

Flinders University Student Council

Minutes of the Emergency Meeting Held on Tuesday 25th March 2014

Location: FUSA meeting room.

Opened: 6:04pm

Present: Caleb Pattinson, Grace Hill, Ira Herbold, James Vigus, Jaka Yusuf, John Photakis, Justin Shaw, Rosalie Grace Dow, Roxanna Henshaw, Stef Rozitis, Tim Mitchell, Will Menzies, Yadollah Bahrami, Chris O'Grady, Juan Smith (Guest: Buildings and Property), Paul Harrison (Minutes), Tut Tut (6:13pm)

Apologies: Haidarr Raiz-Jones, Justin Shaw and Ella Keegan-Treloar

1. Welcome and Meeting Open

It was acknowledged that the Student Council meeting was taking place on the land of the Kuarna people.

2. Apologies

There was no dissent in the apologies

3. Welcome Guests

Student Council welcomed Juan Smith, as a representative from Buildings and Property who is involved in planning on campus, to the meeting and invited him to talk about the plan for a Hub at Flinders University.

4. Hub Consultation

Juan stated that the purpose of his visit to the Student Council is as an introduction about what the hub is about and how to go forward with consultations.

Why build a student hub?

What we have currently on campus is not reflective of how students interact.

Chris O'Grady left the room 6:06pm

Most importantly the Hub will enhance the student experience at Flinders University.

The main areas identified as issues were student owned spaces for relaxation and recreation. As well as student spaces for learning and socialising.

Other areas identified were that student support services as well as clubs and associations must have a higher presence.

Regarding learning spaces: There are limited spaces where students can do flexible learning as well as a lack of inviting spaces.

Student facing services, contact points for students to deal with the University, are currently all over the campus. The Hub is to allow access to university services easier and for them to be more central.

Food and beverages available currently do not have diversity in food or price that students and staff want on campus.

Professional accommodation: Accommodating the professional areas of the university.

Tut Tut has entered the room: 6:13pm

Post-Graduate Officer: There are lots of concerns regarding privatisation of space. The University should not view FUSA as just another stakeholder. FUSA also needs its own space to operate as the Student Association and control.

Manager, Student Engagement seeking clarification: Talking about student ownership of spaces?

Environment Officer: In regards to students having student friendly spaces. I agree with Post-Graduate Officer. I would hate to see it turn into a mini-mall for corporations to buy out spaces.

Post-Graduate Officer: We can have all the great student spaces in the world, but students still need money. They need jobs. The University needs to look at the full aspect of what it means to be a student, not just the space.

Environmental Officer: It would be a real concern if there would be a price impact upon the students in any way.

Accessibility Officer questioned Juan regarding the accessibility of the building and which accessibility code they are attempting to comply to.

Juan Smith: I'm not sure about specific code, but the University is attempting to conform to best practice.

Juan Smith presented a map of the planned development at this point as time as well as a fly-through of a concept of what the development may look like. He emphasised that it is currently very preliminary and not finalised in any way.

Juan Smith has left the room 6:35pm

Motion: I move that the meeting be finished no later than 7:00pm.

Moved: James Vigus

Seconded: Grace Hill

For: Caleb Pattinson, Grace Hill, James Hill, John Photakis, Yadollah Bahrami

Against: 9

Abstentions: 0

Motion Failed

5. Matters for Decisions:

Starring: 5.5, 5.6, 5.4

General Secretary has left the room 6:38pm.

Motion: To accept unstarred motions on block (5.1, 5.2, 5.3).

General Secretary has entered the room 6:39pm.

Moved: Student President

Seconded: Post-Graduate Officer

For: 13

Against: Jaka Yusuf

Motion suspended.

Accessibility Officer: We should star What's Ap, 5.2.

Motion amended

Motion: Motion to move the unstarred motions on block (5.1, 5.3)

Move: Grace Hill

Seconded: James Vigus

All in favour.

Motion Carried

5.2. Creating What aps group for student council's member – Accessibility Officer

Accessibility Officer: What App is a communication and chatting app. We can make a group for student council to make it easier to communicate between council members.

Queer Officer: Is it available only for smartphones?

Accessibility Officer: Yes. Android, iOS and Samsung.

Grace: We could use the app and email.

Motion: I motion that all council members download What apps and join the council member group.

Moved: Jaka Yusuf

All in favour

Motion Carried

Seconded: Roxanna Henshaw

5.4. Affiliating before the Website is up to date – General Secretary

Motion: I motion that any club that holds their IGM before the regulations and template are updated on the FUSA website may affiliate with FUSA using their existing Constitution, provided they hold an SGM to amend their constitution within three months of affiliation and; provided they agree that the Clubs and Societies Regulations prevails over their club's constitution to the extent of any inconsistency.

Moved: Roxanna Henshaw

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: Tut Tut

Motion Carried

Seconded Tim Mitchell

5.5. NUS – Student President

Student President: It is very important to affiliate and support the union as student activists. Last year's affiliation fees that were paid were quite low. I don't think that this is appropriate for FUSA who support students and unions.

Michael Bezuidenhout: What was the fee?

Student President: \$5,000. The full affiliation fee is \$65,000 for our campus.

General Secretary: I would object to paying SSAF funds towards NUS. The legislation is untested and I believe that it violates ss 19-38(2)(4). I would like to give NUS \$15,000 but we cannot afford it at this time from non-SSAF funds and we should only apply for what we can afford. We can always pay additional later if we can get funding.

Post-Graduate Officer: I think the current arrangement is quite problematic. Student Councils do and should take a stance of saying 'we think that having a national union is really important'. Universities themselves have national committees.

Post-Graduate Officer: Students would be far worse off without a national union of students. SSAF money currently does go towards NUS. We should reject the Act and not just operate within the framework of something which is anti-student from the start. The University from the start is not pro-student. Us, as the student council, need to take a stance against this.

Tut Tut: Supporting this motion will be in flagrant defiance of the legislation.

Student President: 19-38(2) Does not state that SSAF cannot be spent on union affiliations. There is no prohibition on spending money on unions. This is why we can run political campaigns and NUS can run political campaigns. Even if we weren't legally allowed to I would say we should pass this motion.

Michael Bezuidenhout: NUS allows SSAF funds to be quarantined and not used towards political campaigns.

General Secretary: Request to be noted: I do not believe that the use of SSAF funds towards NUS affiliation falls within the scope of the uses allowed under sections 19-38 subsection (2) or subsection (4). I would like for \$15,000 to come out of the NAB bank account, but we cannot afford \$15,000 at the current time.

Education Officer: I am not sure if spending \$15,000 is in the best interests of the student body. I would prefer to see money going towards larger welfare breakfasts, more events etc. that have direct benefits to our students on campus

Student President: The NUS affiliation we have got campaigns against education cuts, rights of trans people, to protect medicare.

Student President: By affiliating to NUS and paying we are defending our rights to do all of this stuff.

Welfare Officer: I do believe that by doing this we are spending it in the best interests of our students. NUS acts in the best interests of students. NUS deals with issues that we could not deal with as an individual association.

Queer Officer: I agree with the General Secretary and would like it noted that I don't believe that it is a correct interpretation of the legislation to say that SSAF funds can be used to pay for NUS affiliation

General Secretary: Very few universities actually pay the full fees. It is convention not to.

Michael Bezuidenhout: Clarification: There is only two universities who pay full fees.

Student President: NUS does get SSAF funds, otherwise why would they have quarantine for SSAF funds? We have to make a choice: Funding for conferences or affiliating for NUS

Post-Graduate Officer: I think that we need to actually try and set a tone. Student money going to universities should not be prevented from going to students. We shouldn't abide by bad legislation.

Queer Officer: You said it's obvious that other universities have used SSAF fees but said you don't know who they are. But how is it obvious if we don't know for sure?

Student President: We know from the NUS President and General Secretary that they do receive SSAF funding.

General Secretary: Do have two separate bank account. But I am unaware of any Universities that do pay their affiliation through SSAF funds.

Environment Officer: Is there time to investigate this? I think it would be very irresponsible for FUSA to open itself up to liability without investigating it first.

Michael Bezuidenhout: The application for a fee waiver is due by the end of this month.

Environment Officer: Issue is whether we go for a fee waiver of \$5,000 or \$15,000? How much do believe we can fundraise? We should attempt to commit to what we can raise.

Student President: I don't think we should be trying to find the money for NUS. We should take a political stand and say that SSAF funds are something that the Students should control, that we should control now.

James Vigus has left the room 7:04pm.

International Officer: I think \$15,000 is too much at the moment. We should look around 5,000-10,000.

Manager, Student Engagement: It is the position of the University, the Vice Chancellor, that SSAF funds shouldn't be used to be spent on NUS affiliation. If you want

University to agree to SSAF funds then they need to submit a proposal to University Council. A proposal will be properly considered.

Student President: It is a sad state of affairs that the VC decides this and we have to beg for student money to go towards students.

Environment officer: Would there be any problem with us putting up more money later even though we've got a fee waiver for a greater amount?

James Vigus has entered the room 7:07pm.

Student President: \$5,000 is a shockingly low amount to affiliate for. \$15,000 is even low for a university of our size.

Michael Bezuidenhout: Fee waiver gets submitted to a committee who evaluate the student associations and unions and take into consideration SSAF circumstances and other revenue streams. Rather than focus on the amount, we should focus that we affiliate.

Post-Graduate Officer: Taking a stance. Saying we think that it's fine to use student money on NUS. It is clear that the University is opposed to NUS even though they have their own committees they are not opposed to.

Manager, Student Engagement: University is very much in support of NUS affiliation for FUSA. The critical point here is the use of SSAF funds.

Post-Graduate Officer: Would the University be willing to use other funds to affiliate?

Manager, Student Engagement: They may be willing.

Environment Officer: University paid for transport and costs of delegates last year. So, by their actions, it appears they are in support of NUS. We should pursue all the avenues we can to get a large amount of money to affiliate to NUS

International Officer: How about a compromise, \$10,000?

Queer Officer: I believe it is kind of too late in the game to be having this conversation. Bill for NUS came last year, we knew it was coming. My suggestion would be \$5,000 starting now the process of whether we can pay SSAF fees and additional monies later.

Post-Graduate Officer has left the room 7:14pm.

Education Officer: I think that using \$15,000 for an association which a large percentage of the students population does not know who they are or what they do is not a good idea.

Student President: The problem of NUS not being recognisable will not get better by de-funding NUS. The funding that we would potentially be taking which would be taken from funding which SC would use to go to conferences.

Michael Bezuidenhout: Obviously we like NUS and spending student's money wisely. We should commit to what we can pay. Might as well try, rather than just throw money at it without knowing.

Post-Graduate Officer has entered the room 7:19pm.

Student President: Would be a really shitty thing to be squabbling about how low our fee can go. That is blatantly anti-union.

Post-Graduate Officer: My understanding is that most student unions use SSAF funding. The problem with FUSA is that we don't have the same other streams of money coming in. But it's really clear that other Universities use SSAF monies.

Tut Tut: What other universities do is none of our business. We would be making like sheep and following the herd.

General Secretary: I would like to emphasise that it is not okay to say that what anyone else says is nonsense or laughable. I would happily see FUSA try to raise \$15,000, but I do not believe we should commit to it.

Procedural motion: That we move straight to a vote.

Moved: Postgraduate officer

All in favour

Motion Carried

Motion: I motion that student council approves paying affiliation fees of \$15,000 to the national union of students from the budget allocation for conference attendance of both student council and the student president (student engagement).

Moved: Grace Hill

For: Grace Hill, Ira Herbold, James Vigus

Against: 8 (*Request to be noted: Tut Tut*)

Abstentions: Caleb Pattinson, Michael Bezuidenhout

Motion Failed

Seconded: James Vigus

The General Secretary tabled a motion: I motion that student council continues with the convention of paying a waiver of \$5000, adjusted for inflation, payable from the NAB bank account and raised over the year as council sees fit.

Student President: Opposed to this because it is a terrible amount to pay. We should be committed to supporting our Union.

General Secretary: Think that we can realistically raise this amount and pay more if we can raise more. We should not overcommit and be liable for that amount.

Caleb Pattinson: Is it possible that 5k SSAf, 5k NAB, 5K Fundraising.

Post-Graduate Officer: Noble idea. But issue here is SSAF money actually going towards it.

Procedural Motion: That the motion should be put.

Moved: Post-Graduate Officer

(No vote taken)

General Secretary: Before we do that, what amount do we think?

Environment Officer: Add there that somebody should follow up on making the case to the University to follow up RE SSAF funding.

General Secretary: Provided that we also seek legal consultation.

Procedural Motion: Motion that we go to a vote

Motioned: Grace Hill

All in favour

Motion Carried

Motion: I motion that student council continues with the convention of paying a waiver of \$5000, adjusted for inflation, payable from the NAB bank account and raised over the year as council sees fit.

Moved: Roxanna Henshaw

All in favour

Motion Carried

Seconded: James Vigus

5.6. Annual Affiliation to Council of International Students of Australia (CISA) 2014
– International Officer

Michael Bezuidenhout: At Pres Summit it was raised that there is a good CISA and a bad CISA.

Student President: We will clarify to make sure it is the correct CISA.

Procedural motion: Motion to move to a vote

Moved: James Vigus

All in favour

Motion Carried

Motion: I motion that Student Council approves paying affiliation fees of \$250 for renewing the CISA membership.

Moved: Jaka Yusuf

All in favour

Motion Carried

Seconded: Caleb Pattinson

6. Matters for noting

6.1. Executive Meeting

6.2. Pub-crawl date

7. Meeting Closed

Meeting closed: 7:33pm