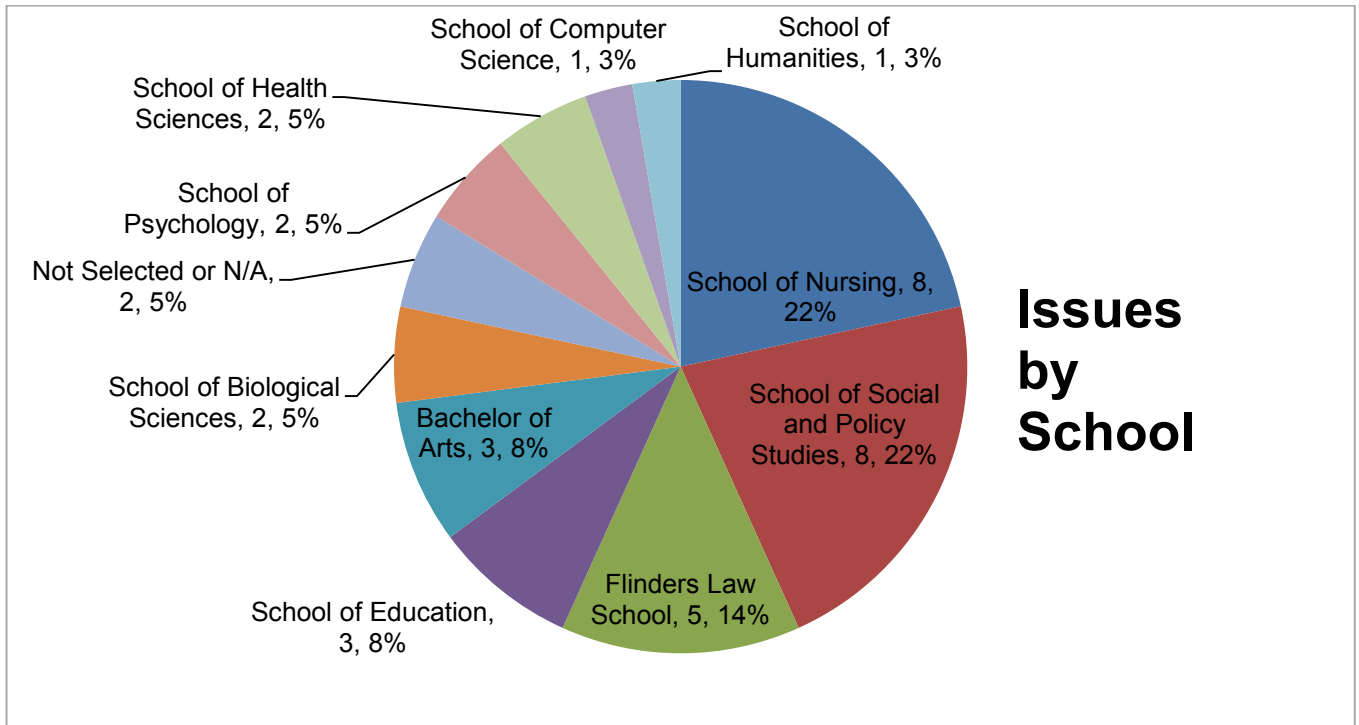
- Report provided to the Office of the PVC (International) regarding Nepalese Second Semester Grant process along with Emergency Financial Assistance that has been provided by Student Assist to these students. We are liaising with Student Finance and ISS to provide more detailed information on the potential for ongoing assistance needing to be provided to this cohort of students into 2016

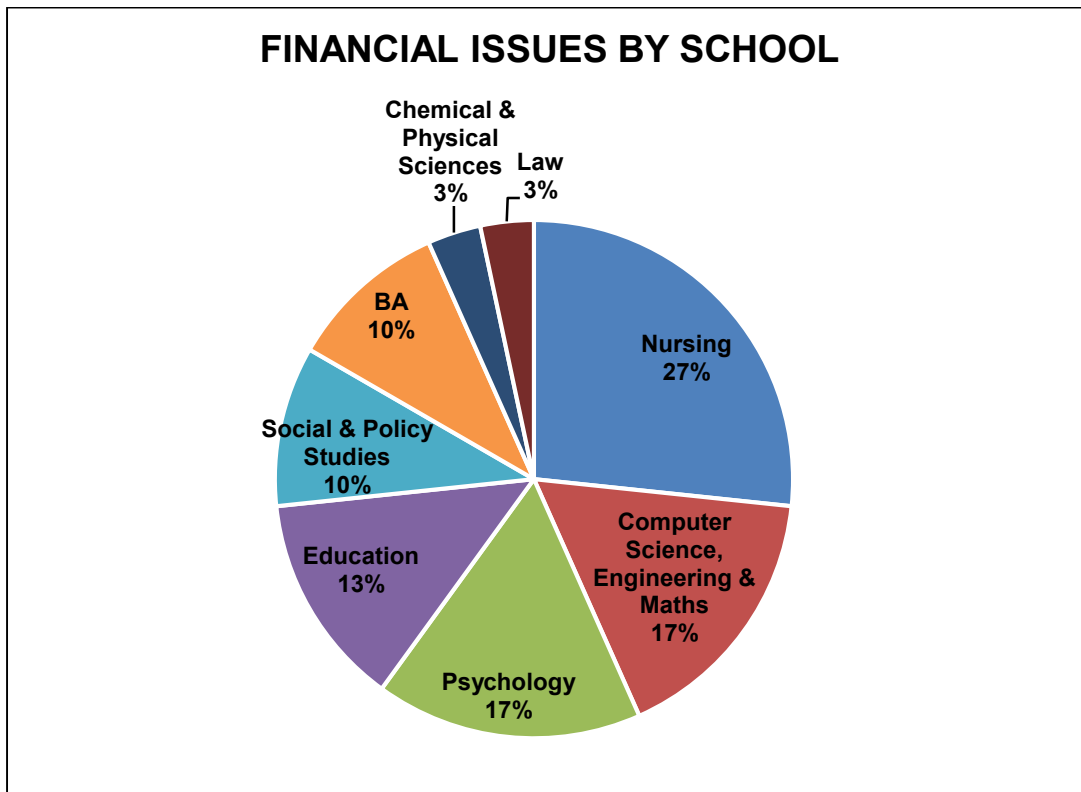
Professional Development

- Excel training: SFAO

CASEWORK ANALYSIS







Clubs Report for October – Prepared by the Clubs & Events Officer

1.0 Flinders Club Locker Proposal

A proposal has been submitted for funding for the supply for 50 double-door cabinets and the installation of a steel security cage in the Geoff Harrison Room for club storage purposes. The proposal has recently been approved, however as the security cage must be managed by Buildings and Property, and consequently may be delayed.

Clubs will be provided with notice with a deadline of the 4th of December 2015 (allowing for two weeks following exams) to allow for currently stored equipment to be tagged or removed from the club room, before repurposing or throwing out old equipment. As clubs have been advised several times of the need to tag club equipment this year, there should be little to no complaint of untagged equipment being repurposed or discarded.

When the lockers and cage are supplied and installed respectively, FUSA will be able to provide after-hours access to club storage, located immediately underneath the student hub; due to the need for both swipe card access to the room and passcode access to lockers and caged storage.

2.0 FUSA Club Awards

The FUSA Club Awards will be held once again for 2015, open to all currently affiliated clubs (including clubs who affiliate within this Student Council meeting).



While final details are pending approval from the General Secretary, the proposed event details are below:

- Tentative date Monday 7th December (based on club executive member votes, Monday appears to be the most popular day for the event) from 7pm.
- Held in the Tonsley Hotel function room
- Cocktail function (food platters and soft drinks supplied), neat casual attire
- Very informal vibe, allow clubs to mingle mostly without too many formal proceedings
- Short speeches from Clubs & Events Officer and General Secretary
- Short awards ceremony with 10 awards, consisting of 'Best Club', 'Most Active Club', 'Best Club Event, Activity or Project', 'Best New Club', 'Most Improved Club', 'Outstanding Contribution Award' and four novelty categories.
- Awards decided on by a judging panel consisting of Clubs and Events Officer, General Secretary and one other to be decided.

3.0 Club Database Audit

The club database has been updated to ensure all club contact details and information is the most current to support clubs with information regarding club handover and transition to 2016, as well as O'Week information. Data suggests that 95 clubs (121 including Flinders One clubs) have been active during 2015, however 25 of these have not yet affiliated with either FUSA or Flinders One. With updated details, these clubs are currently being contacted to promote affiliation with FUSA.

8.0 Club Funding Processes

Investigations into alternative methods of allowing access club funding is ongoing. This review is investigating several aspects of the funding process, including:

- The benefits of funding categories (i.e; incentive-based grants)
- Methods to promote easier financial management by club treasurers
- Alternative grant application processes to current paper-based application
- Easier methods of establishing non-profit bank accounts
- A review of FUSA-recommended non-profit accounts (currently NAB Community Fee Saver Account)
- Alternative methods of club funding and reimbursement through Flinders University Finance Systems
- Review of alternative models of club funding offered by other universities
- Holistic club management systems, such as OrgSync, Code360 (Prometheus), CollegiateLink, ClubRunner and TidyClub

Events Report for October – Prepared by the Events & Projects Officer

The big project for October was the FUSA Masquerade Ball. Held at the Hotel Richmond on Friday 16th October, the night was a huge success. We had nearly 300 people enjoy what seemed like endless food, a selection of beer, wine and cider and a DJ that played to the crowd ensuring everyone had a good time. Special thanks to the Events Assistant for all of her work on this event. Well done!

The Events Assistant and I have been working on event evaluations. This will now become standard procedure for all FUSA events. Event review is crucial to ensure we are constantly improving our work and use of the events budget.

The Events Assistant has also been working on the Empire Times End of Year Party. It will be held at the Austral on the 20th of November at 7pm.

Election Week. What a week! I coordinated the Presidential Debate and supported the Student Representation and Development Officer during Election Week, including set up/pack up and working at the polling booth. Congratulations to the incoming 2016 Student Council and well done to everyone who participated. The success of the physical polling booth was evident with the improved number of votes, as well as the value of being able to talk to more students and candidates throughout. I very much enjoyed being amongst it all and seeing the process from the beginning. Looking forward to doing it all again next year in the Plaza – we have big plans for a bigger and better Presidential Debate.

O'Week planning is in full swing and will now become my main focus again. Special thanks to the Media Officer and team for all of their work around the theme, design and O'Week website. We're locking in the line-up for O'Fiesta in the coming weeks, and the calendar of events and activities during the week is in draft form. The O'Week Directors have been brilliant as usual – we will meet next week to decide the businesses and organisations that will be present during O'Week.

Student Representation Report for October – Prepared by the Student Representation and Development Officer

- Supported the 2015 FUSA elections as Assistant Returning Officer and Polling Clerk.
- Collecting examples of best practice concerning student representation at university level and looking at how some of these ideas might work at Flinders University.
- Wrote 2015 Election Report for Student Council including recommendations for 2016.
- Getting ready for Student Council Induction on Nov 25-26. Program still in draft form but will be finalised soon. I have been consulting with a number of student council members on the program and am happy to hear from anyone else who would like to make a comment or suggestion.
- Attended workshop in Sydney on October 27th about Student Voice in University Decision Making along with Chris O'Grady, Caleb Pattinson & Jack Harrison. Continuing to have discussions with research team who organised the workshop on how we can best support student representation at Flinders University.

6. Matters for Decision

6.1. Oppose staff, wage, and course cuts

Preamble:

Student council members should be aware that the Vice-chancellor has strangely declared a Flinders budget emergency despite Flinders university being the fastest growing university in South Australia,



with an increase of over 5 000 students since 2009. I have had a number of discussions with relevant people in the Flinders community and can state many share the same concerns as I. How can we be in a budget emergency? The university has spent over \$180 million on new building projects and has had steady growth of students and we are more than aware how much the university makes off students.

I am fearful that the VC is positioning himself to attack the hard working staff of our university. The new student council should take a firm position against any job cuts and attacks on wages and conditions of staff. If money is to be saved the starting point should be the VC outrageously high salary. The VC should also join with FUSA in demanding more funding from government. This is an invitation that so far has been ignored – which is disappointing.

Motion: The student council does not support any staff cuts or attacks on wages and conditions in response to any budget shortfall.

6.2. Reaffirm opposition to use of SSAF for the Hub

Preamble:

Prior to the SSAF allocation negotiating meeting, the Vice Chancellor Colin Stirling unilaterally decided to take over \$100,000 of SSAF funds, without consultation, to spend on Hub construction. Student Council has the position that SSAF funds shouldn't be dipped into very time the University Administration overspend on their pet construction projects.

Motion: Student Council strongly condemns the Vice Chancellor's unfair and clandestine confiscation of over \$100,000 of SSAF funds to use for the Hub.

6.3. Student Council support for anti-Reclaim rally

Preamble:

The Reclaim Australia group have called for another nationwide rally on the 22nd of November. The more success groups like this have in demonstrating with no opposition, or insufficient opposition, the more confident they are to push their racist agenda. The counter rallies have successfully exposed the far-right core of Reclaim Australia. Despite the shameful efforts of mainstream media to paint the Reclaim Australia group as just "mums and dads", the exposure generated by the counter rallies has stripped away the veneer and shown everyone the rotten, Nazi core. Figures central to the movement express their desire for Mein Kampf in the hands of every primary school student, and pictures of Hitler on every classroom wall. This sickness must be stopped.

Motion: Student Council recognizes that the Reclaim Australia rallies must be vocally opposed and outnumbered wherever and whenever they occur. Student Council members commit to sharing the Facebook event for the counter-rally, coming to the rally if they can, and putting up some posters.

6.4. #FeesMustFall



Motion: FUSA supports the occupations and protests by the South African students on all major campuses. FUSA supports student struggle on issues of accessible and affordable education, and acknowledges the connection of our own ongoing campaign against fee hikes to the campaigns of students worldwide. We congratulate the students on their victory!

6.5. Environment Officer budget spending

Motion: That \$380 of the Environment Officer budget be approved to be spent on a megaphone for use in the future by FUSA, and clubs and societies, at student protests and other suitable events.

6.6. Support the physio students

Preamble:

The Masters of Physiotherapy students graduating in 2015 are holding an end of year Ball, which the University has refused to contribute funding to. It would be a shame if their Ball went poorly due to lack of funding.

Motion: That \$500 of the General Secretary budget go toward venue hire for the Masters of Physiotherapy 2015 graduating class Ball.

6.7. Staff and student reps on Uni boards

Motion: FUSA applauds the recent decision by the Victorian Government to restore staff and student representation to university and TAFE boards. FUSA believes that staff and students have the university's best interests at heart and that their representation should be increased.

6.8. ET Regulation Changes

Motion: I move the attached amendments to the Empire Times Regulations be passed.

6.9. Constitutional Changes

Motion: I move that FUSA hold a referendum on the attached proposed constitutional changes.

6.10. Queer Space resources

Preamble:

In 2016 the Queer Space in the Hub will be open for business! To help make this space welcoming from the beginning of the year, Rosalie and Alexander (QO elect) will collaborate to purchase some resources. These will include items to help with group bonding, including board games and art supplies, and queer-specific resources including books, DVDs, flags, and LGBTIQ themed decor.



These will be compiled into a list including links to relevant saved online shopping baskets for purchase by FUSA admin staff. The list will be provided to FUSA by the 18th of November.

Motion: I move that up to \$1500 from the 2015 Queer Officer's budget be spent on items for the Queer Space.

6.11. End of year Women's Collective celebration

Preamble:

End of year Women's Collective celebration

He Named Me Malala movie night

Tuesday November 17 (time TBC)

Budget proposal

25 tickets at \$17.70 per person = \$442.50

Motion: That student council this budget proposal.

6.12. Placements

Preamble:

Last meeting it was good to see student council affirm our support of the rights of employees in Australia to receive fair remuneration for work they perform, regardless of whether or not it is as a student or an employee. The fact is, trainee shifts or long internships that are external to study must still be paid, and yet as soon as you can receive university credit it is considered acceptable for a student to work full time and still try and find a way to earn money on the side. I am on a 20 week placement at the moment, and simply not earning money across that time is not feasible, yet working part time on top of full time for extended periods of time is mentally and physically draining. I have it lucky, being in an engineering, office based placement that keeps strict hours. Education students have to deal with the same hours, and then fit lesson plans on top of it. For nursing and social work students the workload can become even more unreasonable- having to fit shift work style placements around earning money elsewhere. However, even if SC was successful in petitioning for better pay conditions for students on placement, it does not fix some of the core structural problems with placements.

This year we have heard stories of nursing and education students who struggle to even get placements- through no fault of their own. For domestic students this is disheartening, delaying degrees and can sometimes mean putting life on hold for another year as they try and work out where to from there. For international students it is even worse, as many risk losing their VISAs- again, not because they did something wrong but because the University decided to put its own profits ahead of genuine concern for students, treating them as Cash Cows. The university is reaching the point where they are forced to disclose that they cannot reasonably expect to find placements for all of the students they have enrolled- meaning that they cannot expect to give out



even close to the same number of degrees as they have students enrol with intention to try and finish, even with consideration of dropout rates. It does not stop the uni from taking the student's money up until this point, and it doesn't even stop them from taking in more students into the next year- only exasperating the problem. In my opinion, it is immoral for Flinders to accept a student into a degree without having good grounds to assume they can support that student to the completion of their degree. With the end of the year approaching, it is an ideal time of the year to put some pressure on the university as they plan enrolment for 2016.

Motion: That the President and Education Officer formally request the university council develop policy to only enrol as many students as they can reasonably assume they will find placements for.

6.13. Enrolment Numbers

Preamble:

Related to the previous motion, the university needs more support from industry if they want to find placements for the maximum number of students. The largest employer in many of these industries is looking at its immediate bottom line rather than the longer term future- the Government. South Australia is already facing economic downturn and high unemployment, and needs to find a way to upskill workers to perform specialised tasks that will have a future beyond manufacturing. At Flinders we have students in Education, Nursing, Social Work, Computer Science and related engineering fields who absolutely have a future in South Australia beyond the manufacturing and yet the organisation that benefits the most (SA Gov) provides little guarantee to support the students on an individual basis in finishing their degree. I believe that publically funded bodies, such as public schools, hospitals and government divisions should have a quota of placements that they offer to universities- ensuring a minimum supply of placements to contribute to longer term growth of South Australia.

Motion: That Student Council write an open letter addressed to state parliamentarians that requires publically funded institutions provide a minimum number of places for university students on placements on an annual basis.

6.14. Club Affiliations

Motion: Student Council approves the financial affiliation of the Bachelor of Health Sciences Student Association, and the non-financial affiliation of the Flinders Sociology Students Association.

6.15. NUS conference funding

Motion: That money for flights to the NUS National Conference be approved from the travel budgets of the General Secretary and Environment Officer, to enable attendance to NUS National Conference.



FUSA

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Student Council Agenda

Meeting: 3rd November 2015

7. Matters for Discussion

8. Matters for Noting

8.1. Election Report

9. Meeting Closed



FUSA

EMPIRE TIMES REGULATIONS

As ratified 02/06/2015.

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1. Objectives

- 1.1. The purpose of these regulations is to:
- 1.2. Provide policy, guidelines and processes for Empire Times Editors
- 1.3. Provide regulation for the powers, duties, obligations, code of conduct and responsibilities of the Empire Times Editors
- 1.4. Provide guidance with regards to the relationship between the Empire Times Editors, Student Council and FUSA.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. The definitions in Clause 1 of the FUSA Constitution apply to these regulations.
- 2.2. In these regulations:
'Current Student' means any currently enrolled student of the University, who is enrolled as a full-time, part-time or external student as defined by the University. "As defined by the University" is a composite of the University Council definitions of: 'Postgraduate Student', 'Undergraduate Student' and 'current enrolment';

'Empire Times Editor' means a student elected or appointed to the position of Empire Times Editor;

'Empire Times Editorial Team' refers to the team of students elected or appointed to edit Empire Times;

'Empire Times Liaison Officer' means a member of Student Council appointed by Student Council to this role to provide a communication link between the Empire Times Editorial Team and Student Council;

'FUSA' refers to the Flinders University Student Association

'Media Officer' is the person employed by the University responsible for

creating and maintaining FUSA's public image.

3. Relationship between Student Council, FUSA and Empire Times

- 3.1. Student Council is the governing body of Empire Times
- 3.2. Neither Student Council nor FUSA will interfere with the operation or publication of Empire Times provided the Empire Times Editors:
 - (a) Ensure Empire Times remains a medium through which all Flinders' student views may be expressed
 - (b) Abide by the obligations and code of conduct as stipulated in these regulations

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FUSA

- (c) Do not undertake illegal activities
- (d) Do not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, sex, sexuality, race, ethnicity, pregnancy, caring responsibilities, religion, physical disability, mental illness, chosen gender or other personal characteristic under the terms of the South Australian Equal Opportunity Act (hereafter referred to as the 'Act').
- (e) Fulfil their obligations under the Act.

4. Student Council and FUSA Obligations

4.1. Student Council and FUSA have an obligation to:

- (a) Allow the publication of any material, including material related to Student Council, FUSA, the University and/or associated organisations and/or persons, except in circumstances where it would be illegal or discriminatory for the material to be published.
- (b) Not interfere with any editorial decision of the Empire Times Editorial Team, other than as sanctioned by Section 3.
- (c) Provide access to appropriate training and facilities throughout the year required for the Empire Times Editorial Team to fulfil their duties as determined in consultation with the Manager, Student Engagement (or their nominee).
- (d) Ensure that the Empire Times Editorial Team are able to take an active part in the FUSA budgeting process in relation to Empire Times.

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5. Empire Times Editor Obligations

5.1. The role of Empire Times Editors encompasses the following duties:

- (a) Ensure that as many printed copies of Empire Times as is reasonably practicable.
- (b) Provide the Empire Times to each issue to be uploaded online on the date that the issue is delivered.
- (c) Allocate four (4) pages to the FUSA Student Council each issue. These pages may be used for any purpose the FUSA Student Council deems appropriate. Student Council must work in consultation with the editors in exercising this right through an Empire Times Liaison Officer, appointed by Student Council. The Student Council may use fewer pages if it sees fit. Empire Times Editors may grant extra pages at their discretion. Allocate two (2) pages to FUSA operations each issue to promote the official activities and campaigns of FUSA. The remaining two (2) pages may be used for any purpose the deems appropriate.

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- (d) appropriate. **must work in cons**
- (e) editor **Jack Harrison** **Jack Harrison** fewer pages
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discre
- (d) Appoi **Jack Harrison** **Jack Harrison**
- (e) the Med **2015-10-30 02:33:38** **2015-10-30 02:34:03** e for their term
of office may be updated
through
- (f) consult the about any proposed changes to the publication schedule
and Student Council must be advised of any such changes at its next
meeting.
- (g) provide appropriate handover guidance and all necessary assistance to
incoming Empire Times Editors upon the election or appointment of
new editors.
- (h) provide at least two copies of each Empire Times edition to be
distributed to FUSA for the purposes of archives. The Media Officer is
responsible for the archiving of all editions.
- (i) provide a quarterly report to Student Council indicating how many
hardcopy and digital copies of each Empire Times edition released
since the previous Committee meeting were distributed, and how
many were left undistributed.
- (j) Ensure that as many printed copies of Empire Times are distributed as
is reasonably practicable.
- (k) Mail or digitally transfer copies of Empire Times to editors of other
student publications where possible, in order to share ideas, skills and
information, and to promote a spirit of cooperation and goodwill
amongst student media, as well as establishing links between student
media groups and between universities.
- (l) Endeavour to increase the prominence of the publication within the
general student body and wider community.

5.2. An Empire Times Editor must not:

- (a) make significant deviations from the publication schedule agreed to
without reasonable excuse or appropriate consultation both with the
Media Officer and Empire Times Liaison Officer.
- (b) be found by a court of law to have broken any law in connection with
their duties as an Empire Times Editor.
- (c) Misappropriate any amount of Student Media funding.

6. Code of Conduct for Empire Times Editors

- 6.1. Empire Times Editors must:
- (a) make Empire Times a medium through which all Flinders' student views may be expressed, rather than only that of the editors, or any other person or group.
 - (b) Act in accordance with all FUSA Regulations and all Flinders University policies including the Equal Opportunity Policies.
 - (c) Not engage in any behaviour that contravenes Flinders University Equal Opportunity Policy such as bullying, discrimination or harassment
 - Note: The policy may be found on the Flinders University website located here: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/ppmanual/equal-opportunity/>
 - (d) Ensure all sub-editors and volunteers are treated fairly and without discrimination.
- 6.2. Empire Times editors must abide by the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance Code of Ethics as stated below:
- (a) Report and interpret honestly, striving for accuracy, fairness and disclosure of all essential facts. Do not suppress relevant available facts, or give distorting emphasis. Do your utmost to give a fair opportunity for reply.
 - (b) Do not place unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, family relationships, religious belief, or physical or intellectual disability.
 - (c) Aim to attribute information to its source. Where a source seeks anonymity, do not agree without first considering the source's motives and any alternative attributable source. Where confidences are accepted, respect them in all circumstances.
 - (d) Do not allow personal interest, or any belief, commitment, payment, gift or benefit, to undermine your accuracy, fairness or independence.
 - (e) Disclose conflicts of interest that affect, or could be seen to affect, the accuracy, fairness or independence of your journalism. Do not improperly use a journalistic position for personal gain.
 - (f) Do not allow advertising or other commercial considerations to undermine accuracy, fairness or independence.
 - (g) Do your utmost to ensure disclosure of any direct or indirect payment made for interviews, pictures, information or stories.
 - (h) Use fair, responsible and honest means to obtain material. Identify yourself and your employer before obtaining any interview for



publication or broadcast. Never exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice.

- (i) Present pictures and sound which are true and accurate. Any manipulation likely to mislead should be disclosed.
- (j) Do not plagiarise.
- (k) Respect private grief and personal privacy. Journalists have the right to resist compulsion to intrude.
- (l) Do your utmost to achieve fair correction of errors.

7. Appointment of Empire Times Editors

- 7.1. Empire Times Editors shall be elected annually at the time of the FUSA elections.
- 7.2. It is not permitted for a student to simultaneously be a member of Student Council and an Empire Times Editor. Candidates are not allowed to nominate for both a position on Student Council and as an Empire Times Editor.
- 7.3. Candidates shall run in teams of three. Candidates can only nominate for one team and shall not simultaneously nominate in multiple teams.
- 7.4. Only currently enrolled students can nominate as an Empire Times Editor.
- 7.5. The term of office for Empire Times Editors is from the 1 December to the 30th of November.
- 7.6. Upon the expiration of their terms of office, all materials and resources under the control of the outgoing Empire Times Editors will be transferred to the new Empire Times Editors. This includes, but is not limited to, office space, social media accounts, email accounts, and website access codes.
- 7.7. If a person ceases to be an Empire Times Editor before the end of their term, their position will be filled by appointment.
- 7.8. In the event of an Editor ceasing to hold office the committee to appoint a replacement will consist of the Media Officer, a representative of the Student Engagement and Communications Office and three (3) members of the Student Council including the Empire Times Liaison Officer, whom will chair the appointment committee.

8. Ceasing to be an Empire Times Editor

- 8.1. A person ceases to be an Empire Times Editor:
 - (a) Upon the expiration of their term of office;
 - (b) Upon the receipt by Empire Times Liaison Officer or ~~Manager, Student Engagement~~ of a written letter of resignation;
 - (c) Upon being dismissed pursuant to these Regulations
 - (d) When the Editor ceases to be a current student of Flinders University.



- 8.2. In the event that an Empire Times Editor resigning or being removed, the remaining Empire Times Editors shall continue in their roles until they cease to hold the position in a manner prescribed in Clause 7.8.

9. Removal of Empire Times Editor(s)

- 9.1. An Empire Times Editor can only be removed in the event of a serious breach of their obligations or code of conduct.
- 9.2. In the event of a suspected breach of Empire Times Editor Obligations or Code of the Conduct as per these regulations, the Executive of Student Council is required to meet to decide whether or not a committee will be established to investigate the issue
- 9.3. ~~The committee shall consist of the Empire Times Liaison Officer, M Student Engagement, the Student Equal Opportunity Advisor or, if unavailable, a member of Student Assist and two other student council representatives chosen by the Executive of Student Council.~~
- 9.4. The committee shall be chaired by the Empire Times Liaison Officer.
- 9.5. The committee must determine whether the Empire Times Editor or Editors in question breached an Empire Times Editor Obligation or Code of Conduct.
- 9.6. The committee may employ any methods and procedures it sees fit in order to make this determination, but must abide by the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice.
- 9.7. The committee must ensure the Empire Times Editor/s in question are afforded a face to face hearing before the committee, and are aware of the content of all allegations made against them at least 24 hours before the time of the hearing.
- 9.8. The committee must seek professional advice where applicable.
- 9.9. The committee must make a recommendation, agreed to by four or more votes, whether there has been a breach of Empire Times Editor Obligations or Code of Conduct to Student Council and inform all three Empire Times editors immediately of the decision.
- 9.10. A report prepared by the chair of the committee with this recommendation must be submitted by the chair for approval at the next Student Council Meeting, which should be held as soon as practical. The report is to remain as 'in camera' due to allow for sensitive information to remain confidential.
- 9.11. All three Empire Times Editors will be notified of the committee's report, given seven days' notice before Student Council meets and also be given an opportunity to present a prepared statement to Student Council. This statement may not contain any new information.

Jack Harrison

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- 9.12. In the event of there not being seven (7) days between the next meeting of Student Council and a decision being reached by the committee, the Executive of Student Council must decide whether to postpone the Student Council meeting to allow for seven (7) days notice or call a special meeting to address the committee’s findings, allowing for seven (7) days notice.
- 9.13. If the recommendation is that the Empire Times Editor be removed from their position, a motion must be put: “Student Council accepts the committee’s determination that [name(s)] breached a serious Empire Times Editor Obligation and/or Code of Conduct, and hereby removes [name(s)] as (an) Empire Times Editor(s).” This motion may only be passed by a two thirds majority of Student Council.
- 9.14. If the committee’s recommendation is that the Empire Times Editor not be removed from their position, then no motion to remove the Empire Times Editor may be put to Student Council and the editor will be informed as soon as practicable by the Empire Times Liaison Officer. No special meeting of Student Council need be called.
- 9.15. In the event that the determination to remove an Empire Times Editor must be made the Empire Times Liaison Officer will inform all Empire Times Editors of the determination of Student Council as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Jack Harrison
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10. Publication Approval Process

- 10.1. ~~The Manager, Student Engagement (or nominee)-s~~
 - (a) Approving all advertising in Empire Times pursuant with Section 15;
 - (b) Overseeing the Empire Times budget;
 - (c) Approving the publication schedule for all issues of Empire Times. Changes to the publication schedule may be negotiated as per clause 5.1(f).;
 - (d) Approving the pre-press document of each issue of Empire Times;
 - (e) Approving final payment for the publication of each issue of Empire Times.

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- 10.2. Editors’ honoraria pursuant with Section 14
- 10.3. Except where required by law or sanctioned by Se
interfere with the editorial independence of Empir
- 10.4. ~~The Manager, Student Engagement (or nominee)-n~~
distribution of an issue of Empire Times if FUSA has reasonable grounds to fear legal action may be taken against FUSA should the issue be distributed. However, such a decision may be overruled by a two thirds majority Student Council vote.



11. Empire Times Volunteers

- 11.1. Empire Times Editors may appoint and remove volunteers (contributors) at their discretion.
- 11.2. Empire Times Editors may use their allocated budget to incentivise



reward volunteers for their work for the publication.

- 12.1. Content which presents a particular point of view or opinion of an author may be published in Empire Times.
- 12.2. Editors are obligated to print the below disclaimer on the contents page of each edition of Empire Times;
"The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editors, Flinders University, or Flinders University Student Association. Reasonable care is taken to ensure that Empire Times articles and other information are up-to-date and as accurate as possible, as of the time of publication, but no responsibility can be taken by Empire Times Magazine for any errors or omissions contained herein."
- 12.3. The editors are free to publish an additional disclaimer alongside opinion pieces to remind readers that the opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the editors, FUSA, Student Council or Flinders University.
- 12.4. An opinion piece may be biased; however, it must still present the facts accurately, abide by relevant laws and treat interviewees and sources properly, as per these regulations
 - (a) Opinions which disagree with or criticise FUSA, Student Council and/or Flinders University, its position, actions and/or conduct may be published in Empire Times other than as sanctioned by Section 3
 - (b) The publication of diverse and contrary views, shall be considered part of the aim of Empire Times, which is to provide a democratic and transparent forum in which student affairs and interests can be discussed. The publication of diverse and dissenting views is also consistent with the values of balance, independence and the rights of all groups, including the marginalised, to be heard.
- 12.5. FUSA recognises that some students contributing to Empire Times may only be willing to contribute if allowed to remain anonymous or use a pseudonym. In the interests of providing a democratic forum, where all groups have the right to be heard, anonymous or pseudonymous contributions shall be permitted and the editors shall be responsible for

maintaining the confidentiality of an anonymous or pseudonymous author's identity.

- 12.6. The editors should prevent the use of anonymous or pseudonymous publications from interfering with the values of this policy: truth, balance, independence, respect and the rights of all groups, including the marginalised, to be heard.

13. Complaints

- 13.1. Where a person feels that they, another person or another group have been treated unfairly, they shall have a right of reply. This right shall be exercisable by contacting the Empire Times editors who shall advise what avenues can be taken, such as, the publication of a Letter to the Editor
- 13.2. If a person feels that their right of reply provides insufficient reparation for the damage caused they may register a complaint. A complaint may only be registered by someone who is affected either as the subject of perceived unfair treatment or as the member of a group which believes itself to have been treated unfairly.
- 13.3. A complaint in the first instance should be registered with the Editors in writing or by email. A complainant is entitled to receive a response and to have their confidentiality respected
- 13.4. A complaint should be made in a timely manner, no more than ten academic days or two weeks, whichever is the lesser, following the release of an edition of Empire Times. The editors may report on and respond to complaints after this time, but are not required to.
- 13.5. If a complainant is not satisfied with the Empire Times Editors' response the Empire Times Editors must provide the complainant with the Media Officer's contact details.

14. Empire Times Editors' Honoraria:

- 14.1. The Empire Times Editors will automatically receive their honorariums on a fortnightly basis.
- 14.2. In the event of one issue being more than twelve (12) days late or three issues being less than twelve (12) days late, the student council may withhold for a period, the Empire Times Editors honoraria payment pending advice from the Media Officer to withhold the Empire Times Editors' honorariums.

15. Sponsorship and Advertising



- 15.1. The FUSA Media Officer may solicit advertising material on behalf of the FUSA and under the direction of the Manager of Student Engagement. FUSA Media Officers may work in conjunction with the FUSA Media Officer.
- 15.2. The FUSA Media Officer in conjunction with the Manager of Student Engagement may solicit advertising material in Empire Times.
- 15.3. In-kind payment made to the FUSA Media Officer for advertising material in Empire Times.
 - (a) It must be clear that advertising material is not student content. Where this is not immediately obvious, it should be noted alongside the advertising material, "This is a paid advertisement."

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FUSA

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

As ratified by University Council on 9 August 2012.

Including all amendments ratified by University Council up to 14 May 2015.



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1. Interpretation

1.1. In this Constitution:

“Absolute majority” means more than half of all the members of a body vote in favour of a proposition, whether or not those members are present and whether or not they cast a vote. For the avoidance of doubt, a

“Academic day” means a means a day on which University classes are normally scheduled, during a standard University semester, and which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday;

“Association” means the association known as “Flinders University Student Association”;

“Club” or **“Society”** means a group of students and other natural persons who meet for a social, cultural, literary, or other purpose, except for a sporting pursuit. For the avoidance of doubt, a club formed or intending to be established for a sporting pursuit is not permitted to affiliate to the Association under Section 20;

“International student” is an enrolled student who is studying at a campus located within Australia and holds a temporary entry visa or otherwise deemed to be an international student by the University;

“Manager, Student Engagement” is the person employed by the University responsible for ensuring open and effective communication and liaison between the University, the Association and students;

“Postgraduate student” is a student who is enrolled in a course of study defined by the University as a postgraduate award;

“Member” means a member of the Association;

“Regulations” means the regulations of the Association, made under Clause 21;

“Student” means any enrolled student of the University, whether that person is enrolled as a full time, part time or external student;



“Student Council” is the governing body of the Association;

“Student Services and Amenities Fee” means the fee collected by the University in accordance with the Higher Education Support Act, 2003 (Commonwealth) to support the provision to students of amenities and services not of an academic nature;

“University” means The Flinders University of South Australia;

“University Council” means the peak governing body of the University, as defined by the *Flinders University of South Australia Act, 1966 (SA)*.

1.2. In this Constitution:

- (a) neuter includes masculine and feminine; and
- (b) singular includes plural and vice versa.

2. Name

2.1. The name of the Association will be the ‘Flinders University Student Association.’

3. Approval by University Council

3.1. ~~The establishment of the Association and this Constitution are subject to approval by University Council.~~

4. Functions and purpose

4.1. The functions and purpose of the Association are to:

- (a) promote and advance the rights, interests and welfare of students;
- (b) represent students within and outside the University;
- (c) co-ordinate and support activities for students, including the provision of support for affiliated clubs;
- (d) provide the means for effective communication between students, the Association and the University;
- (e) oversee the delivery of student services, ~~which are funded from the Student Services and Amenities Fee and are the responsibility of the Manager, Student Engagement, and~~



- (f) deliver other services, amenities and programs for students funded from the membership fee and other income received by the Association.

5. Powers

- 5.1. The Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to the attainment of its functions and purpose.
- 5.2. The Association may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets for the attainment of its functions and purpose.

6. Membership

- 6.1. The membership of the Association is voluntary. The members are those students who apply for membership, pay the membership fee and are admitted in accordance with regulations approved by the Student Council.
- 6.2. Only students may apply for membership.
- 6.3. At the time of the establishment of the Association, the initial membership fee will be zero (0) dollars.
- 6.4. ~~University Council, on the recommendation of the~~ Student Council, may approve an amendment to the membership fee to provide for a fee greater than zero (0) dollars.
- 6.5. The rights of members who have not paid the membership fee by the date for payment are suspended until the membership fee is paid.
- 6.6. Except for the membership fee, there are no entrance fees or other amounts to be paid in respect of membership of the Association.
- 6.7. A person will cease to be a member of the Association:
 - (a) by resigning from the Association; or
 - (b) by ceasing to be a student.
- 6.8. A student may resign by writing to the Association. A student who fails to pay the membership fee within three (3) months of the due date will be deemed to have resigned from the Association.



7. Rights of students and members

- 7.1. Subject to this Constitution and the Regulations, all students have the right to:
- (a) vote in the elections of the Association;
 - (b) join a club affiliated with the Association;
 - (c) use and benefit from the services, amenities and programs overseen by the Association, which are funded from the Student Services and Amenities Fee and are the responsibility of the Manager, Student Engagement.
- 7.2. Subject to this Constitution and the Regulations, members of the Association:
- (a) have the right to attend and vote at General Meetings of the Association;
 - (b) are entitled to stand for election and hold office as an office bearer or Student Council member;
 - (c) use and benefit from the services, amenities and programs funded from the membership fee.
 - (d) have the right to attend Student Council meetings
- 7.3. The rights of a member of the Association are:
- (a) not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person; and
 - (b) terminate upon cessation of the student's membership.
- 7.4. The financial records, policies, procedures, Regulations, Constitution and minutes of meetings of the Association shall be available for inspection by any member on his or her reasonable request, subject to Clause 7.5.
- 7.5. Members may not inspect the records of the Association that relate to confidential personal, commercial and legal matters.

8. Register of Members

- 8.1. The Association shall maintain a Register of Members of the Association which records:
- (a) the name and email address of each member of the Association; and



- (b) the date of admission to, and cessation of, membership of each member.

9. Office bearers

- 9.1. The officer-bearers of the Association are:
 - (a) the President; and
 - (b) the General Secretary.
- 9.2. By regulation approved in accordance with Clause 21, the Student Council:
 - (a) must specify the procedures for electing office-bearers; and
 - (b) must specify the responsibilities of each office-bearer.
- 9.3. The office-bearers are subject to direction by the Student Council.

10. Student Council

- 10.1. The Student Council is responsible for the overriding governance of the Association and may exercise all the powers of the Association (except the powers of members in general meetings or referenda) within the functions and purpose of the Association.
- 10.2. Without limiting Clause 10.1, the Student Council is responsible for:
 - (a) setting the strategic directions of the Association;
 - (b) setting the annual budget and monitoring the financial performance of the Association;
 - (c) establishing the policies and procedures of the Association;
 - (d) making regulations under Clause 21;
 - (e) monitoring the performance of office-bearers and Student officers and ensuring they carry out their duties and responsibilities and
 - (f) overseeing the management of services which are the responsibility of the Manager, Student Engagement.
- 10.3. The Student Council may delegate any of its powers, except the power of delegation, to any of its sub-committees or office-bearers of the Association as the Student Council deems fit. No such delegation will prevent or limit the Student Council from exercising its powers or functions.

Jack Harrison
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- 10.4. The voting members of the Student Council are:
- (a) the office-bearers of the Association, specified in Clause 9.1;
 - (b) the Student Council members with a portfolio (Student Council Officers) as specified in Clause 10.5;
 - (c) six (6) General Members of the Student Council, elected in accordance with the procedures for elections established under Regulations.
- 10.5. The Student Council members with a portfolio (Student Council Officers) are:
- (a) the Education Officer;
 - (b) the Women's Officer;
 - (c) the Welfare Officer;
 - (d) the Postgraduate Students Officer;
 - (e) the International Students Officer;
 - (f) the Queer Officer;
 - (g) the Indigenous Students Officer;
 - (h) the Environment Officer.
 - (i) the Accessibility Officer
 - (j) the Social Activities Officer
- 10.6. By regulation approved in accordance with Clause 21, the Student Council:
- (a) may establish other Student Council members with a portfolio;
 - (b) must specify the procedures for electing the Student Council members with a portfolio; and
 - (c) must specify the responsibilities of each Student Council member with a portfolio.
- 10.7. The Manager, Student Engagement shall be a non-voting member of the Student Council.
- 10.8. The Student Council may, by a resolution passed by a majority meet in camera without the Manager, Student Engagement being present.
- 10.9. The Manager, Student Engagement must appoint a staff member who will be responsible for recording and maintaining the records and minutes of the proceedings of the Student Council.
- 10.10. The Student Council members with a portfolio are subject to direction by the Student Council.



11. Procedures of the Student Council

- 11.1. The Student Council must meet at least ten times in a calendar year on a Flinders University Campus at a time and place as determined by President.
- 11.2. At the request of three or more voting members of the Student Council, the General Secretary must call a meeting of the Student Council at a place and time convenient to the voting members of the Student Council.
- 11.3. A quorum for a meeting of the Student Council is half of the voting members plus one (1). The quorum must be present at all times when business is transacted.
- 11.4. The President will chair Student Council meetings. If the President is not present, or is required to vacate the Chair, the General Secretary will Chair the meeting. If neither the President nor the General Secretary is present, or is required to vacate the Chair, the Student Council must elect another voting member of the Student Council to chair.
- 11.5. The Student Council may grant leave of absence to any voting member of the Student Council for a period not exceeding two (2) months.
- 11.6. All other matters relating to the procedures of the Student Council will be established under Regulation approved in accordance with Clause 21.

12. Executive Committee

- 12.1. The Executive Committee is a committee of the Student Council, exercising delegated powers from the Student Council under Clause 10.3.
- 12.2. The Executive Committee:
 - (a) may transact the business of the Association, on behalf of the Student Council, on urgent matters that the President and General Secretary consider cannot be held over until the next regular meeting of the Student Council;
 - (b) may exercise such other powers as may from time to time be delegated to it by the Student Council; and



- (c) must provide the Student Council with reports of its activities at each meeting of the Student Council.
- 12.3. Decisions of the Executive Committee must be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Student Council and shall have the same effect as decisions of the Student Council, provided that such decisions are made in accordance with this Constitution and the Regulations.
- 12.4. The voting members of the Executive Committee are:
 - (a) the President (Chair);
 - (b) the General Secretary;
 - (c) the Education Officer; and
 - (d) Two (2) voting member of the Student Council elected by the Student Council.
- 12.5. The Manager, Student Engagement shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
- 12.6. Executive Committee meetings must be chaired on the same basis as Student Council meetings.
- 12.7. A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee is three (3) voting members.
- 12.8. The quorum must be present at all times when business is transacted.

13. Committees

- 13.1. In addition to the Executive Committee, Student Council may by regulation or resolution establish other standing and ad hoc committees as it considers appropriate. The Student Council must by regulation specify the responsibilities of each Standing Committee.

14. Terms of office

- 14.1. Office-bearers of the Association, Student Council Officers and the General Members of the Student Council, elected at the annual elections hold office for a twelve month period from 1 December until 30 November.



14.2. Office-bearers of the Association, Student Council Officers and the General Members of the Student Council filling vacancies hold office for the remainder of the term of office of the position being filled.

15. Vacation of office

15.1. The position of Office-Bearer, Student Council Officer or General Member of Student Council becomes vacant, if the office holder:

- (a) dies;
- (b) is permanently incapacitated by ill health;
- (c) ceases to be a student;
- (d) ceases to be a member of the Association;
- (e) is absent for three (3) meetings of the Student Council without a leave of absence, except in exceptional circumstances, as determined by Student Council;
- (f) resigns from their position by notice in writing to the Association;
- (g) is removed from their position in accordance with Clause 15.2; or
- (h) is unable for any other reason to perform the duties of office.

15.2. An office-bearer, Student Council Officer or General Member of the Student Council may be removed from that office and membership of the Student Council by a binding decision of a referendum in accordance with Clause 19.6.

15.3. Vacancies must, where possible, be filled within 42 calendar days:

- (a) in the case of office-bearer positions and Student Council Officers and General Members directly elected by students, by a by-election being held in accordance with the regulations, subject to Clause 15.4;

15.4. If a vacancy in an office-bearer position or Student Council office position or General Members of the Student Council occurs within 2 months before the annual elections, the Student Council may elect a student who would be eligible to stand for the position in accordance with the Constitution and the Regulations.



16. Elections

- 16.1. The Student Council must make regulations for the conduct of elections in accordance with Clause 21. These regulations must protect the security of the vote counting system and the privacy of each voter in lodging a vote.
- 16.2. All elections must be by secret ballot and must use optional preferential voting.
- 16.3. The positions of office-bearers, Student Council Officers and General Members of the Student Council, as specified in Section 9 of this Constitution, must be filled by election each year at the annual elections.
- 16.4. Voting in the annual elections must be held between 1 August to 15 October.
- 16.5. For annual elections, voting must be held on at least three consecutive academic days.

17. General Meetings of members

- 17.1. The Student Council may, by resolution passed by an absolute majority, require a General Meeting of the Association to be called. The resolution must specify the question or questions to be considered at the General Meeting.
- 17.2. The Student Council must convene a General Meeting of members upon receipt of a petition of at least fifty (50) members. The petition:
 - (a) must state the question or questions to be considered at the General Meeting;
 - (b) may consist of multiple copies of the same document;
 - (c) must include the names, student numbers and signatures of the members making the request; and
 - (d) must be given to the General Secretary or another member of the Executive Committee.
- 17.3. If a General Meeting is requested in accordance with Clause 17.2, the General Secretary:
 - (a) must, within five (5) academic days of the request, fix a time, date and place for the General Meeting; and



- (b) must give to all members at least ten (10) academic days notice of the General Meeting.
- 17.4. The notice of the General meeting must be affixed to Association notice boards and sent to all members by electronic transmission. The notice must specify the time, date and place of the meeting and the question or questions to be considered at the General Meeting.
- 17.5. A General Meeting of members must be held on any day during the academic semester, no later than 7:00 pm and no earlier than 9:00am and must provide means for members located on campuses outside of the Adelaide metropolitan area to attend, including the use of teleconferencing facilities.
- 17.6. Fifty (50) members, in attendance shall constitute a quorum at a General Meeting. If a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the time and place specified in the notice of the meeting issued in accordance with Clause 17.4, the General Meeting will lapse.
- 17.7. The President shall preside at a General Meeting of members. If the President is absent, or is required to vacate the chair, the General Secretary will Chair the meeting.
- 17.8. Decisions of General Meetings will be binding on the Association, the Student Council and its office-bearers if the meeting is quorate and two-thirds of members in attendance vote in favour, provided they are not inconsistent with this Constitution.

18. Annual General Meeting

- 18.1. The Association must, once in each calendar year, hold an Annual General Meeting.
- 18.2. The Annual General Meeting will be in addition to any other General Meetings of members that may be held in the same year, and must be specified as such in the notice convening it.
- 18.3. The order of business at the Annual General Meeting will be
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
 - (b) to consider a report from the President;
 - (c) to consider a report from the General Secretary on the Association's finances;



- (d) to consider the audited statement of the Association's accounts in respect of the most recently ended financial year of the Association; and
 - (e) any other business of which notice has been given.
- 18.4. Subject to Clause 18.3, proceedings at the Annual General Meeting will be conducted on the same basis as a General Meeting of members as specified in Section 17, except for Clause 17.6.
- 18.5. Fifty members or 10% of the total number of members, whichever is the lesser number, in attendance shall constitute a quorum at an Annual General Meeting. If a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the time and place specified in the notice of the meeting issued in accordance with Clause 17.4, the Annual General Meeting will lapse.

19. Referendums

- 19.1. The Student Council may by resolution passed by an absolute majority convene a referendum. The resolution must state the question or questions to be put to referendum.
- 19.2. The Student Council must convene a referendum on the request in writing of at least two (2) per cent of students. The request:
- (a) must state the question or questions to be put to referendum;
 - (b) may consist of multiple copies of the same document;
 - (c) must include the names, student numbers and signatures of the students making the request; and
 - (d) must be given to the General Secretary or another member of the Executive Committee.
- 19.3. If a referendum is requested in accordance with Clause 16.2:
- (a) the Student Council must convene the referendum within ten (10) academic days of the request having been received;
 - (b) the Student Council may by resolution passed by a two-third majority reword for the purpose of clarification only the question or questions to be considered;
 - (c) the referendum must commence within 10 academic days of being convened.



- 19.4. At least ten (10) academic days notice of the dates and times of voting for the referendum and the question or questions to be put must be given to students by:
 - (a) notices posted throughout the University; and
 - (b) electronic communication to students, to the extent feasible.
- 19.5. All students are entitled to vote in referendums. Voting must be by secret ballot and be held over at least three consecutive academic days. The ballot must be conducted on the same basis as for elections for the Association.
- 19.6. Decisions of referendums will be binding on the Association, the Student Council and its office-bearers if at least six (6) per cent of students cast a vote in the referendum and a majority vote in favour, provided they are not inconsistent with this Constitution.
- 19.7. Binding decisions of referendums override binding decisions of a General Meeting of members.

20. Affiliation

- 20.1. Clubs and societies shall be eligible to affiliate to the Association if they fulfill the following requirements:
 - (a) have a membership of ten (10) or more students;
 - (b) has a set of rules that governs the operations of the club or society; and
 - (c) any further requirements as approved by the Student Council.
- 20.2. A list of affiliated Associations shall be kept by the General Secretary.
- 20.3. The affiliation of a club or society may only be revoked by a resolution of Student Council.

21. Student Media and Publications

- 21.1. There shall be a student publication.
- 21.2. Student Media refers to all publications and programming funded and distributed and / or transmitted by the Association.
- 21.3. Student Media shall abide by the functions and purpose of the Association as per Clause 4.1(a) and Clause 4.1(b) of this Constitution.



- 21.4. The Student Council is the governing body of all Student Media as defined by Clause 21.2.
- 21.5. The Student Council must make regulations for Student Media. As a minimum requirement the regulations must include:
- (a) Appointment process of editors and programmers.
 - (b) Code of conduct for editors or programmers.
 - (c) Guidelines on editorial control and independence.

22. Regulations

- 22.1. The Student Council may, by a two-thirds majority vote of voting members present, make Regulations not inconsistent with this Constitution, regulating the operation of the Association or prescribing any matter permitted or required under this Constitution to be prescribed. Such Regulations shall continue in force until amended or rescinded by a two-thirds majority vote of voting members present of the Student Council.

23. Alteration of the Constitution

- 23.1. ~~Subject to the approval of the University Council,~~ this Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by at least two thirds of members voting at a General Meeting of members or by a binding decision of a referendum in accordance with Clause 19.6.

24. Finances

- 24.1. The financial year of the Association is from 1 January to 31 December.
- 24.2. The Student Council is responsible for the management of the funds of the Association.

25. Dissolution of the Association

- 25.1. The Association may be dissolved voluntarily by a resolution passed by an absolute majority of members at a General Meeting.
- 25.2. ~~University Council may, on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, dissolve the Association if the Association fails to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with this Constitution.~~



- 25.3. On dissolution, any surplus assets must be distributed to the University or another entity with similar objects to the Association as determined by University Council on or before the dissolution.

26. Transition

- 26.1. In this clause, the Transition Period means the period from the date of the establishment of the Association to 31 December 2012.
- 26.2. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution, during the Transition Period, the Student Council comprises:
- (a) the person holding the office of Student President at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (b) the person holding the office of Women's Officer (Vice President) at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (c) the person holding the office of Queer Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (d) the person holding the office of Indigenous Student Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (e) the person holding the office of International Student Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (f) the person holding the office of Postgraduate Student Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (g) the person holding the office of Recreation Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (h) the person holding the office of Undergraduate/Education Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (i) the person holding the office of Activities Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association;
 - (j) the person holding the office of Environment Officer at the date of the establishment of the Association; and
 - (k) the six (6) persons holding the office of General Council members at the date of the establishment of the Association.
- 26.3. During the Transition Period:
- (a) all money received by or on behalf of the Association, must be deposited without delay into an account held by the University;
 - (b) all payments must be authorised by the Executive Committee, and all payment slips must be signed by the Manager, Student



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CONSTITUTION

Last amended: 14 May 2015

- Engagement (or delegate) and either the General Secretary or President or one other voting member of the Executive Committee;
- (c) the Association and the University must discuss and reach agreement on banking and financial accountability arrangements for the Association, which will form a Schedule to this Constitution.

Ratified by University Council on 14 August 2014.

CONSTITUTION FOR BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

1. Definitions and Interpretation

- 1-1. In this constitution:
- 1-2. “Current student” and “student” both have the same meaning as “student” in the Constitution of the Student Association;
- 1-3. References to meetings include meetings held by telephone and video conference; and
- 1-4. References to written communications include email.
- 1-5. ‘Support’ means assistance provided to a political party and could take the form of providing financial assistance to the party, organising volunteer labour, paying membership and affiliation fees and giving gifts or gifts-in-kind.

2. Name

- 2-1. This club shall be known as the Bachelor of Health Science Students Association.

3. Purpose

- 3-1. The purpose of the club is to engage and support students studying the Bachelor of Health Sciences course of Flinders University

by:

- Representing student needs and concerns as a representative body
- Engaging students in a variety of academic and social events and activities
- Provide materials and seminars that offer educational and career opportunities

- 3-2. The club may only use its income, assets and profit for its purpose.

- 3-3. The club must not distribute any profit, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.

4. Affiliation to Flinders University Student Association

- 4-1. The club is affiliated to Flinders University Student Association (in this Constitution referred to as the “Student Association”).
- 4-2. It is a condition of affiliation that the club and its members must comply with all directions given by the Student Association and the Clubs Policies.
- 4-3. The club must as far as practicable adhere to Student Association Marketing Guidelines, including logo usage and sponsorship recognition, as outlined by

the Clubs Policies.

4-4. The Club shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, marital status, race, age, religion or sexual preference.

5. Eligibility Criteria for Financial Affiliation Status

5-1. This club has:

- (a) no restrictions on membership, with the exception that:
 - (i) members must align to the association's objectives; and
 - (ii) be a past or present student in the Bachelor of Health Sciences course of Flinders University.

5-2. This club is not officially associated, but may be informally aligned with, a political party and does not have as one of its objectives, officially or not, to support:

- (a) a political party; or
- (b) the election of a person as a member of:
 - (i) the legislature of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory; or
 - (ii) a local government body.

6. Membership of Club

6-1. Membership of the club is open to all:

- (a) past and current students (see definition in clause 15) of the Bachelor of Health Sciences course of Flinders University,

6-2. The club must have a minimum of ten current financial Flinders student members; and abide by membership regulations as stipulated in the Student Association Club Policies.

6-3. The Secretary must keep a register of members, which shows the date on which each member last renewed their membership. A copy of this should be given to Student Association at affiliation annually.

6-4. Members may resign by writing to the Secretary. Members who fail to renew their membership in a full club financial year are taken to have resigned

6-5. The Secretary and Student Association must make copies of this constitution freely available to members on request.

6-6. The club must have no less than 66% current Flinders University students as members

7. Renewal of affiliation

7-1. Upon reaffiliation this club must submit to the student Association an application for renewal of affiliation with a copy of:

- (a) AGM minutes confirming renewal of affiliation

- (b) an updated membership list,
- (c) updated executive contacts
- (d) reports submitted at the AGM by the President/Convener, Treasurer and Secretary.
- (e) evidence that the club has had at least two club events for members over the course of the last year.
- (f) Financial reports detailing expenditure and income for the period between the last two AGMs.

8. General Meeting of Members

8-1. The Executive must call at least three general meetings of members each year, including the Annual General Meeting (in this constitution "AGM").

8-2. The Executive may call a Special General Meeting (in this constitution "SGM") at any time, and must do so at the request of five members, or 10% of the total membership of the club, whichever is the higher amount. The SGM must be held within 21 academic days of an Executive member receiving the request.

8-3. General Meetings shall be convened for the following purposes:-

- (a) removal of office bearers
- (b) to make changes to the constitution of the club
- (c) to direct the Clubs and Societies sub-committee delegate in their representation to the student association.
- (d) to overturn any decisions made by the executive of the Club.
- (e) the expulsion of a member or members of the club in accordance with section 15.

8-4. Notice of a General Meeting shall be given to the members of the club and the General Secretary of the Association at least a week before the set date.

8-5. The notice must state the business to be considered, including any item that a member has in writing requested to be included. Only business of which notice has been given may be considered at the general meeting.

- 8-6. The Executive must also advertise the meeting as far as practicable in any Student Association publication/s generally available to students for at least one week before the meeting.
- 8-7. A designated office bearer, normally the Secretary, shall be responsible for calling General Meetings.
- 8-8. The General Secretary may attend any General Meeting of this Club.
- 8-9. Any decision of a General Meeting may overturn any committee decision of the club.
- 8-10. Only during a SGM club policy may be amended or new positions may be elected.
- 8-11. Each member present has one vote. Proxies are not allowed. Motions are passed by a simple majority of those present and voting. The chair of the meeting has their own vote, but does not have a casting vote.
- 8-12. The President is entitled to chair the meetings. If the President is not present, or does not wish to chair the meeting, the Secretary is entitled to chair. If neither the President nor the Secretary is present, or if neither wishes to chair the meeting, the meeting must elect another member to chair.

9. Annual General Meetings

- 9-1. Annual General Meetings shall be convened for the following reasons:-
- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last AGM and any subsequent general meetings;
 - (b) to receive financial statements
 - (c) to receive annual reports of office bearers
 - (d) to fairly and democratically elect office bearers
 - (e) to elect an office bearer to be a delegate on the Clubs and Societies Sub-Committee
 - (f) to make changes to the constitution of the club.
- 9-2. The Executive must appoint a Returning Officer at least two weeks before the

AGM, who is responsible for the conduct of the Executive elections.

9-3. Notice of an Annual General Meeting shall be given to the members of the club and the General Secretary of the Association at least a week before the set date.

9-4. The General Secretary may attend any AGM of this Club.

9-5. Each affiliated club shall hold its AGM during the Academic Year.

9-6. Within 14 days of holding its AGM, each affiliated club shall provide the required documents for reaffiliation as outlined in s6 of the Clubs and Societies Regulations.

9-7. Quorum at AGM shall be 30% of total membership or 10 members, whichever is lesser.

9-8. Failure to reach quorum after 60 minutes after the scheduled start of meeting will result in the AGM being cancelled.

10. Executive and Representative Positions

10-1. The Executive of the Association consists of at least the following positions:

- (a) President;
- (b) Treasurer, and
- (c) Secretary

10-2. A member must be nominated as the Education Officer of the Association, and their details must be submitted to the Education Officer of Student Council. The Education Officer is required to attend Student Representative Network meetings as called by the Student Council Education Officer.

10-3. A general meeting may establish other Executive positions.

10-4. Executive members may only hold one Executive position at a time.

10-5. The membership must attempt to elect two representatives from first, second and third year students of the Flinders University Bachelor of Health Sciences Course, along with one representative of the International Students of the Flinders University Bachelor of Health Sciences course, in each Annual General Meeting.

10-6. The Association must fill as many of the positions listed in 10-5 as they

are able in each Annual General Meeting, however failure to fill all positions will not affect the Association's ability to operate.

11. Election and Term of Office of Executive

- 11-1. Only members who are current financial members are eligible to be elected to and hold Executive positions.
- 11-2. Executive members may serve an unlimited number of terms.
- 11-3. All Executive and Representative positions must be elected by secret ballot at the AGM
- 11-4. Executive members elected at the AGM hold office from the end of that AGM until the end of the next AGM, subject to clause 8-5.
- 11-5. Executive members cease to hold office if they:
 - (a) resign by writing to the Secretary (or, in the case of the Secretary, to the President);
 - (b) cease to be a financial member;
 - (c) are removed by a resolution of no confidence passed by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a SGM; or
 - (d) fail to attend two consecutive meetings of the Executive without giving apology to the Executive.
- 11-6. The executive may fill a single vacancy in its membership. If there is more than one vacancy, the Executive must convene a SGM to fill the vacancies by secret ballot.
- 11-7. Quorum at an AGM is 10% of total membership or 10 members, whichever is lesser.

12. Responsibilities of Executive

- 12-1. The Executive is responsible for the management of the club, including its financial management.
- 12-2. The Executive must ensure that the Treasurer presents a financial report to the AGM in accordance with clause 11-4.
- 12-3. The Executive is also responsible for:
 - (a) organising club activities;
 - (b) representing the club and its members within the Student Association and to the public
 - (c) recommending policy to general meetings
- 12-4. The Executive is bound by club policy, and subject to direction by general

meetings

13. Proceedings of Executive

- 13-1. The Executive must meet at least twice during each semester.
- 13-2. Executive meetings may be called by the Secretary, President or any two Executive members.
- 13-3. At least five academic days notice in writing of the date, time and place of Executive meetings must be given to each Executive member.
- 13-4. The quorum for Executive meetings is the presence of a majority of member of the Executive at the time, including at least one of the President and Secretary.
- 13-5. Clauses 6-7 and 6-8 apply to Executive meetings.
- 13-6. The Executive may establish committees and delegate its powers as it thinks appropriate.

14. Duties of Executive Members

- (a) The duties of the President include:
 - (i) co-ordination of club activities
 - (ii) being chief spokesperson for the club; and
 - (iii) chairing general and Executive meetings.
 - (iv) acting as a signatory for the club's budget
 - (v) assisting, advising, and supporting all members of the club
- (b) The duties of the Secretary include:
 - (i) the maintenance of a register of members consisting of name, student ID number, FAN and date of payment of membership fee, if applicable.
 - (ii) the production of meeting minutes
 - (iii) the submission of documents for renewal of affiliation as required in regulation.
- (c) The duties of the Treasurer include:
 - (i) being responsible for all of the club's money and to record all income received and payments made by the club;
 - (ii) keeping a register of all assets held by the club;
 - (iii) presentation of a financial report to each Executive meeting;
 - (iv) presentation of a financial report to the AGM for:

- (v) the last financial year, and
- (vi) the period since the end of the last financial year;
- (vii) keeping the financial records of the club.
- (viii) acting as a signatory for the club's budget.
- (ix) keeping the club's members informed of the club's financial situation.

15. Financial

15-1. The club indemnifies Executive members against any liability incurred in that capacity (other than to the club), unless the liability arises out of conduct involving a lack of good faith.

15-2. The financial year of the club is from 1 January to 31 December.

15-3. An annual membership fee will be set by the club executive, and approved at the Annual General Meeting. All rights (including voting) of members who have not paid their membership fee by the date set by the Club Executive are suspended until the fee is paid.

15-4. All income (including membership fees) received by the club must be promptly paid into the club account.

15-5. All payments must be authorised by the Executive or a general meeting, and all payment slips must be signed by at least two Executive members, including the Treasurer.

15-6. All assets held by the club are the property of the Student Association, including those purchased by the club. Except that items purchased by the Club with funds raised independently of the Student Association, such as sponsorship, remain the property of the club as long as it continues to exist. Property will then become the Student Association's if the club ceases to exist.

15-7. The Executive must ensure that the Treasurer:

- (a) records all income received and payments made by the club in accordance with clause 11-4; and
- (b) keeps a register of all assets held by the club in accordance with clause 11-4.

15-8. All assets held by a club that has been inactive for 12 months or more must be returned to the Student Association.

16. Expulsion

- 16-1. This club cannot expel a member on the grounds of race, sex, gender, religion; or political, moral or sexual view, provided that the member supports the aims of the club.
- 16-2. A motion to expel a member may be brought before a General Meeting of the club.
- 16-3. The motion to expel must be accompanied with written justification and sent to the member at least two weeks prior to the date of the General Meeting.
- 16-4. The member has a verbal and written right of reply to any notice of expulsion
- (a) A written right of reply must be given by the member within seven days of receiving the notice of expulsion to be included within the Agenda
- 16-5. The Agenda must include the motion of expulsion, written justification and any written reply by the effected member.
- 16-6. The Agenda of the General Meeting at which a motion of expulsion is included must be sent to members, and the General Secretary of the Association, at least one week prior to the General Meeting.

17. Amendment

- 17-1. This constitution may only be amended:
- (a) by resolution passed by two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a SGM of which notice in accordance with clause 5.5 (including of the proposed amendment) has been given; and
- (b) with approval of the Student Association.

18. Winding Up

- 18-1. The club may be wound up voluntarily by resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a SGM of which notice in accordance with clause 5.5 (including of the proposed resolution) has been given.
- 18-2. If the club is wound up (whether voluntarily, by a court or the Student Association due to breach of Clubs and Societies Policies), any remaining assets must not be distributed to any member, but must instead be

returned to the Student Association.

- 18-3. Upon winding up, or change of affiliation level, this club must present the Association with a final asset register and a bank statement

Adopted at the Meeting of the Flinders University Bachelor of Health Sciences Student Association

Held on 10/03/2015

Signed _____ President

The Constitution of Flinders Sociology Students' Association (FSSA)

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1. Preliminary

1.1. Definitions

(a) In this constitution:

‘Academic Day’ refers to any working day during a teaching week in Semester 1 or Semester 2 as specified by Flinders University.

‘Casual Vacancy’ is a vacancy which occurs during the prescribed term of office which occurs at a time other than the annual elections.

‘Current Student’ means any enrolled student of the University, whether that person is enrolled as a full time, part time or external student.

‘General Secretary’ means the General Secretary of the Flinders University Student Association.

‘Returning Officer’ refers to a person who is responsible for overseeing the administration and conduct of an election. The returning officer must:

- a) Be impartial and independent of mind; and
- b) Not be a nominee for any position which they are overseeing.

‘Student Association’ means the Flinders University Student Association.

2. The Club

2.1. Club Name

(a) This club shall be known as the Flinders Sociology Students’ Association.

2.2. Aims and Objectives

(a) The Aims and Objectives of the club are:

- Provide further opportunities in learning where sociology can take you in your study and career
- Connect with other students in an inclusive, fun, and supportive environment
- Attend free social events related to sociological issues (debates, discussions, guest speakers)
- Provide a mentoring program in which other sociology students can mentor and support younger students

2.3. Not for profit

(a) The club shall operate on a not-for-profit basis.

(b) The assets and income of the club shall be applied solely to further its objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the

members of the organisation except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

2.4. Affiliation

- (a) The club is affiliated to Flinders University Student Association.

2.5. Membership

- (a) Membership is open to:
 - (i) Current students; and
 - (ii) All others at the discretion of the club.
- (b) Membership must consist of at least 66% current students and a minimum of ten current students.

3. General Meetings

3.1. Calling a General Meeting

- (a) The meeting shall be called at a time and place convenient to the members of the club
- (b) General Meetings must be called by the Secretary at the request of the Executive.
- (c) General Meetings must be called by the Secretary at the request five members, or 10% of the total membership of the club, whichever is the higher amount.
 - (i) If the Secretary does not respond to the request within four weeks a request may be made directly to the General Secretary who will call the meeting.

3.2. Purpose of a General Meeting

- (a) General Meetings shall be convened for any the following purposes:-
 - (i) Planning of events;
 - (ii) Removal of office bearers;
 - (iii) To make changes to the constitution of the club;
 - (iv) To overrule any decisions made by the executive of the Club; or,
 - (v) The expulsion of a member or members of the club in accordance with the Student Association's Clubs and Societies Regulations.

3.3. Quorum of a General Meeting

- (a) Quorum at a General Meeting shall be five members.
- (b) Failure to reach quorum 30 minutes after the scheduled commencement time, the meeting shall lapse and a new meeting must be rescheduled.

3.4. Notice of a General Meeting

- (a) Notice of a General Meeting shall be given to the members of the club and the General Secretary of the Association at least a week before the set date.

- (b) The notice must contain an agenda which outlines items to be considered at the meeting.

4. Annual General Meetings

4.1. Calling an Annual General Meeting

- (a) An Annual General Meeting must be held once per year on an academic day prior to the 1st of May.
- (b) Annual General Meetings must be called by the Secretary at the request of the Executive.
- (c) Annual General Meetings must be called by the Secretary at the request five members, or 10% of the total membership of the club, whichever is the higher amount.
 - (i) If the Secretary does not respond to the request within four weeks a request may be made directly to the General Secretary who will call the meeting.

4.2. Business to be considered at the Annual General Meeting

- (a) The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and any subsequent general meetings; and
- (b) Financial statements detailing the club's finances since the previous Annual General Meeting; and
- (c) Annual reports of the current members of the executive; and
- (d) Election of the new members of the executive; and
- (e) Any changes to the constitution of the club which have conformed to the notice requirements in section 11.5 of this constitution; and
- (f) Renewal of the club's affiliation to the Student Association; and
- (g) Any other business.

4.3. Quorum

- (a) Quorum at Annual General Meeting shall be 30% of total membership or ten members, whichever is lesser.
- (b) Failure to reach quorum 30 minutes after the scheduled commencement time, the meeting shall lapse and a new meeting must be rescheduled.

4.4. Notice

- (a) Notice of an Annual General has the same requirements as a General Meeting.

4.5. Post-Annual General Meeting.

- (a) The club will supply the Flinders University Student Association with a copy of:
 - (i) Annual General Meeting minutes confirming renewal of affiliation; and

- (ii) An updated membership list; and
- (iii) Updated executive contacts; and
- (iv) Evidence that the club has had at least two club events for members over the course of the last year; and
- (v) Financial reports detailing expenditure and income for the period between the last two Annual General Meetings.

4.6. Renewal of affiliation

- (a) The club must confirm its affiliation with the Flinders University Student Association at its Annual General Meeting on an academic day prior to the 1st of May.

5. Meeting Procedures

5.1. Chairing

- (a) The President shall chair all meetings. If the President is absent, the Vice-President shall chair the meeting. If the President and Vice President are absent, the first order of business shall be to determine the chair.

5.2. Voting

- (a) Each member present is entitled to one vote.
- (b) A vote shall pass if 50% plus one members present vote in favour of the item.
- (c) Voting shall be by show of hands unless 25% of the voting members present request a secret ballot.

6. The Executive

6.1. Functions of the executive

- (a) The functions of the executive are:
 - (i) Oversee the activities of the club and ensure that the club acts in accordance with the constitution; and
 - (ii) To select a delegate to represent the club at the Clubs and Societies sub-committee meetings; and
 - (iii) Administer the club's budget and finances.

6.2. Composition

- (a) The Executive Committee is comprised of:
 - (i) The President, who must be a current student; and
 - (ii) The Vice-President; and
 - (iii) The Secretary; and
 - (iv) The Treasurer.
- (b) The executive must be comprised of at least two current students.

6.3. Term of Office

- (a) The term of office shall be from the time of appointment until the next Annual General Meeting.

6.4. Roles and Duties of the members of the Executive

- (a) The duties of the President include:
 - (i) Co-ordination of club activities; and
 - (ii) Being chief spokesperson for the club; and
 - (iii) Chairing general and Executive meetings; and
 - (iv) Acting as a signatory for the club's budget; and
 - (v) Assisting, advising, and supporting all members of the club; and
 - (vi) Act in lieu of other office bearers where they are unable or fail to fulfil their duties.
- (b) The duties of the Secretary include:
 - (i) The maintenance of a register of members consisting of name, student ID number, FAN and date of payment of membership fee, if applicable; and
 - (ii) The production of meeting minutes; and
 - (iii) The submission of documents for renewal of affiliation.
- (c) The duties of the Treasurer include:
 - (i) Being responsible for all of the club's money and to record all income received and payments made by the club; and
 - (ii) Keeping a register of all assets held by the club; and
 - (iii) Presentation of a financial report to each Executive meeting; and
 - (iv) Presentation of a financial report to the Annual General Meeting for the last financial year and the period since the end of the last financial year; and
 - (v) Keeping the financial records of the club; and
 - (vi) Acting as a signatory for the club's budget; and
 - (vii) Keeping the club's members informed of the club's financial situation.
- (d) The duties of the Vice-President include:
 - (i) Assisting all other executive members in their duties.
 - (ii) Act in lieu of the President where they are unable or fail to fulfil their duties.

6.5. Executive meetings

- (a) Quorum at an executive meeting is 50% plus one of the voting members of the executive.
- (b) If, within 20 minutes after the scheduled start of an Executive Meeting, quorum is not achieved the meeting shall lapse and must be reconvened at a later date.

- (c) Executive meetings may be called by the Secretary, President or any two Executive members.
- (d) At least five days' notice in writing of the date, time and place of Executive meetings shall be given to each Executive member unless all executive members agree to waive this requirement.
- (e) A matter decided by the executive may be overruled by a General Meeting or Annual General Meeting.

7. Annual Elections

7.1. Timing

- (a) The annual elections held by the club must be announced at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the elections are to be held.

7.2. Returning Officer

- (a) The Executive must appoint a Returning Officer at least 2 weeks before the election.

7.3. Nominations

- (a) Nominations must be sent, in writing, to the Returning Officer prior to the start of the meeting at which the election is held.
- (b) The Returning Officer must allow a final chance to nominate during the meeting immediately prior to the ballot.
- (c) Only current students may nominate for the position of President.
- (d) Any member of the club may nominate for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President

7.4. Ballots

- (a) Contrary to section 5.2(c) elections shall always be conducted by secret ballot.
- (b) Ballots may only be conducted at an Annual General Meeting of the club.
- (c) The order of the names on the ballot shall be randomized by the Returning Officer.

7.5. Vote Counting

- (a) Each member present at the meeting at which the election is held is entitled to a single vote for each ballot.
- (b) The nominated member who receives the most votes in the election and who is eligible for the position shall be declared the winner of the election.

7.6. Post-Election requirements

- (a) The contact details for all office bearers of the club must be given to the General Secretary and the Association within two weeks of the election.

8. Casual Vacancies

8.1. Timing

- (a) The Executive must notify the members of the club as soon as reasonably practicable of any casual vacancies.

8.2. Returning Officer

- (a) The Executive must open nominations for and appoint a Returning Officer within seven days of a position becoming vacant.

8.3. Nominations

- (a) Within seven days of being appointed, the Returning Officer must open nominations for all vacancies.
- (b) Nominations must be sent, in writing, to the Returning Officer.
- (c) If the number of nominations is less than or equal to the number of vacancies to be filled for a position, then the person(s) nominated shall be deemed to be elected to that position.

8.4. Ballots

- (a) If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled for a position, a secret ballot shall be held to fill the position.
- (b) Contrary to section 5.2(c) elections shall always be conducted by secret ballot.
- (c) The order of the names on the ballot shall be randomized by the Returning Officer.
- (d) The ballot shall be conducted in a manner that the Returning Officer determines is fair and equitable for candidates and voters.

8.5. Unfilled Vacancies

- (a) If no nominations are received for a casual vacancy, the Executive shall reopen nominations until such a time as an eligible candidate nominates for

the casual vacancy. That nominee shall be deemed to be elected to that position.

9. Finances

9.1. Bank Account

- (a) The President and Treasurer must be signatories to the bank account.
- (b) At least two signatories to the bank account must be current students.

9.2. Financial Year

- (a) The financial year of the club shall run from 1 January to 31 December of each year.

9.3. Authorisation of expenditure

- (a) All financial outlays must be approved at a General Meeting, Annual General Meeting or a meeting of the club's executive.
- (b) Expenditure must only be authorised if it will further the aims and objectives of the club.

9.4. Banking of money

- (a) The club must bank all monies received as soon as practicable.

9.5. Record keeping

- (a) The club must ensure that a record is kept of all expenditure and income received. This record must specify the nature of all goods or services purchased and the name of the vendor.
- (b) The club must ensure that it obtains a receipt for all purchases and safely stores a copy.

9.6. Assets

- (a) All assets purchased at least in part by Flinders University Student Association's grants remain property of the Flinders University Student Association.

10. Dissolution

10.1. Winding up

- (a) The club may be wound up by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or by a two-thirds majority of members present at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.
- (b) If the club is wound up by its members, it must inform the General Secretary and the Association within fourteen days and present the Association with a final asset register and bank account statement.

10.2. Distribution of Assets

- (a) In the event of the club being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be

transferred to the Flinders University Student Association which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

- (b) In the event of the club being disaffiliated with the Flinders University Student Association all monies given to the club and purchased assets, shall be returned to the Flinders University Student Association.

11. Miscellaneous

11.1. Vacation of Office

- (a) The Office held by a executive member becomes vacant if the executive member:
 - (i) Dies or is permanently incapacitated;
 - (ii) Ceases to be a member of the club;
 - (iii) Resigns from their position by notice in writing to the club;
 - (iv) Fails to adequately fulfil the requirements as determined by a two-thirds majority vote at a General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting.

11.2. Expulsion

- (a) A motion to expel a member may be brought before a General Meeting of the club.
- (b) The motion to expel must be accompanied with written justification and sent to the member at least two weeks prior to the date of the General Meeting.
- (c) The member has a verbal and written right of reply to any notice of expulsion
- (d) A written right of reply must be given by the member within seven days of receiving the notice of expulsion to be included within the Agenda
- (e) The Agenda must include the motion of expulsion, written justification and any written reply by the effected member.
- (f) The Agenda of the General Meeting at which a motion of expulsion is included must be sent to members, and the General Secretary of the Association, at least one week prior to the General Meeting.

Discrimination

- (g) A club may not discriminate against a person for any reason if that discrimination is unlawful or breaches any regulations of the Association or the Flinders University of South Australia.

11.3. Bound by FUSA regulations

- (a) The club is bound by all of the Flinders University Student Association's regulations where applicable. This is not limited to the Clubs and Society

Regulations. Any inconsistencies between the Association's regulations are to be determined by the Association's Student Council.

11.4. Inconsistency rule

- (a) When a provision of this constitution is inconsistent with the regulations of the Association, the latter shall prevail, and the former shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be invalid

11.5. Alterations to this constitution

- (a) All alterations to this constitution must be approved by a two-thirds majority at a General or Annual General Meeting of the club.
- (b) All alterations to this constitution must be provided in the notice of the meeting during which they are approved.
- (c) All alterations to this constitution must be approved by the Association before they come into effect.
- (d) Alterations must be submitted to the General Secretary prior to their approval by the club or within two weeks of their approval by the club.



FUSA Election Report 2015

Review and Recommendations

1. Introduction

The FUSA elections for Student Council, Student Magazine Editors and NUS Delegates took place between October 12 and October 15, 2015. In total there were 1,808 electors over 15 separate elections. The purpose of this report is to focus on the collection of data to help improve the election experience, representative processes and to foster greater student engagement. The report is also an opportunity to review the election regulations and other associated representative processes so that recommendations can be made to Student Council

2. Objectives:

This report is the second of year-in, year-out data analysis of FUSA elections. In doing so a number of objectives have been identified:

- 2.1. To identify possible short-comings in the Election Regulations.
- 2.2. To identify particular issues that may have occurred during the elections (and to identify issues that may occur across electoral cycles).
- 2.3. To provide a legitimate opportunity for candidate feedback into the conduct of the elections to be received.
- 2.4. To collect empirical data so that the Student Council may more effectively review electoral processes.
- 2.5. To track and improve student engagement with a particular focus on voter turnout and candidate nomination.
- 2.6. To make recommendations and points for discussion to Student Council based on the findings within the report.
- 2.7. Improve the election process overall, with a focus on improving student engagement and civic responsibility

3. 2015 Election

3.1. Result

The Returning Officer and two student scrutineers oversaw the ballot. At the close of the ballot for the FUSA Election of Student Council and the Empire Times Editorial Team, for a term of office from 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2016 and for positions of National Union of Students Delegates, to hold office from October 16 2015 up until the beginning of the Annual FUSA Elections in 2016, the following candidates were elected:

Student President

Caleb Pattinson

Education Officer

Jack Harrison

General Secretary

Genevieve Danenberg

Welfare Officer

Jason Byrne – Elected Unopposed

Post Graduate Students Officer

Christine Bennetts

Social Activities Officer

Sarah Polanco

Indigenous Students Officer

Alfred Lowe – Elected Unopposed

General Council Members (SIX POSITIONS)

Hamish Richardson

Grace Hill

Jordon O’Reilly

Christopher Norman

Joshua Sunman

Sean Lamonby

International Student Officer

Prashanth Magandram

Women’s Officer

Angela Tomarelli

Empire Times Editorial team

Eleanor Danenberg, Liam McNally, Simone Corletto

Queer Officer

Alexander Chen

NUS Conference Delegates

Jack Harrison

Grace Hill

Joshua Sunman

Sean Lamonby

James Vigus

Genevieve Danenberg

Environment Officer

Ali Roush

Accessibility Officer

Amy Hueppauff

3.2. Turnout

Voter turnout is one of the most significant indicators for determining the success and legitimacy of an election. We were very pleased to see almost double the voter turnout in 2015 from 2014 (Figure 1). Figure 1 details that of the 19,667 on the electoral roll, 1,808 cast a ballot in at least one election, bringing voter turnout to almost 9.19%. The 2014 elections at the University of South Australia (who also utilise online voting) achieved a voter turnout figure of 10%. Please note, data from UNISA’s 2015 election is not yet available.

**Figure 1: 2015 Voter Turnout compared with 2014:
Total Number of Electors**

	2014	2015
Individual Voters for all Elections	979	1808
Electoral Roll	19,411	19,667
Turnout	5.04%	9.19 %

Figure 2 breaks down the turnout by each election and across four electoral cycles. A number of points emerge. First, is that ballots cast for all elections have increased, with some notable rises across a number of positions (e.g. President, Women’s Officer, Accessibilities Officer & General Council). Ballots cast for Education Officer and General Secretary were down slightly from 2014. The number of candidates for 2015 increased significantly from the previous year and unopposed positions

FUSA Election Report 2015

decreased. The competitive process within an election is also a significant indicator of a robust and open election.

Figure 2 STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION DATA 2012 - 2015

POSITION	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Nominations	Ballots	Nominations	Ballots	Nominations	Ballots	Nominations	Ballots
1 President	2	296	2	383	2	597	3	845
2 General Secretary	2	227	4	399	2	550	4	534
3 Education Officer	EO	0	4	236	3	532	2	511
4 Welfare Officer	3	212	2	249	3	504	EO	EO
5 Post Graduates Officer	2	175	4	440	EO	0	4	511
6 Indigenous Officer	NC	0	EO	0	2	562	EO	EO
7 International Students Officer	NC	0	4	370	EO	EO	9	531
8 Women's Officer	EO	0	4	278	3	370	3	531
9 Queer Officer	3	275	EO	0	EO	0	3	416
10 Environment Officer	2	213	4	443	3	496	2	450
11 Accessibility Officer	n/a	0	EO	0	2	525	4	754
12 Social Activities Officer	n/a	0	3	253	4	462	4	572
13 General Member (6 positions)	12	312	19	521	11	571	22	910
14 Empire Times Editor (3 positions)	n/a	0	4	229	EO	0	2	624
15 NUS Delegates (6 positions)	16	287	11	209	12	503	14	635
TOTAL	42	1997	65	4010	47	5672	76	7824

(EU: Elected Unopposed; NC: No Candidate)

After the 2014 election a recommendation was made that a Polling Place be established to operate for at least four hours each day of the elections with at least four devices available for voters to use. This recommendation was mandated within the Election Regulations before the 2015 election commenced.

There is no doubt that the Polling Place in Humanities Courtyard assisted with an increased voter turnout in 2015. The Polling Place housed five polling booths with five computers available for voting between 10am-2pm on Monday October 12- Wednesday October 14 and 9.30am-3pm on Thursday October 15. The Polling Place was staffed by two Polling Clerks at all times to assist voters to cast their ballots on the electronic voting system. From the candidate exit survey 75% of responders felt the Polling Place was a success. Suggestions were made to consider extending the opening hours of the Polling place to maximise voter turnout. Students who voted also appreciated the "I Voted" sticker they received and this was an incentive for voters to use the Polling Place.

The online voting system continues to be a hindrance to voters, particularly those

who wish to vote in more than one election and must keep moving back and forth between pages to cast their votes. On the whole, the system is confusing and time consuming and in many cases, a barrier to students who wanted to vote for candidates across all elections. One of the biggest problems with the online voting platform is that all voters are required to enter their FAN with only lowercase letters to access the voting system. If the FAN is entered with any uppercase letters students received a message that they were not eligible to vote. ITS added a note to students on the voting landing page and all students who were unable to vote were contacted about this. This is an unfortunate and completely unnecessary hindrance on what is already a cumbersome online voting platform.

It should be noted that the University has now identified an appropriate vendor to provide a cloud based managed online voting system that will be more intuitive and user friendly. The goal is that this new system will increase student engagement in elections and will be available in time for the 2016 FUSA elections.

Candidate nomination is similarly an indicator of student engagement and although the number of candidates nominating for election increased in 2015 there would still be a benefit from a campaign to elevate student awareness and involvement. In addition, the nomination process, which currently is submitted in hardcopy and must include a proposer and a seconder, is in need of review as current practice may represent a cost that dissuades wider engagement.

Figure 3: Number of Candidates for FUSA elections

	2014	2015
Candidates	34	49

3.3. Conduct

The 2015 elections were once again robustly contested, however, changes to the Election Regulations made in light of the 2014 elections did reduce some of the major issues identified as having a significant impact in 2014.

Figure 3 details responses from a candidate survey conducted in the week following the elections. The survey had a response rate of just 40% and although this is not a representational sample of candidates, it does provide some useful information. A complicated electoral system, disenfranchisement or difficulty voting and voter turnout or apathy were the key issues identified as having a significant impact on the FUSA 2015 elections.

Figure 3: Did any of the following issues, in your opinion, have a significant impact on the FUSA 2015 elections?	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Non-Flinders University Student involvement	15.8%

FUSA Election Report 2015

Cheating or trickery	26.3%
Bullying or Coercion	36.8%
Misleading or offensive material	15.8%
Disenfranchisement or difficulty voting	47.4%
Intolerance (sexism, racism, homophobia etc.)	15.8%
Electronic voting	26.3%
Ineffective dispute mechanism	10.5%
Voter turnout or apathy	42.1%
Complicated electoral system	57.9%
Access to information	10.5%
Nomination process	10.5%
Difficulty understanding the regulations	10.5%
Gender equity	0.0%

Insufficient support from FUSA	5.3%
No significant issues	10.5%
Other (please specify)	15.8%

Figure 4: Did any of the following issues, in your opinion, have a significant impact on the FUSA 2014 elections?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Non-Flinders University Student involvement	76.5%
Cheating or trickery	70.6%
Bullying or Coercion	52.9%
Misleading or offensive material	52.9%
Disenfranchisement or difficulty voting	52.9%
Intolerance (sexism, racism, homophobia etc.)	47.1%
Electronic voting	41.2%
Ineffective dispute mechanism	41.2%
Voter turnout or apathy	35.3%
Complicated electoral system	29.4%
Access to information	29.4%
Nomination process	11.8%
Difficulty understanding the regulations	11.8%
Gender equity	11.8%
Insufficient support from FUSA	5.9%
No significant issues	0.0%
Other (please specify)	0.0%

It is encouraging to see that some of the key issues identified in 2014 as having a significant impact on the elections, such as Non-Flinders University student involvement, cheating or trickery, bullying or coercion and misleading or offensive material were not identified as such significant issues in 2015. This may in some part be attributed to changes to the Election Regulations put in place to reduce or manage these issues.

A Code of Conduct (CoC) was also created in 2015 to outline expectations of candidates and appropriate behaviour over the election period. All candidates were invited to sign the CoC in demonstration of their commitment to ensuring a free and fair election. Whilst we are not sure how much of an impact the CoC had on keeping the elections free and fair, it was useful as a means of drawing attention to

elements within the Election Regulations that relate to candidate behaviour, expectations, and consequences for breaching election regulations.

4. Election report and feedback on the election experience

4.1. Returning Officer's Report

Dr Mary Heath, Lecturer in Law fulfilled the role of Returning Officer (RO) for the 2015 FUSA elections.

In her report on the elections (appendix 1), the RO made a number of observations regarding the current Election Regulations, the nature of complaints received over the election and how these complaints were handled. The RO was also asked to provide feedback on the work load and time required to fulfil the role to assist in future planning.

4.1.1. Social Media

The RO indicated that the Electoral Regulations do not provide enough guidance to either candidates or the RO in relation to social media use. Social media is constantly evolving through interaction: commenting, posting, liking and so on, thus approving the content of social media 48 hours in advance as the Regulations currently allow provision for is not practical. The Regulations appear to contemplate that social media will be static from the commencement of the campaign period (unless posts and comments, for example, are 'alterations', which rather defeats the purpose). Even if they are 'alterations', pre-approval would be either impossible or difficult to achieve.

4.1.2. Campaigning in teaching and learning spaces

The RO noted a widespread belief among candidates and the RO herself that campaigning in teaching spaces (library, computer labs, lectures, tutorials) was not permitted. However, after closer reading of the election regulations, particularly 15.5 which states:

Display or distribution of election material is not allowed in any computer labs, tutorial rooms, lecture theatres, designated teaching space, polling places, the library or any eating or drinking area

It is clear that this Regulation does not prohibit campaigning itself in venues considered to be out of bounds. If the perception that these activities are not permitted reflects the intended content of the Regulations, they should be amended to clearly prohibit the conduct concerned.

4.1.3. Complaints and Discrimination

The RO chose to deal with complaints and other issues informally when they arose. All complaints/issues were dealt with before students submitted formal complaints in writing with support of another student as detailed in

16.2 of the election regulations. During the 2015 election no formal complaints were made to the RO and following from this, no appeals to the Election Tribunal were necessary.

The main methods students used to make an informal complaint to the RO were through email and approaching the RO in person to talk about an issue or problem. Rather than to ask students to put the issue or complaint in writing the RO chose to deal with the complaint informally to try and resolve issues/problem in a timely manner. Once again it was difficult to adjudicate a complaint when it was one person's word against another. The RO acknowledges that this may have resulted in dissatisfaction from candidates on the outcomes of complaints/disputes.

There is a question around why students did not choose to complain formally in accordance with the Election Regulations. It may be because they were unsure of the formal process, they lacked time to do so whilst electioneering, or they didn't have any reliable witnesses to the complaint they wished to make.

4.1.4. Non students

The RO recognised that campaigning by non-students had been an issue in the 2014 election as this issue was raised with the RO prior to the election. The RO received no complaints on this question in 2015 but did discover in the course of the election that a person making an informal complaint regarding an election candidate was not actually a student within the meaning of the Regulations. In this light, the RO declined to respond to a complaint from this person on the basis that only students are empowered to make a complaint to the RO under the Regulations.

4.1.5. Workload

The RO advised that the workload in the role was considerable and made several suggestions on where Assistant RO's may be able to provide support or take on particular tasks to make the role of RO less time consuming. The RO also noted that the probity of the election and the content of the role meant that the role of RO will always be time consuming even if more parts of the task are delegated.

The RO made the following recommendations:

- (i) The need for Social Media to be addressed in the Election Regulations should be considered. Recommendation that Student Council investigates how other universities deal with social media during elections. For example, The University of Adelaide Union (AUU) have clause 26.8 in their election regulations regarding social media and web pages.
- (ii) Review and consider changes to the Election Regulations regarding campaigning in computer labs, tutorial rooms, lecture theatres, designated teaching space, polling places, the library or any eating or drinking spaces (Election Regulation 15.5).

- (iii) Further guidance to be offered to RO on handling incidents with conflicting claims of inappropriate, etc. behaviour.
- (iv) Investigate why no formal complaints were made during the election and whether students were aware that their complaint may be considered informal if they do not follow correct procedures outlined in the Election Regulations (16.2).
- (v) Strengthening of the wording regarding eligible students in the Election Regulations.
- (vi) Explore further options for improving voter turnout and engagement

4.2. Candidate Exit Survey

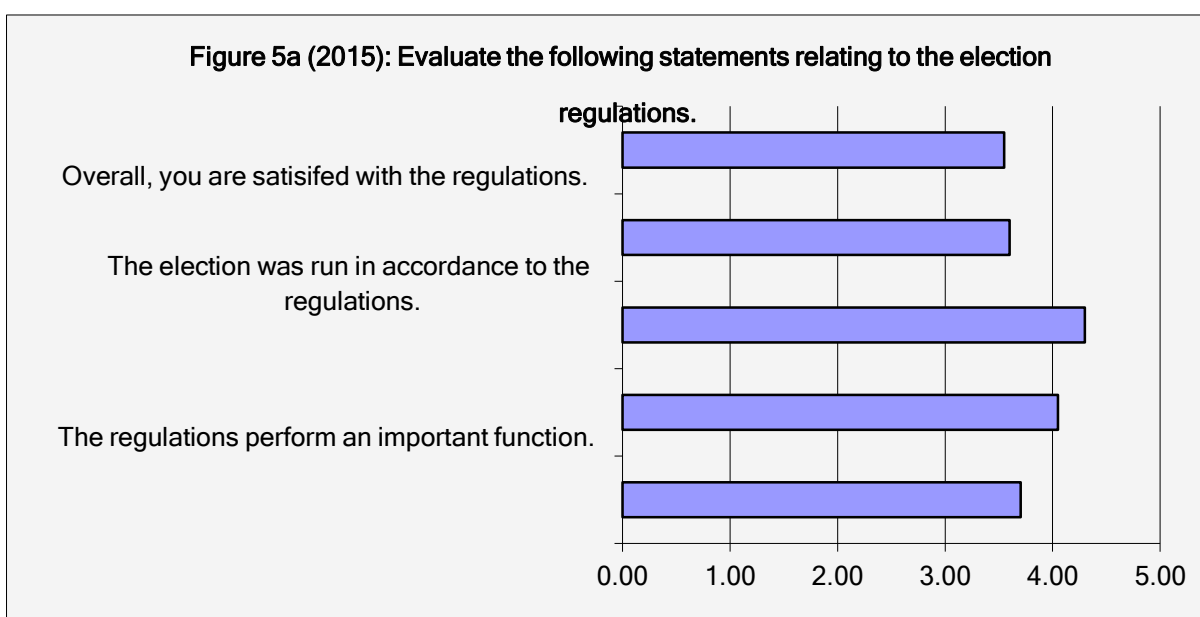
Following from 2014, a Candidate Exit Survey was once again circulated this year and received a somewhat disappointing response rate of 40%. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the overall experience and to collect data on issues relating to the election.

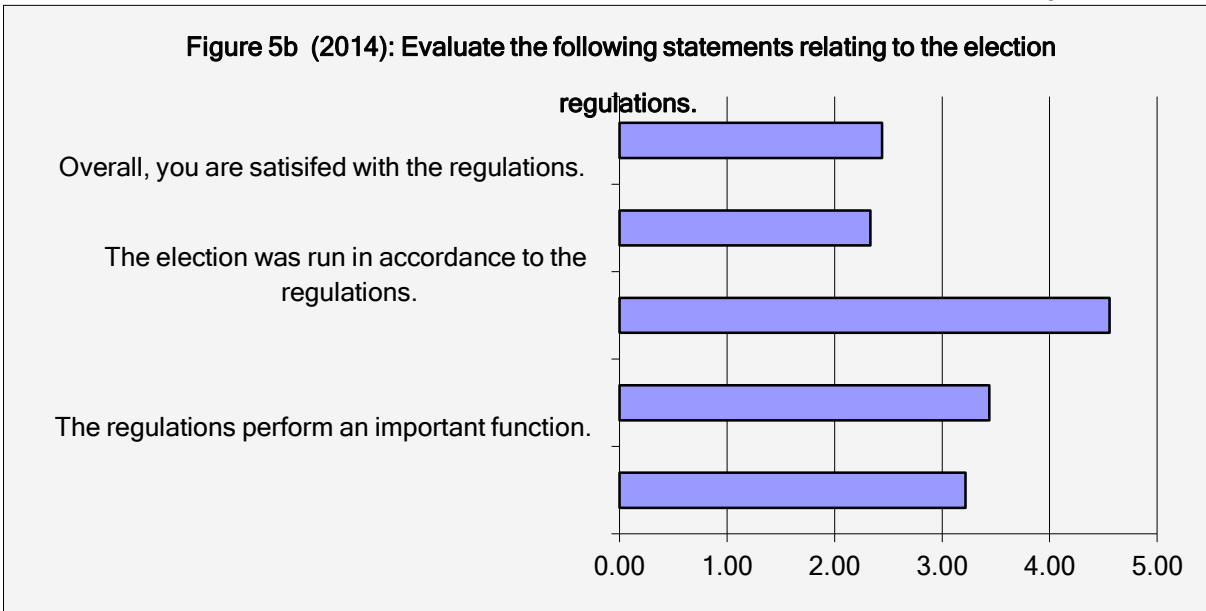
With this response rate we cannot say the data is representative sample of the views of the majority of candidates, however, the responses provided do help in some ways to reflect on the election and in planning for 2016.

The Candidate Exit Survey produced some thought-provoking results scored on a five point scale (Strongly disagree, disagree, neither disagree nor agree, agree, strongly agree). The Student Council may wish to reflect on the following:

4.2.1. On the election regulations (Figure 5a and 5b):

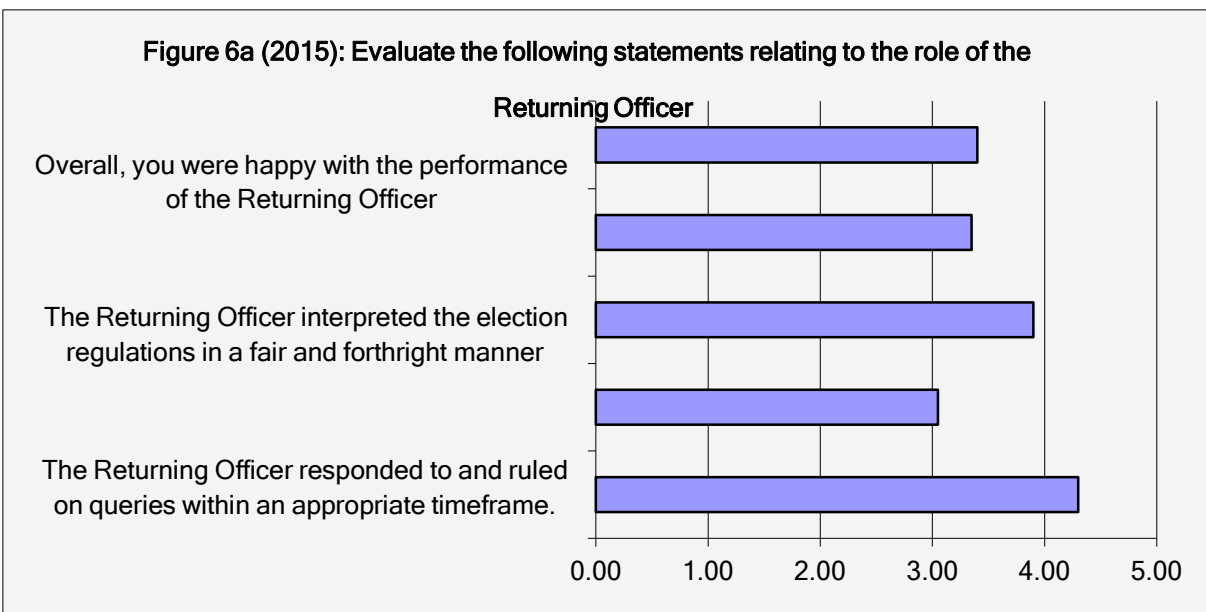
Statements one and two for Figure 5a indicate an improvement in feedback from 2014 (5b), regarding all statements relating to the Election Regulations. This can be attributed to the changes that were made to the Election Regulations after feedback from the 2014 elections. It is positive to see that satisfaction with the Regulations has improved.

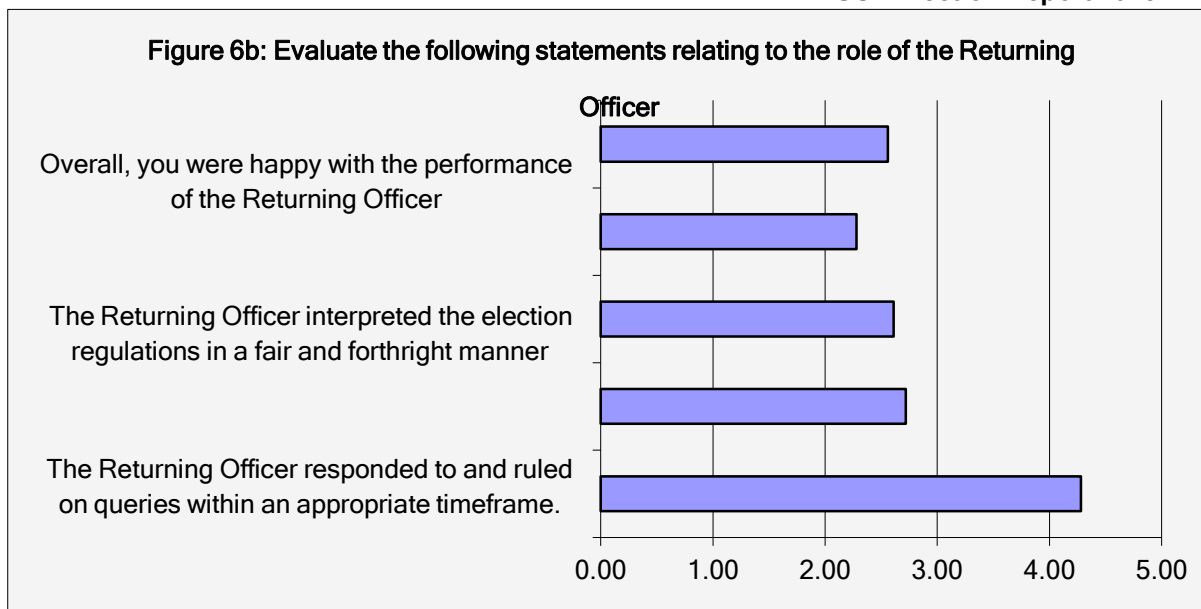




4.2.2. On the role of the Returning Officer (Figures 6a and 6b):

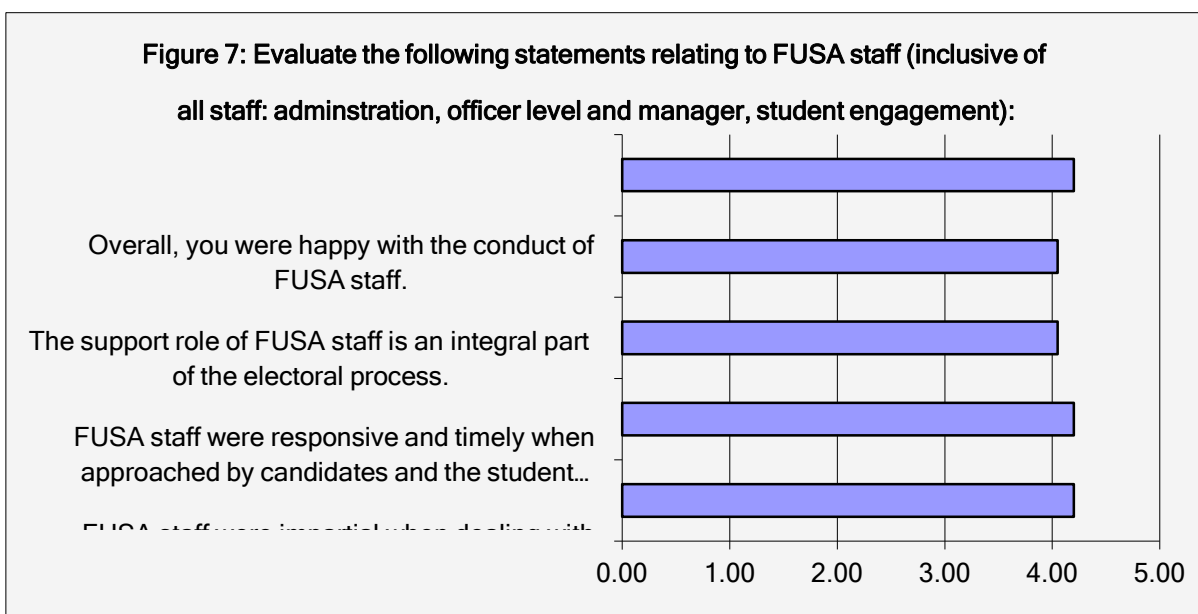
Given that the role of the RO is to conduct elections, including authorising election materials and adjudicating complaints, it is unsurprising that the role of the RO continues to be under intense scrutiny. It must be noted the RO is a voluntary position and is undertaken as an act of goodwill. Overall, Figures 6a and 6b indicate that candidates had greater satisfaction with the performance of the RO in 2015 and this clearly reflects positively on changes made to the Election Regulations that assist the RO in their role.





4.2.3. *On FUSA staff (Figure 7):*

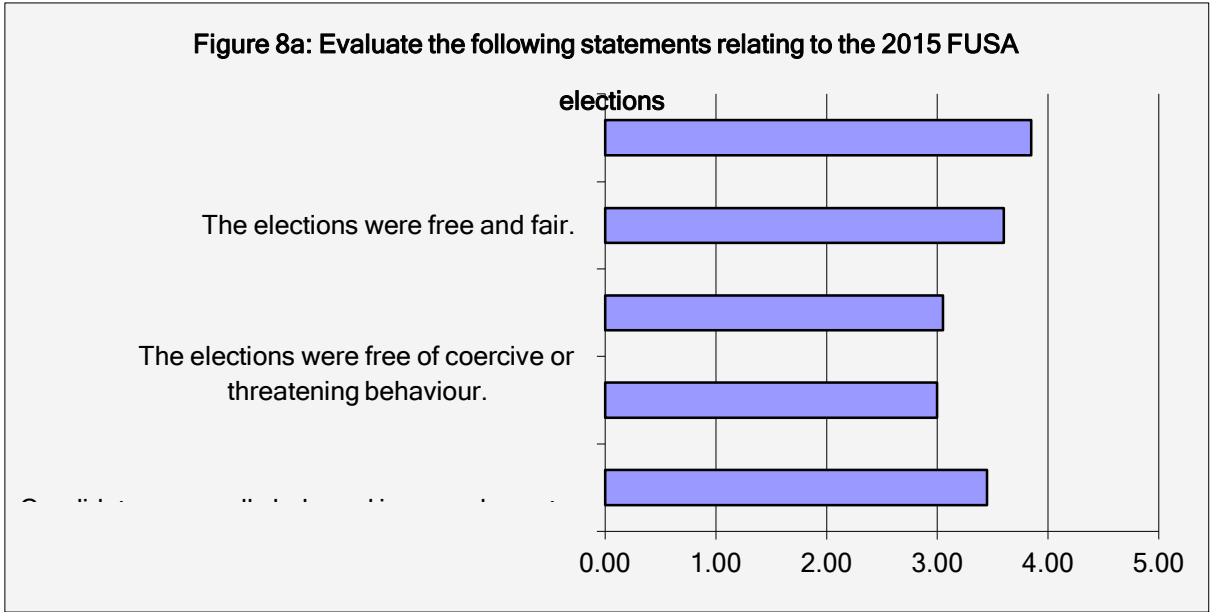
In a pleasing result the exit survey indicates that FUSA staff (in the context of the elections) were generally well regarded. The aim from 2014 was to improve the average response rate beyond the 4.00 mark and this was achieved, however, there is always scope for further reflection on how best FUSA staff conduct themselves during election time.

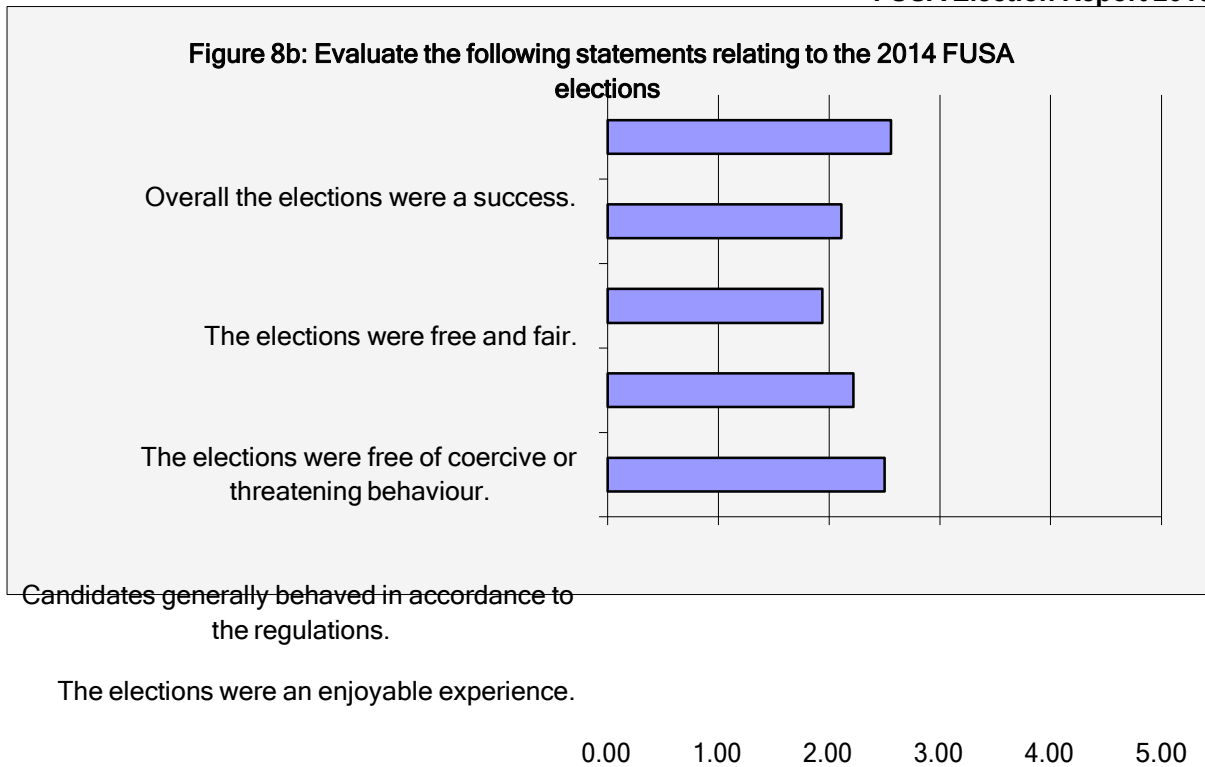


4.2.4. *On the elections (Figures 8a & 8b):*

It is positive to see an improvement in feedback given in 2015 (Figure 8a) in response to all statements in this category. However, there is room for further improvement to ensure that the elections are perceived as being free and fair and the behaviour of candidates is in accordance with election regulations. The responses in Figure 8a reflect some dissatisfaction with elements of candidate behaviour that, whilst adhering to the regulations in a strict sense,

may not be considered in the spirit of fair play during an election.





5. Election Regulations

Student Council may wish to consider the following proposals:

5.1. *RO Indemnity*

Currently the RO is not protected within the Election Regulations. It would be advisable for the Election Regulations to be explicit on this matter so long as there is an appropriate appeals process in place. Such a provision would also assist the Student Council should there be a desire to appoint an RO who is external from the University.

5.2. *On Defining Students*

Following from a recommendation in the 2014 Election Report, the definition of what constitutes a student was changed in the Election Regulations to better define what constitutes an “enrolled” student. However, in the interest of being completely clear, it is suggested that the definition include reference to a student being “currently enrolled in an award course” as reflected in the University definition.

The definitions could be amended to read:

“Student” means any currently enrolled student of the University, who is enrolled as a full-time, part-time or external student as defined by the University. “As defined by the University” is a composite of the University Council definitions of: “Postgraduate Student” and “Undergraduate Student”. Non-award students are not included within this definition. A student has a 'current enrolment' if he or she is enrolled for a topic which is identified as to be counted toward the requirements of a course as defined by the University.

6. Recommendations.

6.1. It is proposed that Student Council considers:

6.1.1. Amending the definition of “Student” in the Constitution and the Election Regulations to read:

“Student” means any currently enrolled student of the University, who is enrolled as a full-time, part-time or external student as defined by the University. “As defined by the University” is a composite of the University Council definitions of: “Postgraduate Student” and “Undergraduate Student”. Non-award students are not included within this definition. A student has a 'current enrolment' if he or she is enrolled for a topic which is identified as to be counted toward the requirements of a course as defined by the University.

It is also recommended that inconsistencies in the definition of Student between the FUSA constitution, the Election Regulations and other relevant FUSA regulations be resolved.

6.1.2. Amending 15.5 of the Election Regulations to read:

Campaigning and display or distribution of election material is not allowed in any computer labs, tutorial rooms, lecture theatres, designated teaching space, polling places, the library or any eating or drinking area.

6.1.3. Including the following clause into the Election Regulations granting indemnity to the RO: *“The Student Council shall indemnify the Returning Officers and appointees in relation to any action as a result of performing their duties in accordance with the Flinders University Student Association’s Constitution and these regulations.”*; or, propose an amended clause.

6.1.4. Investigating the need for social media to be addressed in the Election Regulations and how other universities regulate social media during elections.

E.g. The University of Adelaide Union (AUU) Rule Concerning the Conduct of Annual Elections, Clause 26.8.

6.1.5. Exploring the viability of appointing an external RO who is not employed by the University or offering an honorarium to the RO to assist them to manage the work required.

- 6.1.6. Exploring the viability of moving candidate nominations to an online portal to encourage more nominations and assist with streamlining administration processes for both nominees and FUSA staff.

7. Moving Forward

Student Council members are invited to contact Kate Walsh, Student Representation and Development Officer, to form an informal group to work on updating the regulations. Any ideas or thoughts from Student Council members would like to see integrated into the new regulations would be warmly received.

Oct. 29, 2015

Author: Kate Walsh, FUSA

Student Representation and Development Officer

Appendix A.

Returning Officer Report 2015

Dr Mary Heath

I offer the following report on issues that raised concern about the content and conduct of the election in relation to the Returning Officer role.

Election regulations

Campaigning in teaching and learning spaces

There was a widespread belief among candidates that campaigning in teaching spaces (library, computer labs, lectures, tutorials) was not permitted. I shared this belief until I undertook a close reading of the regulations.

Reg 15.5 clearly states:

Display or distribution of election material is not allowed in any computer labs, tutorial rooms, lecture theatres, designated teaching space, polling places, the library or any eating or drinking areas.

This reg does not prohibit campaigning in these spaces. I was therefore unable to uphold complaints about, or even ask people not to undertake, these activities.

If the perception that these activities are not permitted reflects the intended content of the regulations, I would recommend that they be amended to clearly prohibit the conduct concerned.

Social media use

Reg 14.4 states:

All election material, including but not limited to leaflets, posters, t-shirts, websites (including social media pages) to be utilised by candidates or teams of candidates must be submitted to the Returning Officer for authorisation. The Returning Officer may, at their discretion, decline to authorise any election material if in the opinion of the

Returning Officer it is inappropriate.

Reg 14.5 follows on:

Election material must be submitted to the Returning Officer at least 48 hours before the opening of the election. After 48 hours only alterations of previously approved material are allowed to be re-submitted.

In my opinion, these provisions do not provide enough guidance to candidates in relation to social media use. Nor do they provide sufficient guidance to the Returning Officer. Social media is constantly evolving through interaction: commenting, posting, liking and so on. Some candidates sent me screen shots of a social media page for approval, but there was no way I could have approved posts or comments 48 hours in advance, especially where they did not come from candidates. The regulations appear to contemplate that social media will be static from the commencement of the campaign period (unless posts and comments, for example, are 'alterations', which rather defeats their purpose and assumes they will be made by candidates). Even if they are 'alterations', pre-approval would be either impossible or difficult to achieve.

Discrimination

Reg 15.3 states that:

...a candidate, group of candidates or campaign assistants shall not: ...

(c) in relation to an election, print, publish, verbalise or distribute, or cause, permit or authorise to be printed, published or distributed, any matter or thing containing a statement:

...

(iii) That is discriminatory, sexist, racist or homophobic

I received a complaint under this regulation. In handling that complaint, it was apparent that some candidates believed a sexist statement was a statement made with sexist intent. Others believed that a sexist statement was a statement with sexist content, irrespective of intent. In the event, since the complaint was handled informally, I did not need to make a determination as to the meaning of the regulation.

In my opinion this regulation prohibits discriminatory statements, regardless of the intent of the person making the statement. It is silent on the mental state of the person making the statement and refers to the nature of the statement itself. It therefore focuses on conduct without reference to character or mental state, prohibiting sexist statements and not sexist people or *intentionally* sexist statements.

I regard this regulation as sufficiently clear that it does not require amendment. However, this may be a matter to be addressed in candidate briefings in the future. In my view, some candidates demonstrated ignorance of their obligations under University policies (rather than the electoral regulations) in relation to discrimination.

Non students

It is clear that campaigning by non-students had been an issue in the 2014 election, and this issue was raised with me prior to the election. I received no complaints on this

question but did discover in the course of the election that one campaigner was, in fact, not a student within the meaning of the regulations. In my view the meaning of 'student' is completely clear.

Complaints handling

I chose to deal with complaints informally in hopes of de-escalating them. I also sought to provide early clarification of any aspect of the new regulations, or my interpretation of them, that might be sought by candidates. This meant addressing concerns as they were brought to me rather than insisting on compliance with reg 16.2.

It appeared to me that my decisions on some of these matters were simply not communicated within or between tickets and that rumours circulated in an unhelpful way. The regulations are silent on the confidentiality of complaints and determinations, and imposing confidentiality carries a different set of risks--to people's sense of transparency. I chose not to discuss complaints and their determinations with people who were not involved in them, other than to the extent required to change the location of campaigning. I am not sure gossip is avoidable, but it was not helpful in my goal of de-escalating conflict, and the close relationships among some tickets and the relative size of tickets meant that more numerous tickets had a decided advantage in utilising the rumour mill and mustering witnesses about complaints.

I hope that post election feedback from candidates and polling clerks will allow an assessment of whether the approach I adopted was the best approach to take. While it often did allow early resolution in some form, it is possible it also resulted in more complaints coming to me. Whether the time invested in handling them was well spent is difficult to judge as a first time Returning Officer. Ultimately there were no formal complaints and the election tribunal was not convened.

Workload

The workload involved with this role was considerable. Meetings were required to brief me, set up the order of the ballot, meet the election tribunal and discuss how it would operate, debrief on campaigning days, and so on. I also attended the candidate briefing and attended the presidential debate. I sent out several all-candidate emails. Complaints handling occupied considerable time.

In terms of other workload, there were key pinch points:

- Approval of FUSA election materials
- Receiving all of the candidate responses about whether they wished to nominate a ticket
- Approving election materials (which were seldom sent in a timely way)
- Dealing with questions and complaints during the election period.

Serious consideration should be given to whether some or all of these tasks could be delegated, especially those where I could perform no real function (receiving the tickets and notifications of withdrawals from the ballot would be key examples). It may be possible to triage some of these tasks so that uncontentious materials are approved by a delegate and anything that raises a serious query goes to the RO. Consideration should also be given to which all candidate emails need to come from the RO's email address, as sending them out inevitably means getting queries and misaddressed email back.

However: the probity of the election and the content of the role mean that this will be a time consuming role even if more parts of the task are delegated. In future years where there is less tension about the previous year's election, fewer brand new regulations and more experienced staff involved (my being new to the role made it more time consuming), it will surely take less time.