

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

7th Meeting

20 May 2021

11:00AM

Via Zoom



Student Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday 20 May 2021

★ Indicates starred item

📁 Indicates document attached

⊗ Indicates document absent

DUSA Student Council

Thursday 20 May 2021
Commencing at 11:00AM
Via Zoom

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.

Procedural Matters

1.0 Welcome

- 1.1 The Chair, Emily Sagolj formally welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 11:07AM.

Present

Emily Sagolj	President and Chair
Katrina Sullivan	Vice President – Education
Saipraneeth Reddy	Vice President - Welfare
Guleid Abdullahi	General Secretary
Naren Shetty	Assistant General Secretary
Jasmine Qi Xing	Student Council Member
Georgie Brimer	Student Council Member

Present for Debate

None

By Invitation

Sue Rolland	General Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Tania Evans	Retail Manager

Observers

None

Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
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1.2 Apologies

Lee Emberton	Student Engagement Manager
Ivanka Dishan Su	Student Councillor

1.3 Absent

Madhab Kharel	Student Council Member
Brendan Ho Shing Low	Student Council Member

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. None 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 Student Council meeting dated 29 April 2021
 - 4.2 Actions arising from the Minutes
 - 6.0 Requests for Leave of Absence
 - 8.0 Strategic Matters of Importance
 - 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
 - 12.0 Minutes of DUSA's Committees Received
 - 12.5 Executive Committee Minutes
 - 13.0 Reports Received
 - 14.0 General / Other Business
 - 14.1 O'Fest Report for T1 2021
 - 14.2 Proposed additional investment in Perpetual
 - 14.3 Draft 2021 Elections Calendar
 - 15.0 Next Meeting
 - 16.0 Meeting Closed

Items Requiring Resolution

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

SC01/20052021:

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

Moved: Emily Sagolj

Seconded: Naren Shetty

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

The Student Council should have received an email this morning with these results. It does show that Deakin students are a lot more confident with learning on line, and also more confident with how the University is handling the academic issues around COVID. 9,787 students completed this survey in 2020, with 9,143 completing it in 2021. This is however only 9% and 15% of students respectively, so it is a very small proportion of students who completed the survey. International students had the highest response rates.

The online steering committee meeting yesterday, and advised that the 12 nursing units that had been slated for invigilated exams, has now been decreased down to 3, and only for graduate diploma students. This was quite a surprise as no updated had been provided on this issue in the bi-monthly or weekly reports, and the first we had heard of this change was yesterday at the meeting. It seems they had decided there was too great a risk to have 12 units doing invigilated online exams.

Current situation in India

The Assistant General Secretary advised that he had met with John Devereaux to discuss the plight of students in India. It is extremely concerning that the second wave of COVID is now causing the most number of daily cases seen in any country, with over 400,000 cases per day being reported. The University is very concerned about students currently in India and the challenges they are facing. They discussed various issues such as students losing their scholarships, the lack of response from various University areas when being contacted by students in India regarding fees and other issues.

The Assistant General Secretary noted that he feels we may see some better support coming through from the University for International students now that John Devereaux is taking these issues to them.

The General Manager referred to the Vice Chancellor's newsletter email that came out today which provided information on some of these issues.

The Vice President – Welfare advised that he feels we need to have another meeting with John Devereaux as soon as possible as the last meeting was held with him 4 weeks ago, and since then we have not seen enough progress on addressing these issues. Some of the issues being experienced by International students are urgent and we cannot risk taking another 5-6 weeks before any assistance is seen.

The General Manager advised she would follow this up with John Devereaux and will provide an update to Student Council as soon as she can.

9.0 Regulations and Constitution

The Chair advised there were no items for discussion under regulations and constitution and she would move on to the next item.

10.0 Policy, Procedure & Systems

10.1 *Monthly Compliance Reporting – May*

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

The Finance Manager advised the FBT tax return had been finished and sent off this week, and we are due a small refund.

The BAS for the March Quarter was extended to May and has now also been lodged and is being paid later today.

The Unclaimed Monies Return has also been completed. This relates to deposits that we have received and can't identify what they were for. Any unclaimed monies have to be paid over to the Government, however this time we did not have any so there was nothing to declare or pay.

11.0 Reports and Operational Matters

The Chair referred to the General Manager to speak to human resources.

11.1 Human Resources

The General Manager spoke to this item and advised our new staff are settling in. Karen Scholey, our new Corporate Partnerships person started on Monday and has hit the ground running and we are looking forward to seeing good things from her. Karen and Kat were both taken to Geelong Campuses yesterday to meet the staff there and see both campuses.

Staff are coming back into the office now with most staff working at least two or three days a week on campus. It is good for staff to be able to touch base with other staff.

The Enterprise Agreement negotiations are continuing, with another meeting scheduled for tomorrow with staff. The General Manager advised she will start off the meeting tomorrow and speak to staff and address the feedback received after the last meeting. We hope to get this finalised by 30 June, however there is no detrimental impact on DUSA if this doesn't happen. It's not good for staff however if the Enterprise Agreement runs out, as salary increases are only written into the agreement to the 30th June, so if it is not finalised by then there cannot be any salary increases until a new Enterprise Agreement has been agreed on.

The General Manager noted that it is always a difficult process for her as she wants to look after staff welfare, however also needs to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation is taken into account as well.

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

11.2 Finance Report & Profit and Loss

The Finance Manager advised we saw another very positive month in April with a \$214,000 surplus, which is very favourable to the original deficit that was expected and this was mainly due to the Job keeper payments.

The final income and costs came through for the Ambassador program and this program has now been finalised.

For the first four months of this year we have seen a \$939,000 surplus which is a very good position for us to be in. We saw an underspend on some of our usual expenses. While sales are still struggling in the bookshops, memberships and sponsorships areas, the positive side to this is that when we have less income we also have less expenses.

The General Manager advised that we need to be mindful of spending funds where they are needed, and she has been discussing with Gavin and Lee to see if they can join forces to utilise some of the welfare budget. We are putting together a short course grant for students to apply for who can't afford to pay for short courses. While we need to be diligent with our financial management, we still need to utilise the SSAF funding that we receive.

12.0 Minutes of DUSA Committees

The Chair advised the Minutes of DUSA's Committees received this month were from the Executive Committee for its meetings held on 12 April and 26 April, and if there were no questions or comments regarding these minutes she would move a motion to endorse them.



SC04/20052021:

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

Moved: Emily Sagolj

Seconded:

Katrina Sullivan

For: 7

Against:

0

Abstain:

0

Carried

13.0 DUSA Reports

The Chair referred to the reports received and asked if there were any questions regarding the reports. The Chair noted that very few reports had been received from Council and asked if anyone would like to provide a verbal report.

General Secretary

Guleid apologised for not submitting his written report this month due to the many events and other things going on across the campuses which he had been involved in.

The themed weeks went really well, and Pride Week and Wellness Week seemed to engage students really well. The online sessions also received a lot more engagement from students than we have previously seen.

An Orientation day was held recently with Lee and this had been very useful for Student Council, representatives and the DUSA Crew. Lee was able to take away some feedback to assist him in planning for future events and O'Fest.

The Sports Department are holding a meeting on July 1 regarding University sport to try and gain more support and Lee will be attending this meeting.

The General Manager asked whether anyone had heard of any students who had become ill after eating at the events held at Waurm Ponds this week. Three students had contacted her to say they had fallen ill after eating the butter chicken at Waurm Ponds. If anyone hears from other students regarding this please refer them to her.

Two Student Council members advised they had also eaten the butter chicken at the Waurm Ponds event and had been fine, but they would definitely advise if they hear of any more students being ill.

Student Councillor – Georgie Brimer

Georgie advised she would like to provide an update on the DUSA Podcast and asked the Executive Officer if this could be made a standard agenda item for each meeting.

The Executive Officer confirmed she would do this.

Georgie advised they had held the first filming session for the DUSA Podcast on Friday May 7th, and had filmed two 30 minute episodes. The filming of each episode took around 50 minutes, which was less time than they had anticipated so they won't need to book the studio for as long as they originally thought. The two episodes were around Pride week and Wellness week. Unfortunately, both episodes will be aired after the actual weeks have occurred but this couldn't be helped and it is still important to have these episodes even if the timing doesn't correspond. We had the film students assist with filming and editing. We are hoping the first episode will be released tomorrow at 3:30 as Marketing advised this would be the optimum time to get the most engagement.



The General Manager advised that there may be a holdup with airing the podcast tomorrow as we need to have sub-titles included. She has been talking to Deakin about how to get this done, and the first episodes have been sent off to Deakin's provider to look at for us and include subtitles, and we hope to get this back as soon as possible so that we can put it out.

Georgie advised that future releases of the audio will be hosted on Spotify and YouTube. She has been in contact with Colin who runs the Deakin TV studio to book the next episodes in, and scripting for these episodes will be done next week.

The General Manager congratulated Georgie on doing such a fabulous job on this project, noting that it was not an easy project to get up and running and she had done a great job.

Georgie advised that she had also attended pride week and wellness week, however as Guleid had covered these already she did not need to speak any further to them.

Georgie asked if any Council or staff have any information or anything in general that they feel should be included in future podcasts to please let her know, as they want to make these podcasts relevant to students and ensure they contain information that students need to know about.

Presidents Report **Deakin College**

The Chair advised that she and the General Manager had met with an advisor from Deakin College and talked to people there to advise them what DUSA is about and what we do. It is good to have this connection between Deakin College students and Deakin University students. We will be organising another meeting with them soon and will encourage them to come along to club events. They have been reluctant in the past to attend club events because they thought it was only for Deakin students and did not know that any DUSA Associate members could attend these events.

Indigenous Representation

The Chair further advised that they had met recently with Mark Rose and Tom Molyneux regarding having Indigenous representation on Council. There are a lot of governance issues to resolve to make this happen, and they feel it would be very difficult to get enough interest to warrant having two positions on each campus. They advised that as long as the community was consulted as this progresses that would be sufficient. There is another meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander working group later today which she will attend.

DUSA Survey

We have been promoting the survey, however only have 345 responses so far. We would like to see at least 500 responses. We are looking at cutting off the survey next Friday as it would have been open for a month by then and asked whether everyone agreed that this was sufficient time.

All agreed that a month was sufficient time for the survey to be open. Discussion ensued on whether a booster post was needed.

Safety Online

The Chair discussed the safety online resilience meetings and advised that these workshops had been really beneficial and was a good way for the University to being on an action plan to ensure students are aware of the potential online harm that exists, and also aware of the mechanisms in place to submit complaints. Deakin have a process in place which they follow to investigate any complaints, however the wording around this process was a bit misleading and appeared to students that they would be required to face their aggressor, which is not the case at all.

The Chair advised she would now move a motion to accept all written and verbal reports.

SC05/20052021:

That the Student Council receive all presented and written reports

Moved:	Emily Sagolj	Seconded:	Katrina Sullivan
For:	7	Against:	0
		Abstain:	0

Carried

Items for Discussion / Decision

14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there were two items submitted for discussion under general business and she referred to the Student Engagement Manager to speak to the first item.

14.1 *O’Fest Report for T1 2021*

The Chair advised that as the Student Engagement Manager was an apology for this meeting today as he is in Warrnambool delivering events, this item would now be held over to the June meeting.

The Chair referred to the Finance Manager to speak to the next item.

14.2 *Proposed additional investment in Perpetual*

The Finance Manager spoke to this item advising that she would like Council to approve an additional amount to be added to our current Perpetual Investment. She is suggesting up to \$1,000,000 in additional funds be put into Perpetual. The current interest rates on bank accounts is very poor, and is not even keeping pace with inflation. The Perpetual Investment is returning around 5% per annum since we’ve had it. We have the ability to move some funds out of our portfolio and into Perpetual to gain a higher return on them. She would recommend putting a further \$200,000 in now, then another \$200,000 to \$300,000 in July once our SSAF funding has been received, and then the balance could be put in later in the year.

The Finance Manager advised she was happy to take any questions on this.

The Chair advised she did not have any questions and was happy to proceed with this suggestion.

The Chair asked if anyone had any questions to please raise them now. No questions were received.

The Chair advised she would now move a motion to approve additional funds be put into the Perpetual Investment.

SC06/20052021:

That the Student Council approves an additional amount up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 to be added to the Perpetual Investment

Moved:	Emily Sagolj	Seconded:	Katrina Sullivan
For:	7	Against:	0
		Abstain:	0

Carried



Room in LC

The Chair advised that Council were still a bit conflicted about what to do with this space and outlined some of the thoughts around this, such as a pop-up clubs/DUSA area which she would like to test. We have been advised that a screen for this space would cost \$20,000 which is very high. Using it for the Women's room was another idea, however as it is pretty tucked away they are not sure how frequently it would be used. Guleid had also suggested it could possibly be a space for student representatives to use.

The General Secretary advised that as Council were still not agreed on a specific use for this space, could they have some more time to discuss this and come up with an idea that everyone agrees on.

The General Manager advised that it should be fine to hold off on making a decision for now.

The Operations Manager confirmed that the University have not given us a deadline to make a decision yet.

The Chair asked whether this had been discussed with the Burwood Campus Committee to see if they had any ideas.

The General Secretary advised that he had briefly mentioned it to the Burwood Campus Coordinator in passing, but would raise this with her for further discussion.

The Chair noted that the Elgar Road Campus was quite a neglected space and it could prove useful for us to have some space over there.

The Assistant General Secretary advised that he would put this on the agenda for the next Burwood Campus Committee meeting.

The Chair asked whether the Managers had any ideas on using the LC space.

The General Manager advised that the Managers had been discussing this to try and come up with a suitable use, and provided some background information on when and why this space was designed five years ago. It was thought at that time that it would be used for a radio station, however this never got off the ground. There is also no natural light in the space which makes it tricky to use.

The Chair asked whether anyone had anything else to raise under general business.

Elections

The Executive Officer advised that she had commenced obtaining quotes from elections providers for the 2021 elections and had hoped to present at least two at this meeting, however had only received one quote so far and was still waiting for another quote to be submitted.

As the next Council meeting is not until July 1 and it will be cutting it too fine to leave any decisions until then, it will be necessary for an extraordinary Council meeting to be scheduled via zoom in the next week to two weeks to approve an elections services provider.

Questions and discussion ensued.

The Chair thanked the Executive Officer for the update on this and asked Council to keep in mind that they will need to attend the extraordinary Council meeting soon.



Items for Noting

16.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Student Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 1st July 2021 via zoom, and as discussed there will be an extraordinary meeting held before then.

17.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:10PM.