

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2013

Library Meeting Room 210

Present: Brodie McGee, Paul Harrison, Jayson Bailey, Jake Lane, Nadira Zainal, Will Menzies, Roxanna Henshaw, Adriana Allman, Dominiek Neall, Leon Cermak, Tim Mitchell, Abdulla Alajlan, Lauren Brice, Matthew Cwihun, Tut Tut, Chris O'Grady, Nicholas Smith (Minutes).

Meeting opened at 6:08pm

AGENDA MATTERS

Open and Welcome

Opened the meeting and acknowledged that the Student Council meeting was taking place on Kaurna land and thanked the elders past and present for the use of this land.

1. Apologies

Christopher Sellwood
Jordan Box (No apology)

2. Welcome Guests

Lily Salleh (CISA SA), Preesan Pillay (ET) and Sarah Gates (ET)

3. Empire Times Editors

Sarah identified that the ET domain name had been purchased and that articles were currently in the process of being uploaded to the webpage. Sarah and Preesan brought forward the issues of election of ET editors and introduced ideas that they thought would be a better solution. The model they introduced involved editors being chosen on a merit basis rather than being elected in an election. It was recommended that Steph Walker sit on the merit council in addition to this years current editors to choose the following years editors. Furthermore, Sarah recommended that editors cannot be on any election tickets to eliminate the risk of editors being selected as a popularity contest. The merit model was chosen as it was felt that it would eliminate the risk of ET editors being politically biased or being elected due to a 'popularity contest' rather than on skill. Finally, it was mentioned that the following years editors should be required to help work on the last ET edition of 2013, to ensure they have the skills and abilities to continue to produce a publication of the same calibre.

Sarah also identified that ET had legislation in place that stops editors from being politically aligned.

KPIs: Editors identified that they had never received copies of the KPI's

- Brodie to email a copy of ET KPI's to editors

Editors also requested information and/or evidence about ET's being found in bins around campus.

- Steph Walker to forward pictures to editors

Sarah Gates and Preesan Pillay left meeting at 6.20p.

4. Accept Minutes From Previous Meeting

Motion to accept minutes from last meeting following revision of typographical errors.

Motioned: Leon Seconded: Adriana

All in favour, motion carried.

5. In-Camera Discussion

Nothing required.

Starring of reports occurred.

6. Reports

Reports by the Education Officer, Welfare Officer, Post-Grad Officer and Indigenous Officer not received.

Motion to block reports 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9 and 6.13.

Motioned: Brodie Seconded: Will

Motion Carried.

6.1 President's Report

Brodie McGee proposed the following amendment to the report:

Uni SA allegedly spent \$250,000 on one band night.

6.2 General Secretary's Report

Leon Cermak addressed the topic of lockers to be placed in the Geoff Harrison Room.

Motion to accept reports 6.1 and 6.2.

Motioned: Leon Seconded: Tim

Motion Carried

7. Matters for Decision

Motion 7.8 that clubs be affiliated.

Motioned: Brodie Seconded: Paul

Motion Carried

7.1 FUSA 2014 Budget

Discussion about ET printing budget:

- Printing budget increase

- Recommendation made that ET printing budget does not increase, but that a second external budget be created to be used for additional printing, to be distributed at Student Councils discretion.
- Tim mentioned that a means of gather statistics to accurately measure ET circulation should be devised.
- Abdulla questioned whether the budget should be increased or whether it was possible to decrease either the size or quality of the publication.
- Lauren identified that FUSA is not mentioned as a contributor in ET and queried whether this should be followed up.

Clubs and Events Staff Position Creation

- Jake questioned the need of both a salaried Clubs and Event position in addition to a student council Social Events Officer.
- Brodie highlighted that the salaried position does the physical job of organising events and helps on all council members' events whilst the Social Events Officer will have a more advisory role.
- Will mentioned that the new position will take some of the jobs and pressure off of the general secretary.
- Jake still maintained doubts and confusion about the differences and roles of the staff position and the social activities officer.
- Leon clarified that the staff position does the 'leg work' allowing council members more time to work on projects and to take a more advisory role.
- Tim questioned how the social activity officer liaise between students and Clubs and Events staff member.
- Brodie mentioned the merits of a physical representation of all current and future projects to allow council members the ability to put their name to current and future activities.

Motion that student council endorse budget proposal for 2014.

Motioned: Brodie

Seconded: Leon

Motion Carries

7.2 Constitutional Interpretation

Chris sought clarification on what grounds are apologies accepted or rejected.

Jake questioned whether evidence of absence due to medical reason be implemented. He continued on to mention that no apologies will be denied with proof of medical reasons.

Will questioned what clarified as a legitimate medical reason.

Motion that amendment be made to include 'with a medical certificate'.

Motioned: Paul

Seconded: Tim

Motion Carries

7.3 Working Group Formations

Lauren identified that she already has a FUSA Ball Working Group.

Adriana identified that the Sustain-a-fair Working Group was currently being added to at the moment.

Brodie brought forward the idea of general council members joining/supporting current working groups. He added that there are currently no policies or protocols for groups. The Flinders Amenities

Review Working Group is currently chaired by Chris Sellwood, however Paul would like to establish the working group.

Matthew Cwihun enters at 6.56pm.

Motion that Student Council establish the following working groups with a of two student council members in each working group: Sustain-a-fair Working Group, FUSA Ball Working Group, Flinders Amenities Review Working Group.

Motioned: Brodie Seconded: Leon

Motion Carries

Leon, Tim, Jayson and Paul volunteer to join the Flinders Amenities Review Working Group.

7.4 Empire Times Editors: Election vs Merit Based Process

- Lauren spoke on behalf of moving towards a merit based system to select ET editors. She identified that Sarah and Preesan raised valid points as to why a merit based system should be implemented.
- Paul spoke for an election based system. He countered that an election based system keeps the process independent, that elections are a valid democratic process and that there is still likelihood that a merits based system would be biased.
- Jake spoke for a merit based system, highlighting that a merits based system would ensure editors have the ability to continue to produce a quality publication, whilst an election based system may result in a reduction of the quality of the publication.
- Brodie spoke for an election based system, emphasizing that students will be elected by their fellow students based on their skills.
- Jayson spoke for a merit based system, however he introduced the idea of one editor being appointed by a merit based system and the remaining two be elected.
- Tim spoke for an election based system, highlighting that an election is essentially a popularity contest and that is the point of elections. He also noted that student council is elected by a 'popularity contest'.

Dominiek Neal enters at 7.04pm.

- Will spoke for a merit based system, mentioning that a merit based system would result in the editors being together the entire process.
- Chris took note that the report given to student council by Steph Walker recommended an election induction test for all ET editor nominees to ensure they have adequate skill. It also mentioned that ET editor nominees not be allowed to run on a ticket.

Paul proposed the following amendment to an election based system: The four students receiving the highest number of votes are to sit an induction test, with the fourth editor being kept as a reserve.

Jayson proposed the following amendment: Two of the four editors be elected through a general election while the remaining two editors be appointed by a merit council.

Motion that four editors to be elected in a general election, with the fourth editor being kept in reserve.

Motioned: Paul Seconded: Leon

Motion carried.

Motion that the following amendment be made: That two editors be elected by general election and the remaining two editors be appointed by merit council, with the second appointment being kept as a reserve.

Motioned: Jayson

Seconded: Leon

Motion carries

Motion that the following amendment be made: Student council votes on the third and fourth editors.

Motioned: Matthew

Motion failed.

Motion that two student editors are elected by general election, student council appoints one editor and one is kept in reserve. Appointments are to be made by a member of FUSA, the current student president and the media officer.

Motion failed.

Motion that three empire times editors be elected by general election.

Motioned: Brodie

Seconded: Leon

Motion to make the following amendment: student council votes on third editor.

Motioned: Matthew

Motion failed.

Motion that four empire times editors be elected by general election with the fourth editor kept in reserve.

Motioned: Brodie

1 against (Jake), motion carried

Chris brought forward the idea mentioned by the ET editors that would prohibit ET editor nominees from running on a ticket.

Brodie clarified that editors are already currently running independently.

Chris mentioned whether an amendment should be made to ban group tickets for ET editors.

Jake reiterated that editors should be selected on a merit basis, and that editors should not be allowed to run on tickets of a promotional form.

Leon supported tickets identifying that three passionate and skilled students may wish to run together and that the ticket process stays in line with the democratic process.

Tim questioned how to stop digital ticketing.

Motion to end discussion on ET ticketing.

Motioned: Leon

Motion carried

Break for dinner at 7.25pm.

Tut leaves at 7.25pm.

Council resumed at 7.35pm.

Motion that Empire Times elections be same time as student council elections.

Motioned: Brodie

Seconded: Paul

Motion carried.

7.5 Election of Sub-Committees

Motion that if election of members of sub-committees is not specified in the constitution that no election be held for members of sub committees.

Motioned: Paul

Seconded: Abdulla

Motion carries

Leon to follow up returning officer for upcoming elections, cc'ing Chris O'Grady.

7.6 Executive Committee Recommendations

Brodie sought clarification on what constitutes 'attending meetings'.

Motion that student council members may only be recorded as attending a meeting if they are present for a minimum of 1.5 hours or attendance for the duration of the meeting, whichever is lesser.

Motioned: Paul

Seconded: Brodie

Motion passed by more than a two third majority and is therefore passed into policy.

Motion that if the requirement for the above mentioned motion is not met, a majority vote of Student Council may record a member as in attendance where a member has been present for at least 50% of the meeting.

Motioned: Paul

Seconded: Brodie

Motion passed by more than a two third majority and is therefore passed into policy.

Honorarium KPI's

Brodie clarified several points of honorarium KPI's:

- Working on and creating new ideas to be brought to student council does not count towards honorarium KPI.
- Student council meetings do not go towards honorarium KPI's.
- Individual club work does not count towards honorarium KPI's unless otherwise voted on by council.
- Priority is to be placed on current projects rather than the creation of new projects.

7.7 Continuation of Student Council Members with a Portfolio

Discussion as to whether this election the position of Accessibility Officer and Social Activities Officer be voted on.

Matthew identified why he felt the position of Accessibility Officer should remain.

- He identified that it is a significant position
- That he is still building a framework and foundation for the position.
- That he is playing the role of advocate for fellow students.
 - He questioned whether training should be provided so as to enable a greater ability to play the role of advocate.
- Matthew identified that he lacks the experience to definitively say the position should run again, however he felt it was a significant role and should run again

Jake repeated his idea of conflict between the roles of Social Activities Officer and the Clubs and Events staff member. He asked for Laurens perspective on the matter.

Lauren identified the differences between her role as Social Activities Officer and the new Clubs and Events staff member.

- The Social Activities Officer role would become more of a liaison role between students, council and the Clubs and Events staff member.
- The position of Social Activities Officer requires additional help due to the size of the portfolio workload.
- It allows a person on council to relay information and ideas between all relevant people.

Brodie clarified that the Clubs and Events staff member assists on all FUSA events, not just social events, which is currently the case with the Social Activities Officer.

Abdulla mentioned that other universities have both positions.

Motion to move to a vote.

Motioned: Leon

Motion carries.

Motion that all positions created by policy be reindorsed.

Motion to make amendment that the three roles be voted on separately.

Motioned: Paul

Secoded: Brodie

Motion carries

Motion that position of Accessibilities Officer be reindorsed.

Motion carries.

Motion that position of Welfare Officer be reindorsed.

Motion carries.

Motion that position of Social Activities Officer be reindorsed.

1 against (Jake), motion carries.

8. Matters for Discussion

8.1 Constitution Review

Brodie mentioned that the AGM is in September. The recommendation was made that any changes to the constitution be made at the AGM. Student Council had a general agreement on the matter

Leon suggested that an open consultation for changes to be made to the constitution be placed on the FUSA facebook page.

8.2 Student Council Communication and Revitalisation

Brodie identified that currently Student Council has been granted funding, however there is a lack of Student Council participation in activities. It was also mentioned that with some members there is a lack of visible Student Council activity. The question was posed on how to re-energise Student Council members.

Tim mentioned that a Student Council social day would be beneficial to re-energising Student Council. He questioned if and how it would have a negative effect.

Brodie discussed that a social day had been voted on in previous Student Council meetings yet no action was taken and that whilst most members of Student Council mentioned their intent to attend the Mental Health First Aid training day, very few members of council actually attended. The idea of time commitments was then discussed.

Leon highlighted that it is nearing exam time and therefore very few members of Student Council will have time in the near future for a social day. In the future a social day could be held around semester two Refresher Week.

Brodie reiterated that a planning or social day this year to re-energise Student Council would be beneficial. The possibility of a weekend meeting was addressed.

Lauren discussed the benefit of having a planning day at the beginning of the year to write down goals for the year and then having a second planning day later in the year to follow up on what goals have and have not been achieved by Student Council.

Will clarified that Student Council meetings are not the place for a planning day to take place.

Brodie posed the question to Student Council how to re-engage currently dis-engaged members of Student Council. Tut was mentioned as an example, as this meeting was the first he has attended in three months, and it was highlighted that each month since being elected to Student Council Tut's honorarium KPI report has identified that he has not done any work for Student Council outside of meeting attendance. Therefore the idea was raised that he has dis-engaged from Student Council.

- It was mentioned that there is a constitutional rule in place that mandates removal from student council.

Tim brought forward the idea of capping the number of current active activities to ensure current projects are completed before new projects are created.

Brodie identified that some members of council have been meeting with him to discuss progress and any issues they may be facing in relation to Student Council. It was posed as to whether these meetings should be made mandatory for all members of Student Council.

Leon supported the idea that the meetings be mandatory, but that there should be an alternative to face to face meetings.

Adrianna identified that the office is more functional for meetings to take place in. Adrianna also mentioned that a physical representation of current and future projects and activities may be beneficial at getting Student Council members to re-engage and to help get projects underway and completed.

Will identified that progress meetings with the student president may be confrontational for some members of council if conflict exists between the student president and members of Student Council. The suggestion was made that meetings could occur with a member of the Student Council Executive or that a third party bystander could sit in on meetings.

Brodie reiterated that meetings were to discuss ways to improve and fulfil council positions and roles and therefore it was important that he be facilitating them.

Lauren mentioned that some Student Council members may disengage between meetings and therefore monthly mandatory meetings with the student president be held a fortnight after Student Council meetings.

Motion that monthly meeting with the student president become mandatory from now until the end of the year.

Motioned: Brodie

Seconded: Leon

Abdulla leaves at 8.27pm.

Matthew adds that to make the meeting less tense and confrontational a third person should sit in on meetings.

Brodie identified that meetings may be used to address issues or conflicts with other members of council.

Leon highlighted that any issues between members of council can be brought Chris O'Grady.

Adrianna made note that meetings can be held in public places.

Will asked if a third person is wanted then they can be acquired.

Motion to move to a vote on the motion.

Motion carries.

Brodie:

- If student council role expectations not met, should Student Council members be removed from council?

Jake:

- Honorarium KPI to be recirculated to all members of council

Leon:

- Role is not met if not representing students or not attending meetings.
- Opportunity to be given to members of council who are not meeting their role requirements.

Brodie:

- Continuing with the example of Tut, no response has been received as to why he has not been attending meetings.

Will:

- Identified that it was part of his political platform mandate.

Brodie:

- Tut's election campaign is against the best interest of FUSA
- Removal from council if not meeting FUSA commitments?

Tim:

- Some tasks require training.

- Tut should be attending meetings.

Brodie:

- Question was posed “is Tut fulfilling his duty as outlined by the constitution?”

Will:

- Indicated the matter is not to be addressed at the current meeting.

Brodie:

- Choice be given to Tut to become an active member of council, step down from council or the vote be put to council to remove him, requiring a two third majority.

Paul:

- Identified that he has not met his honorarium KPI since joining council

Motion that any person who does not meet KPI requirements for an honorarium for three months in a row will be removed from council in addition to a vote, requiring a two third majority.

Motioned: Brodie

Vote carried over to following meeting.

Brodie: Training or Social Day

- Even split for social or training day
- Date?
- Majority of council should be in attendance
- Sun 15th of sep. 3rd Sunday of mid semester break, sat 28th of sep, 5th of oct, 21st sep weekend, 17th sep evening.
- Student council runs till December 31st

Chris left at 8.51pm.

Brodie: Tuesday night for training preferable

- General agreement from council

Jake: Tuesday night preferable, is there a point for training this late in the year?

Brodie: asked members of council to email three Tuesday night date choices to him.

Chris returns 8.55pm

8.3 Student Media Policy and Procedures

No action taken.

8.4 FUSA Position Details

Brodie:

- Each member of council write a position description for council roles
 - What has been done?
 - Next year’s expectations for the role?
 - Requirements?
 - Time put in?

- Template of position descriptions to be circulated to council
- Time expectations of each role
- Preferably emailed to student president by Monday the 9th of September at the latest so it can be available for student council election nominations.

9.0 Matters for Noting

Welcome Lily Salleh (CISA SA)

9.1 Empire Times Report

First monthly report?

Dom leaves 9.02pm.

Brodie:

- Food trucks began today
- Two vans at each location, on each of the two days
- Flinders One was told
- Flinders One was unhappy that they were not involved in the food van organisational process
 - Open to feedback and specific suggestions on how to improve food on campus from students.

Dom returns 9.09pm.

Lauren: food van promotion?

Brodie: possibility of charging food vans a refundable deposit to ensure they come to food van days on campus.

Meeting closed at 9.16pm.