

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

5th Meeting

20 April 2023

11:00AM

Waterfront Meeting Room D4.011 and Via Zoom



Student Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday 20 April 2023

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DUSA Student Council

Thursday 20 April 2023
Commencing at 11:00am
Waterfront Meeting Room D4.011 and Via Zoom

Procedural Matters

1.0 Welcome

- 1.1 The Chair, Georgie Brimer formally welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 11:03AM.

As we gather for this meeting physically dispersed and virtually constructed, let us take a moment to reflect on the meaning of place and in doing so recognise the various traditional lands on which we do our business today.

We acknowledge the Elders past, present and emerging of all the lands we work and live on, and their Ancestral Spirits, with gratitude and respect.

Present

Georgie Brimer	President and Chair
Guleid Abdullahi	Vice President - Education
Simar Bedi	Vice President - Welfare
Jonathan De La Pena	General Secretary
Spencer Perry	Assistant General Secretary
Jerry Cui	Student Council Member
Prabhmah Singh	Student Council Member
Jorja Sharp	Student Council Member
Ally Petherick	Student Council Member

Present for Debate

None

By Invitation

Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Lee Emberton	Student Engagement Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager

Observers

Gurratan
Sunny Singh

Minute Taker

Annette Allen Executive Officer

1.2 Apologies

Max McGahan	Student Council Member <i>(on leave)</i>
Sue Rolland	General Manager <i>(on leave)</i>

1.3 Absent

None

2.0 Question Time

- 2.1 The Chair advised no questions had been received prior to the meeting.
- 2.2 The Chair asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were received.
- 2.3 The Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest to declare. None were received.

3.0 Starring

- 3.1 The following items were starred for further discussion (*including automatic starring as per agenda*):
 - 3.2 To consider a recommendation from the Chair that all remaining unstarred reports be received without further discussion.
 - 3.3 To consider a recommendation from the Chair that all remaining unstarred items on the agenda be received and that all recommendations therein be approved without further discussion.
 - 4.1 Accept the minutes of the previous Student Council meeting held on 23 March 2023.
 - 4.2 Actions arising from the Minutes
 - 6.0 Leave of Absence Requests
 - 6.1 Leave requested by Jorja Sharp
 - 8.0 Strategic Matters of Importance to Members
 - 9.0 Constitution and Regulations
 - 9.1 Proposed amendments to Constitution for voting at AGM
 - 10.0 Policy, Procedures and Systems
 - 10.1 Monthly compliance reporting
 - 11.0 Reports and Operational Matters
 - 11.1 Human Resources
 - 11.2 Finance Report and Profit & Loss
 - 11.3 2022 Financial Report
 - 12.0 Minutes of DUSA's Committees Received
 - 12.4 Minutes of Geelong Campus Committee
 - 12.5 Minutes of Executive Committee
 - 13.0 Reports Received
 - 13.15 Campus Coordinators Updates
 - 14.0 General / Other Business
 - 15.0 Next Meeting
 - 16.0 Meeting Closed

3.2 To consider a recommendation from the Chair that all remaining unstarred reports be received without further discussion.

The Student Council agrees that all remaining unstarred reports be received without further discussion

Carried

The Student Council agrees that all remaining unstarred items on the agenda be received and that all recommendations therein be approved without further discussion

Carried

That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2023 as a true and accurate record of proceedings

Carried

6.1 The Chair advised a leave request had been received from Jorja Sharp and she would move a motion to approve this.

SC04/20042023:

That the Student Council approves a leave of absence for Jorja Sharp from 22 May to 10 June 2023

Moved: Georgie Brimer

Seconded:

Spencer Perry

For: 8

Against:

0

Abstain: 1

Carried

7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised no board grant applications had been received and she would move on to the next item.

8.0 Strategic Matters of Importance to Members

The Chair advised no items had been received under strategic matters and asked if anyone had any items they would like to raise for discussion.

The Chair spoke regarding the negotiations between Deakin and the NTEU and the various emails that have been circulated recently from both parties, and spoke on the NTEU taking industrial action at 9am tomorrow on Burwood Campus. The main areas the NTEU are not happy with are that they want a higher pay increase for staff and also want action or targets for the de-casualisation of Deakin staff. The vote is scheduled for next week.

The Chair advised she spoke with the General Manager yesterday to discuss this issue and Council would like to release a statement of support for the Deakin staff and NTEU on social media and also via email to DUSA members. We are aware that we are in a space where it is not our role to stand up for Deakin staff or lead any action on their behalf, however we need to release a statement of support to inform students on what is happening and how this may affect them. Students have been coming to us for months to let us know how staff cuts are affecting them, the lack of time for staff to provide assistance to students or to grade assignments etc.

Further discussion ensued and further information was provided by the Vice President – Education.

The General Secretary advised that he will attend tomorrow's industrial action at Burwood and advised the other members of the board to do so if available to help ensure a safe protest is conducted.

The Student Engagement Manager advised there was an incident at Monash University recently around some anti-Islamic sentiment which he wanted to make us aware of. MSA have been very supportive of the Islamic groups, and we need to be aware of this in case similar incidents are occurring at Deakin..

The Advocacy Manager spoke to the current inflation and cost of living stresses advising that Advocacy are seeing a significant increase in the use of welfare programs over the last 3 months, with a more than 3% increase in this area. This will probably become worse for students in the coming months.

Questions and discussion ensued.

The Advocacy Manager advised that the survey put out to students had questions around students experiencing food insecurity with many students advising they were experiencing this. The survey wording has been slightly changed this year with some further questions around this and the team are currently assessing this.

Questions ensued.

The Geelong Campus Coordinator raised the issue of International student visas. The Department of Foreign affairs released a statement recently regarding student visas and some fraudulent visa applications being received from some Countries. As a result, a few Indian states have had a ban put on applying for visas to study at some Universities. Deakin has been neutral in this space so far, particularly as they have just announced the Deakin Campus opening up in India.

The Chair advised she would raise this during her discussion with the Vice Chancellor.

9.0 Regulations and Constitution

The Chair advised the proposed amendments to the Constitution need to be approved by Council to go to the AGM in May for voting by members. She has called and spoken to all Council and explained the changes to them. At the end of last year Deakin made a change to remove Cloud as a Campus and as such we need to amend our regulations to align with this change of structure.

SC05/20042023:

That the Student Council approves for the proposed amendments to the DUSA Constitution as submitted to go to the AGM on 18 May 2023 for voting by members

Moved: Georgie Brimer

Seconded:

Jonathan De La Pena

For: 9

Against:

0

Abstain:

0

Carried

10.0 Policy, Procedure & Systems

10.1 *Monthly Compliance Reporting – April*

The Chair advised the status of financial and insurance compliance reporting due in April had been provided in the agenda and asked the Finance Manager if she would like to speak further to this.

The Finance Manager advised that we need to discharge our SSAF obligations to the University and the General Manager is currently working on finalizing this. The General Manager is meeting with the University next week to discuss this. The Financial statements also need to go to FBAC. The March quarter BAS will be lodged in May, and superannuation contributions were paid last week. The wages estimate was very close to actual so no revision is required to this.

11.0 Reports and Operational Matters

The Chair asked if anyone had an update on HR.

11.1 *Human Resources*

The Finance Manager advised that Isabella started in March filling in for Carly who is on maternity leave. Interviews are scheduled for tomorrow for the maternity leave position in Marketing/Communications. A lot of staff were currently taking additional leave around Easter and Anzac day.

The Chair advised the finance report and profit and loss reports had been provided with the agenda and asked the Finance Manager if she would like to speak further to these.

11.2 **Finance Report & Profit and Loss**

The Finance Manager advised we had quite a large surplus in March, and also a surplus for the quarter which was ahead of budget.

Memberships are disappointing at present, so revenue is lower in this area. Currently 1,000 less gold members than this time last year, but more silver and bronze members.

Corporate Partnerships are doing really well.

Salaries are also under-budget for the quarter as there is a position in Advocacy which is not being filled at present. Having some issues with Deakin not billing us for some items, they are having issues in their mailroom so they haven't charged us in this area.

There were some gains in our Investment and also from the changeover of DUSA vehicles which realized a gain.

Club reports were also uploaded to MS Teams for information.

The Chair queried the reason gold memberships are down and was advised that this is mainly due to the closure of the bookshops which means there are no discounts on books for gold members, and also the impact of current cost of living pressures.

11:59AM The Student Engagement Manager left the meeting.

11.3 **2022 Financial Report**

The Finance Manager advised we need to lodge this report with the ACNC because we are a charity. We have also received the completion report from the Auditors which was uploaded to MS Teams.

The Finance Manager gave an overview of the main areas of the audit, noting that we were very pleased to receive a clean audit result. The only suggestion from the auditors was to separate out the figures for the bookshop.

12:01PM The Student Engagement Manager returned to the meeting.

Once the President and General Secretary have signed the financial report it will go to the AGM for approval.

SC06/20042023:

That the Student Council approves the Financial Report for 2022 to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting being held on 18 May 2023

Moved: Georgie Brimer

Seconded: Jorja Sharp

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

12.0 **Minutes of DUSA Committees**

The Chair advised the Minutes of DUSA's Committees received this month were from the Executive Committee and the Geelong Campus Committee and if there were no questions regarding these minutes, she would move a motion to accept them.

SC07/23032023:

That the Student Council receives the Minutes of the Executive Committee and the Geelong Campus Committee as submitted and resolutions therein be endorsed as decisions of DUSA

Moved: Georgie Brimer

Seconded: Spencer Perry

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Carried

13.0 DUSA Reports

The Chair referred to the reports received and asked if there were any questions regarding these, or if anyone would like to speak further to their reports.

The Chair advised she would now move a motion to accept all reports submitted.

SC08/23022023:

That the Student Council receives all reports as submitted

Moved: Georgie Brimer

Seconded:

Guleid Abdullahi

For: 9

Against:

0

Abstain: 0

Carried

13.15 Campus Coordinator Reports

The Chair referred to the Campus Coordinators to provide their reports.

Paul Ting, Burwood Campus Coordinator

The Chair advised Paul had a class today and the only update from him was that Pride Week had occurred and had been very successful and a de-brief had also been held yesterday. The Burwood Committee are working on some projects that they want to get done during their terms.

The General Secretary advised the projects being proposed are a clubs awards night and a project for para-sports.

The Chair advised the three main projects they are working on is the Clubs Awards or celebration night, Para-sports is being lead by Mairead to be incorporated into self-care week. There is also a proposal for some kind of DUSA activation around Christmas in T3. In terms of having something for students who may not be doing anything for Christmas, i.e. international students who may not be seeing their families and it might be something nice we could do for them. This is still in the brainstorm stage.

Sunny Singh, Geelong Campus Coordinator

Sunny advised that Pride Week had also been held at Geelong and received really good student engagement and was very successful. All Geelong representatives played a big role in the success and turned up to assist at events.

There is a project underway to upgrade the Queer Room at Waurm Ponds and provide some bean bags for additional seating in the room as an interim measure while a larger space is being sourced from the University.

Expressions of interest were received for the two vacant positions and a student will be co-opted into one of the vacant positions at next week's campus meeting.

The chill out trolley has been happening and will be across both campuses now. This has been quite successful so far.

Self-care week planning is underway and Mikayla has been active in this space with the assistance of another student. There has been some good engagement with the DUSA crew at Geelong as well.

Kayla Stuchbree, Cloud Campus Coordinator

The Chair advised Kayla was still overseas at present. The main update in this space is around the Constitution and Regulations changes. Two new representatives were co-opted recently into the vacant positions in the cloud committee.

Gurrattan Gaahlay, Warrnambool Campus Coordinator

Gurrattan advised the Residential students have been attending a lot of the events held at Warrnambool and we received good feedback from them.

The Chair advised a reporter from the Warrnambool standard reached out about getting a comment from Warrnambool students to get their opinion on the changes to HECS. This has been passed on to Gurrattan to talk to the representatives and he has now spoken to the reporter this morning. Some of the students didn't understand how the changes were going to affect them and those that did understand the changes agreed they were not going to keep up with inflation.

The Chair advised she attended the Pride Week beats and eats at Warrnambool and it had been very good. Many students came up to talk to us and the bracelets had been very popular. The Brother Fox catering was fantastic as usual.

The Chair advised she had spoken with Aylish while she was in Warrnambool regarding Jorja and Gurrattan or other Warrnambool representatives having access to the DUSA office to use office space.

The Chair advised she would like Jorja and Gurrattan to get involved in discussions with Sue around the project that is happening with Property and Infrastructure group in Warrnambool to get this space more accessible and active.

The General Secretary noted that he is still waiting on the co-option form for the new Student Council member to fill the vacant position.

Items for Discussion / Decision

14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there were no items received under general business and asked if anyone had any items they would like to raise for discussion.

The Student Engagement Manager advised we currently have 15 students on the Gold Coast with our athletics team competing in events and Riley Bryce won a gold medal in the 1500 metre race which is great.

Items for Noting

15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Student Council was scheduled for Thursday 25th May at Burwood Campus.

17.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:32PM.