

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

12th Meeting

21 October 2021


11:00AM


Via Zoom



Student Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday 21 October 2021

 Indicates starred item

 Indicates document attached

 Indicates document absent



DUSA Student Council

Thursday 21 October 2021
Commencing at 11:00AM
Via Zoom

Procedural Matters

1.0 Welcome

- 1.1 The Chair, Emily Sagolj formally welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 10:59AM.

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.

The Chair welcomed Deakin Vice Chancellor, Professor Iain Martin to the meeting.

Prof. Martin spoke to the meeting advising that we are coming to the end of the most disruptive two years of academic life since WWII.

Some students have been far more impacted than others, and many students desperate to come back to campus as it has been a very tough year this year for everyone, however I am very optimistic about next year. Thank you to DUSA for your hard work during the past year as the hard work of many people has been what has kept things going. There will still be some challenges to work through, but early next year I am hoping to see life on campus starting to look similar to what we have previously been used to. Vaccinations is the way out of all of this, and the University has mandated that all students must be double vaccinated to come onto campus, and the Victorian Government will release a similar mandate shortly regarding the education sector.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for the Vice Chancellor.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding future classes on campus, with the Vice Chancellor advising it was his goal to get back to an almost normal campus experience.

Further questions ensued around the changes from Deakin reimaged and how these changes will be communicated to students. The Vice Chancellor advised that this is a complicated process and involves a lot of individuals roles. They will communicate to students when and if there are any impacts on the student services area.

The Chair advised that students are a bit worried about the changes and asked what the plans are to readjust these changes if required.

The Vice Chancellor noted that he is very conscious they will need to readjust as it goes along and we probably won't see any large numbers of International students returning until at least mid-next year and will only see small numbers return at the beginning of the year. They will absolutely look at tweaking and refining the roll-out, especially in the student services area.

The Assistant General Secretary noted there has been a lot of speculation in the media about the return of International students and asked what Deakin's role would be to assist with facilitating this.

The Vice Chancellor advised that a lot of the pieces were out of their control, but there is a program currently with the Federal Government to be signed off, where they will initially bring around 120 International students back per week. This program will commence once we get the sign off from the Federal Government. It is important to start even with a small number coming in to start getting the borders open. Protocols will be in place such as double vaccination with an approved vaccine, testing before departure etc. We would love to have this up and running in December, but the challenge will be whether systems are ready to do this, the availability of flights etc., so there is a lot of logistics to deal with before we will see any large numbers returning. We hope to see the program start by December/January, but it will take time to get the flights up to a level that we want them at. Once we get to 80% of 12yo and over fully vaccinated which should be around November, we should see the program pick up.

Questions ensued regarding what the slightly adjusted model of teaching next year would look like.

The Vice Chancellor advised that this will depend on density levels and restrictions at the time. The goal will be to bring onto campus all of the educational activities that benefit most from being on campus. At this stage we still don't know what some of the limitations are going to be and are working with the State Govt on this. We are desperate to get students coming back onto campus.

Some decisions have been left up to us, but some are decided by the Victorian Government and were out of our hands.

The priority for us will be for students coming to the end of their degree and need to catch up, and also other practicals or similar which cannot be done any other way but on campus. We will be looking at those students in their third year and how we can assist them to catch up. There will also be some catch up required for placements that were unable to be done.

Student Services has all been brought into one portfolio under Liz Johnson, and the goal is to join up as many of these areas as possible. It won't be seamless or without bumps, but Liz is working very hard to make it as seamless as is possible.

Questions ensued on how new information would be provided to students?

The Vice Chancellor advised they will use all methods of communications (email, social media and unit sites) as no one medium will capture everyone.

Universities will not be assisting with quarantine for returning International students as the State Government have dictated that this be solely handled by Quarantine Victoria.

Questions ensued regarding the units that have been cut from some degrees, and how this will be treated for those students in the middle of their degrees.

The Vice Chancellor advised there will be no real difference in how this is done from this year to last year and previous years. Any major changes are communicated to students. Some degrees that were focussed on International students have had changes due to the lack of international student numbers.

The Vice Chancellor responded to questions around searching for unit codes to ascertain what units are still available and whether there was an easier way to do this, noting that this was something that they were definitely working on as it is a challenge, and they are aware it is definitely not ideal when you have a system that is very difficult to navigate.

The Chair noted that there really needs to be that balance of not having a lot of units suddenly disappear.

The General Secretary congratulated the University on doing a great job in allowing students to extend their degrees during such difficult times.

The General Secretary further advised that students struggling academically and have academic hearings for exclusion but are located overseas have a very difficult time trying to plead their case via zoom and dealing with internet difficulties.

The Vice Chancellor advised their priority was that no student should be negatively impacted, however with 12,000 plus International students it has been very difficult to try to do this on a case by case basis and very tough to care for each student individually.

The Vice Chancellor thanked DUSA and everyone for the work they have done this year, and he wants to partnership with DUSA next year to make the 2022 academic year as good as it can be. The Vice Chancellor left the meeting at 11:33am.

The Chair noted that the Vice Chancellor has always been a good advocate for bringing the life and fun back onto campus which is great.

Student Councillor, Madhab Kharel congratulated Laura Moorfoot on asking some great questions, especially as this was her first Council meeting.

Present

Emily Sagolj	President and Chair
Katrina Sullivan	Vice President – Education
Guleid Abdullahi	General Secretary
Naren Shetty	Assistant General Secretary
Jasmine Qi Xing	Student Council Member
Georgie Brimer	Student Council Member
Madhab Kharel	Student Council Member
Brendan Low	Student Council Member

Present for Debate

None

By Invitation

Sue Rolland	General Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager
Tania Evans	Retail Manager
Lee Emberton	Student Engagement Manager
Sid Shrestha	Incoming Student Council Member
Alan Wang	Incoming Student Council Member
Liam Cowan	Incoming Student Council Member
Jonathan De La Pena	Incoming Student Council Member
Mason Allcorn	Incoming Student Council Member
Laura Moorfoot	Incoming Student Council Member

Observers

None

Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
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1.2 Apologies

Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Ivanka Su	Student Councillor
Saipraneeth Reddy	Vice President - Welfare

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. 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 previous Student Council meeting held on 23 September 2021 and the Special Student Council meeting held on 6 October 2021
 - 4.2 Actions arising from the Minutes
 - 5.0 Motions approved by Circular Resolution since the last meeting
 - 6.0 DUSA Podcast Update
 - 9.0 Strategic Matters of Importance to Members
 - 10.0 Constitution and Regulations
 - 10.1 Proposed amendments to Election Regulations
 - 11.0 Policy, Procedures and Systems
 - 11.1 Monthly compliance reporting
 - 12.0 Reports and Operational Matters
 - 12.1 Human Resources
 - 12.2 Finance Report and Profit & Loss
 - 13.0 Minutes of DUSA's Committees Received
 - 13.1 Minutes of the Cloud Campus Committee
 - 13.2 Minutes of the Burwood Campus Committee
 - 13.3 Minutes of the Warrnambool Campus Committee
 - 13.4 Minutes of the Geelong Campus Committee
 - 13.5 Minutes of the Executive Committee
 - 14.0 Reports Received
 - 15.0 General / Other Business
 - 15.1 NUS Affiliation
 - 16.0 Next Meeting
 - 17.0 Meeting Closed

6.0 DUSA Podcast update

6.1 The Chair referred to Georgie Brimer to provide a verbal update on the DUSA Podcast.

Georgie advised her main focus has been to put together a group of people from the incoming Council and Representatives who are interested in helping with the podcast next year. There is a list of items she would like to do, such as create social media pages for pod cast trailers, create a detailed timeline for Tri 3 and Tri 1 and Tri 2 next year. Need to ensure the amount of time that it takes to scrip and edit each podcast is not underestimated, and also maintain contact with Deakin TV to reach out to students who can assist with editing and filming the podcasts.

The Chair advised it wa great to see there are a lot of plans to get the podcast off to a good start next year.

7.0 Requests for Leave of Absence

The Chair advised no request for leave of absence had been received and she would move on to the next item.

8.0 Board Grant Applications

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

9.0 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 raised for discussion Deakin Reimagined noting that the Town Hall meeting had been held last week which had provided the amended change proposals and advised that she and Kat will put out a statement on the changes before they finish their terms of office.

The Vice President – Education advised she had been thinking of different ways to send a message to the University that these changes are not ok, and how to push further than just adjusting the communications but making it clear that we don't want to ever see these changes again. She is looking for different ideas to campaign. She also attended a meeting with other Universities who are doing campaigns around the cuts to their classes and units and noted that this was something we could also do at DUSA. However, the timing is bad given it's the end of their terms but she will definitely hand this on to the incoming Vice President - Education.

The Chair advised for the benefit of the incoming Student Council that this section of the meeting is dedicated to discussing any issues that may impact students, and it is a good opportunity to go over any recent updates.

Student Councillor, Madhab Kharel noted that the incoming council need to talk about the new Deakin sync website. Some students are already experiencing issues navigating through the website and now they have made further changes to it. They could possibly look at running information sessions on how to navigate the website.

Questions and discussion ensued.

The Chair advised the University was proposing to release a 'test version' of the website for students to look at. Alan Wang advised this is already open and provided the URL.

The Chair advised that she was annoyed that DUSA had not been consulted before communicating the changes on Deakin Sync to students, as we could have provided feedback on how to improve this.



The Vice President – Education noted that the University have realised that they failed recently with communication to students regarding Deakin Reimagined. So, this is an area that the incoming Council needs to focus on how they communicate changes to students.

Questions ensued around Deakin Sync and how we could get the University to reach out to DUSA first before communicating any changes to students.

The Chair advised we could talk to Liz Johnson and Lisa Hana with a view to bringing us in on these conversations earlier.

Discussion ensued.

The General manager advised that even the people impacted by the changes weren't given any prior notice. It is also up to Student Council to get involved and attend all meetings that they are invited to. Council members get invited to a lot of University meetings, but sometimes they don't respond or don't turn up to the meeting. It will also be critical to get our membership numbers up next year so that when we speak to the University we are representing a large number of students.

10.0 Regulations and Constitution

The Chair advised there was one item for discussion under regulations and constitution, which was the proposed amendments to the Election Regulations and referred to the Assistant General Secretary to speak to this.

10.1 Proposed changes to Election Regulations

The Assistant General Secretary advised the proposed changes were to change the title of Equity Representative to People of Colour Representative.

The Chair advised that there also needs to be an eligibility criteria included in the Diversity and Belonging Representative position and asked for this to be noted as an action item for the incoming General Secretary.

The Chair advised she would move a motion to approve the election regulations

Action: Add eligibility criteria to the position of Diversity and Belonging Representatives in the regulations

SC05/21102021:

That the Student Council approves the amendments to the Election Regulations as submitted
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Moved: Emily Sagolj

Seconded:

Naren Shetty

For: 8

Against:

0

Abstain: 0

Carried

11.0 Policy, Procedure & Systems

11.1 *Monthly Compliance Reporting – October*

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

The Finance Manager advised they have finished the annual review for 2021, the budget for 2022 and a 3 year forecast and these have been provided to Deakin for their FBAC Committee.

All other compliance items due this month are on track.



12.0 Reports and Operational Matters

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

12.1 *Human Resources*

The General Manager spoke to this item and advised the biggest challenge in HR at present is getting details of the new student council and getting everyone onto the payroll.

Staff are preparing to come back after a long time working from home.

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.

12.2 *Finance Report & Profit and Loss*

The Finance Manager advised we are in a good position with strong cash reserves. The deficit was very close to budget. The Ambassador programme has been operating at limited capacity with salaries for this charged back to Deakin. Some funds were spent with Honest Fox on the website, the new finance system upgrade and the DUSA pantry. We have a surplus of \$808,000 at present which is well ahead of budget and is primarily due to the Job keeper program and the Perpetual investment returns plus some additional SSAF that had not been budgeted for.

Sales, memberships and sponsorships are still struggling so there is not much income from these areas. However, the cost of sales is also down and expenses are under budget. Clubs have been struggling to hold events so have not had a lot of expenses in this area. We are also under budget in the welfare and staff training lines. We had to cancel the staff conference for the second year in a row which is why this area is under budget.

We are not expecting very much income for the remainder of the year. There will be some expenses, but we should still have a surplus at the end of the year. The Perpetual investment was slightly down for this month. We have more than sufficient funds in reserve to cover any deficits in future months.

13.0 *Minutes of DUSA Committees*

The Chair advised the Minutes of DUSA's Committees received this month were from the Executive Committee, the Cloud Campus Committee, the Warrnambool Campus Committee, the Burwood Campus Committee and the Geelong Campus Committee and she would now move motions to accept these minutes.

The General Manager noted it would be preferable if the campus minutes were provided in a timely manner so that we were aware earlier if there is anything we need to action.

SC06/21102021:

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

Moved: Emily Sagolj

Seconded:

Madhab Kharel

For: 8

Against:

0

Abstain:

0

Carried

Clubs are working hand in hand with the events team to deliver online concepts. Lots of physical fitness prompts for students as well. Clubs and Societies are closing off their AGMs. A number of clubs are struggling to find succession paths within their clubs. There has been some challenging club AGMs with a break-down of decorum.

A lot of pre-planning work at present for Tri 1 orientation and also planning a leadership conference in February for student leaders. Looking forward to briefing the new Council in early November on how they can become involved in student engagement.

The General Manager advised the incoming Council to not leave their reports to the end of the month, but to have them open on their desktop so that they can fill them in as they do things throughout the month and then submit them on time.

Question and discussion ensued.

The Chair advised that she thought Wellness Week had been really good and was very successful. The drag night was the best online event ever offered by DUSA.

Questions ensued for Student Engagement Manager.

The Chair advised it is really important for Student Council to look over all of the reports before each meeting as it's very interesting to see how all of the areas of DUSA work.

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

SC11/21102021:

That the Student Council receive all reports as submitted

Moved:	Emily Sagolj	Seconded:	Guleid Abdullahi
For:	8	Against:	0
		Abstain:	0
Carried			

Items for Discussion / Decision

15.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there was one item submitted for discussion under general business and she referred to the General Secretary to speak to this.

15.1 NUS Affiliation

The General Secretary spoke to this item advising it was time to reaffiliate with NUS. It is very important to be affiliated with NUS and to have that student advocacy on a National level. The National Conference will be held in Melbourne this year at Melbourne University so there will not be travel expenses involved. NUS are not charging us a lot to affiliate with them, however we will not pay an increased amount each year.

Questions ensued.

The General Manager advised the NUS affiliation fee was not covered under SSAF, so this money has to come out of commercial revenue or University governance funding and we probably won't be able to sustain this level of contribution in future years.

The Chair agreed that this needs to be discussed and considered on a year-to-year basis.

The Chair advised she would now move a motion to approve DUSAs affiliation with NUS and payment of the invoice.

SC12/21102021:

That the Student Council approves affiliation with NUS for 2021 and approves payment of the NUS invoice to the amount of \$23,000 plus GST

Moved: Emily Sagolj

Seconded:

Guleid Abdullahi

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

The Chair asked if anyone had anything else they would like to raise under general business.

The Executive Officer advised she would like to note something in the minutes.

The Executive Officer advised she had received an email from Lisa Hana, the Dean of Students requesting her comments be noted in our Council minutes and she would now read these.

I would like to extend my formal thanks, as Dean of Students, and my appreciation for the outgoing Student Council and for Emily's and Kat's leadership this year. On behalf of everyone in my office, I just wanted to say an enormous thank you to you and everyone on the DUSA Student Council for the tremendous work you've done over the past year on behalf of our students. Our Deakin community has benefitted hugely from your commitment and passion about improving our students' experience, and it's been an absolute pleasure working with you. I'm wishing you every success as you move forward to the next steps in your studies and lives.

The General Secretary advised that he wanted to acknowledge the current team and the Executive team and to particularly thank Naren and Emily for providing their support to him as he appreciated their help enormously.

The Vice President – Education extended a tremendous thankyou to everyone at DUSA, especially the staff advising that they are the reason that this organisation runs so well and they put in an enormous amount of work each year. A big thank you to everyone. Thank you also to the Executive, especially Emily as she has been an amazing President.

Also, thanks to Guleid who made the Executive so much fun and to Naren who has been a wonderful Assistant General Secretary and has been the safety net for everyone. Thanks also to Sai, the Vice President – Welfare who is not here today, but who highlighted all of the issues throughout the year that were affecting international students. Lastly, thank you also to the Sub-exec team for putting in a great effort.

The Assistant General Secretary noted that this was the end of two years on DUSAs Student Council and he could not be more grateful for his time with DUSA and the memories he would carry though his life of his time here.

The Chair advised that she has loved her time at DUSA and was really sad it has come to an end. She further noted that she had learned so much, had some challenges along the way, but was very proud of all of us. Over her time at DUSA she has made friendships which she will have for life. It's been great to look back and reflect and know that she will always look back at her time at DUSA with fondness.

To new Council, don't be afraid to ask questions and be aware that you will need to have a tough skin at times. Don't be afraid to reach out to previous Student Council members for advice. Remember, with great power comes great responsibility.



A big shout out to all DUSA staff, it has been a pleasure to work with you all and thank you.

Items for Noting

16.0 Next Meeting

The Chair noted that this was the final Student Council Meeting for the current Council, and that the next Student Council Meeting for the incoming Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday 25th November 2021 via zoom.

17.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:37PM.



STUDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS ACTION SHEET

Number	Action	Responsibility	Status
Meeting held 21 October 2021			
SCA01/21102021	Add eligibility criteria to the position of Diversity and Belonging Representatives in the regulations	Incoming General Secretary, Georgie Brimer	