

FUSA Student Council Meeting

Meeting Agenda

October 21, 2014

FUSA Meeting Room

6pm

1. Welcome and Meeting Open

2. Apologies: Rosalie

3. Welcome Guests: Jonathon Louth

4. Approval of minutes from last meeting

5. Reports

5.1 Student President's Report

5.2 General Secretary's Report

5.3 Education Officer's Report – None-received

5.4 Environment Officer's Report

5.5 Queer Officer's Report – None received

5.6 Women's Officer's Report

5.7 International Officer's Report

5.8 Welfare Officer's Report

5.9 Social Activities Officer's Report

5.10 Accessibility Officer's Report

5.11 Post-Graduate Officer's Report

5.12 Indigenous Officer's Report - NA

5.13 MSE's Report

6. Matters for Decision

6.1 Voter Intimidation – Environment Officer

6.2 Appointing a student to the position of indigenous students officer –
Chris O'Grady

6.3 Computer Lab – Tut Tut

6.4 Our Watch – John Photakis

6.5 Student Council Induction – Chris O’Grady

6.6 Clubs Seeking affiliation – General Secretary

6.6.1 Flinders University Greens Club

6.6.2 History Society

6.7 Executive Committee Recommendations

6.7.1 Honorariums

7. Matters for Discussion:

7.1 Racism on Campus – Post-Graduate Officer

7.2 Student activists repeatedly harassing disabled students in areas of high traffic – Accessibility Officer

8. Matters for Noting

8.1 RO Report – Chris O’Grady

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2014

Location: Meeting Room, Flinders University Student Association.

Present: Yadollah Bahrami, Michael Bezuidenhout, Lauren Brice, Rosalie Grace-Dow, Roxanna Henshaw, Ira Herbold, Grace Hill, Haidarr Jones, Will Menzies, Tim Mitchell, Caleb Pattinson, John Photakis, Justin Shaw, Tut Tut, Jaka Yusuf, Alison Taylor (6:15pm), Chris O'Grady, Paul Harrison (minutes)

Guest(s): None.

Apologies: None.

Opened: 6:20pm.

9. Welcome and Meeting Open

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

10.Apologies: None received.

11.Approval of minutes from last meeting

Michael Bezuidenhout: Mainstream media page 17 should be changed to 'mainstream opinion'.

John Photakis: My honorarium should be stated for the month before as well.

Ira Herbold: 'I think this a good motion' on page 17 should be made in to a full, grammatically correct, sentence.

Chris O'Grady: I was in attendance at the meeting.

Motion: Student Council accepts the minutes of the previous meeting with the proposed changes.

Moved: Roxy Henshaw

Seconded: Grace Hill

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstention: Tut Tut

Motion Carried

12.In Camera Discussion

Alison Taylor entered the room 6:15 pm.

13.Reports

5.1 Student President's Report

John Photakis: Last paragraph last line (p20) in the last sentence "I condemn the police for violence" etc. I'd like to draw the council's attention to condemning the police. I don't think that is in very good taste. The police's job is to enforce the law.

Grace Hill: My report is not meant to reflect the view of Student Council, it is the view of me

Jaka Yusuf: The problem is that it has to be illustrated what exactly happens. On one side you may see that as something that is offensive, but on their side it may not be. It might be better to ensure you have the views of both sides.

Grace Hill: Their side of events can be viewed in the media reports. Our side of events is they rode a number of horses into a peaceful crowd of people injuring a number of people.

5.2 General Secretary's Report

Michael Bezuidenhout: I just wanted to know why the NAB bank account went from so little to so much. I'm just wondering how we did that.

Roxanna Henshaw: I cannot remember at the moment. I will get back to you with further information.

5.3 Education Officer's Report

5.4 Environment Officer's Report

5.5 Queer Officer's Report – None-received

5.6 Women's Officer's Report

5.7 International Officer's Report – None Received

5.8 Welfare Officer's Report

5.9 Social Activities Officer's Report – None received

5.10 Accessibility Officer's Report – None received for August

5.11 Post-Graduate Officer's Report

5.12 Indigenous Officer's Report

5.13 MSE's Report

Motion: Student Council approves all reports.

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: Roxanna Henshaw

For: 16

Against: 0
Abstention: Tut Tut
Motion Carried.

14. Matters for Decision

Motion: Move un-starred items on block.

Un-starred items consist of:

6.1 Monster Climate Change Petition – Environment Officer

Motion:

1. Flinders Student Council endorse the Monster Climate Petition, and authorises the Environment Officer to sign it on behalf of FUSA.
2. The petition be promoted through the FUSA Facebook page.

6.3 Indigenous Students Celebratory Dinner – Indigenous Officer

Motion: Student Council approves the above proposal and budget taken from the Indigenous officer's budget.

6.8.2 Returning Officer Appointment

Motion: I motion that Rob Manwaring be appointed as Returning Officer for the Election.

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: Caleb Pattinson

For: 15

Abstention: Tut Tut

Against: 0

Motion carried.

6.2 Lecture Theatres – Justin Shaw

Tut Tut: I'm wondering if that motion is serious or just a joke. How are we going to spend Council's time to prevent students' feelings being hurt? Fix your own affairs if you're going to step your head in the wrong lecture theatre.

Grace Hill: It seems like the actual motion is to look into whether these ideas are actually feasible, not to actually do something

Justin Shaw: Yes, that is correct.

Ira Herbold: Two things. I think we've had this discussion before that I think it's inappropriate for council members to be rude or dismissive to other council member's suggestions. As far as I know some theatres have timetables outside the theatre; although this is not consistent. It would probably be quite feasible to implement this overall.

Will Menzies: Lets not downplay the things people go through in their lives because we don't know what everyone is going through.

Tut Tut: Well once again I've been labelled as being dismissive or rude; but something which flies in the face of reason needs to be called out. It's just walking into the wrong place, there's really no reason to bring that here.

Caleb Pattinson: I like the idea of the timetables maybe online integration

Rosalie Grace Dow: This is another good one to do some surveys and find out whether or not it is a significant problem and get a gauge of how severe students think the problem is.

Motion: Student council looks into these ideas and conducts a costing to ascertain whether either one of these ideas will be feasible in the near future.

Moved: Justin Shaw **Seconded: Grace Hill**

For: 14
Against: Jaka Yusuf, Tut Tut.
Abstention: 0
Motion Carried.

6.4 Motion in Solidarity with Macquarie University Postgraduate Representative Association – Postgraduate Officer

James Vigus: Macquarie University are attempting to wind up the 17 year old Postgraduate Association and take the student representatives to court. A number of those representatives are international students. They have committed no crime. It's really a fundamental attack on student unionism. That money, the 500k, was money which was saved up since before VSU.

James Vigus: This is the same motion that is being passed by student unions across the country. I'm surprised to hear Activate didn't seem to be in the know. The wording of the motion is pretty basic.

John Photakis: First thing I did was google search. When I looked at MQ there was a press release saying that they were not meeting their financial commitments and they were being wound up. It might be best to come back with more information.

Michael Bezuidenhout: With this we all had the opportunity to look at it in the agenda

Grace Hill: I think it's a pretty simple question as to whether or not you're for a university liquidating a student body.

James Vigus: I know there's a number of Greens and Labor MPs and trade unions who have voiced concerns as well as post graduate organisations. At least three of the reps are postgrad students.

John Photakis: Would you be open to withdrawing or postponing?

James: No.

Motion:

1. The Flinders University Student Association Student Council affirms its' position in support of universal and independent student unionism.
2. The Flinders University Student Association Student Council condemns Macquarie University for attempting to forcibly wind up the Macquarie University Postgraduate Representative Association (MUPRA), and trying to liquidate its' assets and bank account.
3. The Flinders University Student Association Student Council calls on Macquarie University to drop the case against MUPRA, reinstate their offices on campus and unfreeze their bank account.
4. The Flinders University Student Association Student Council calls on the President of the FUSA to publish a press release to the effect of this motion, to help publicise the campaign being run by MUPRA and the Councils of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA).

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: James Vigus

For: Roxanna Henshaw, Will Menzies, Caleb Pattinson, Rosalie Dow, Alison Taylor, Grace Hill, James Vigus, Ira Herbold, Lauren Bride, Yadollah Bahrami.

Against: Tut Tut

Abstention: Jaka Yusuf, Justin Shaw, John Photakis, Tim Mitchell

Motion carried.

6.5 Empire Times Regulations – General Secretary

Will Menzies: Just a couple of things; mostly minor. If you cast your eye over 5.1.2 you'll find that's identical to 5.1.12.

Roxanna Henshaw: We can get rid of 5.1.12 and change numbers accordingly

Will Menzies: In relation to 7.3 discussing candidate teams. Can we remove the words as opposed to and replace with 'shall not'.

Roxanna Henshaw: That's acceptable.

Will Menzies: In 9.7 Talking about having a committee to remove an ET editor. Two things: 1 removing the first comma after the third word. 2. Also, I think we should change it so that it's not that people are aware of allegations at the time of the hearing, but at least 24 hours before the hearing.

Roxanna Henshaw: I am amenable to all of the changes

Michael: I had a couple of concerns. In 7.7 where it says if person ceases 'after time of election' the position should be filled by appointment should that be replaced with 'before the end of their term'?

Roxanna Henshaw: Yes, I am amenable to that.

Motion: I motion that student council approve the attached Empire Times Regulations.

Moved: Roxanna Henshaw

Seconded: Justin Shaw

All in favour

Motion Carried.

6.6 President's Honorarium – General Secretary

James Vigus: I am against motion in general. I don't support the notion that honorariums should be decided by Student Council. It's not for SC bearocratically being able to cut someone's pay. I think it should be student general meetings.

Will Menzies: I think it would be horrible for Student Council to choose not to pay someone just because they're from a different faction. It's the situation from all office bearers and Student Council positions. I don't think we've seen that that's been used as a weapon in this forum. I think that assuming that it will be used in such a manner is putting little faith in the people chose students to elect

Michael Bezuidenhout: I think we've had this discussion previously. I think it doesn't make sense to have one position different to others. I think if we're going to have a discussion about whether it's relevant at all I think we should do it as a whole when it is all the same if Student Council sees fit to do that

Grace Hill: I don't think it makes sense to have the Student President on a different think to the rest of Student Council. I also don't think that you need to make Student President the same as SC and then switch everything back.

I think that all of the members of Student Council should be in a similar situation as to what I am. It shouldn't be contingent on the misfortune of having other factions or people who don't like you being able to decide your pay.

I think Students should be the ones who decide

Tut Tut: At the risk of bringing on the apocalypse I'm going to agree with Grace on this issue. I think, with regards to what Will said about people slacking off near the end of their terms, the executive can probably detect that and tell her/him off.

Chris O'Grady: Funding for SP comes from VC. His view is that it shouldn't be contingent on attending a certain amount of meetings or do any work etc.

Chris O'Grady: Previously it was just the Student President received an honorarium from the university. When FUSA was established we made an allocation for other honorariums to come into play.

Motion: I motion that from January 2015 the Student Council President's honorarium must be approved or denied, as Student Council sees fit, at each meeting.

Moved: Roxanna Henshaw

Seconded: John Photakis

In favour: 8

Against: James Vigus, Ira Herbold, Tut Tut, Yadollah Bahrami, Grace Hill.

Abstention: Alison Taylor, Michael Bezuidenhout

Motion Carried.

6.7 Club Affiliation – General Secretary

5.13.1 *Flinders Entrepreneur Society

6.8 Executive Committee Recommendations

6.8.1 SSAF and NON-SSAF Budget

Chris O'Grady: I just wanted to ask Student Council to approve the budget minus the last three items which I added at the last minute. If we could remove the last three items in red. I will be applying for those items in the coming months. It was not part of the SSAF budget proposal process.

Motion: I motion that Student Council approve the draft 2015 SSAF and Non-SSAF

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: John Photakis

Abstention: Tut Tut, Jaka Yusuf.

Motion carried.

6.8.3 Election Regulations

Michael Bezuidenhout: Suspending 10.3 of election regulations which states each voter may only vote once.

Grace Hill: Probably an error. Section intended to be removed that states that people are to be notified if they make an informal vote as the current system cannot do it.

Roxanna Henshaw: We can amend it to ensure that only the provision requiring students to be notified if they have an informal vote is suspended.

Motion: I motion that section 10.3 of the FUSA Election Regulations regarding the notification of students if they make an informal vote be suspended for the upcoming October election.

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: James Vigus

In favour: 14

Abstention: Jaka Yusuf.

Motion Carried.

6.8.4 Honorariums

[getlist]

Moved: Grace Hill

Seconded: Roxanna Henshaw.

In favour: 14

Abstention: Jaka Yusuf

Motion Carried.

15. Matters for Discussion:

7.1 Hub – MSE

Chris O'Grady: Wont talk too much about it it's fairly self explanatory. The diagrams indicate how the FUSA space has ended up. Are there any questions?

Jaka Yusuf: I just want to catch up with whoever is responsible with hub in regards to accessibility issue.

Chris O'Grady: Can do. There is a meeting 11-12 on Friday at the hub student consultation group.

Meeting closed at 7:03pm.

16. Matters for Noting

8.1 E-readers – Environment Officer

8.2 Upcoming Election - MSE

17. Meeting Close

5.1 Student president report September 2014

This month I have been focused on the he education campaign, planning events for the next national day of action, to be held mid-October. I called and attended the education action network meeting, and am planning the flinders event. I have also spent hours on campus informing students on the plaza and elsewhere about the state of play with the higher education reforms and the impacts this will have on flinders students.

This month there has been a massive moral panic campaign to drum up racism against Muslims. This racism is being used to justify a new war in Iraq, and obscure cuts to welfare. Unfortunately this racism is bipartisan, supported by both the Liberal and Labor parties, and has also dominated the media recently. I have spent the month working against this on and off campus, attending an interfaith forum at the invitation of Flinders students to deliver a talk on Palestine, helping to organise anti-racism events, and planning a forum on the impact of Islamophobia. I have also spent many hours on the plaza talking to students about the effects of racism on campus and the sorts of action they would like to take. I also attended an anti-war rally in the city and cooperated with Sarah Hansen-Young's office on this.

I have had several meetings with The manager of student engagement and others regarding FUSA's placement during the construction phase of the hub. I have also been having regular meetings with the MSE to discuss general issues.

I have met with the orientation week advisory group to discuss O'week 2014, which will be considerably different due to the hub construction.

I have attended the latest University Council meeting. The contents of the meeting can't be discussed in this report.

I have had phone consultations with the national union of students education officer regarding the higher education reforms.

I was invited to and attended a meeting with the MSE and SVP regarding FUSA's finances and also student engagement.

I attended the people's climate march in Adelaide toward the end of September and interacted with flinders students in attendance.

I have liaised with some clubs and societies who have sought assistance from FUSA.

I have ensured that the binder remains accessible to students (it is now in FUSA), and have taken measures to make sure it remains free.

I have offered my support to the Hong Kong students groups, and participated in their protests in solidarity with pro-democracy protestors in Hong Kong.

5.2 General Secretary's Report

Handbook

At the moment it looks like the handbook will come out for O'week Semester One next year.

Clubs Guide

The Clubs guide will also come out for O'week Semester One next year.

Clubs Cup

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Clubs Cup this year as we didn't have enough people sign up. We're hoping it might happen next year – perhaps at a less busy time of year.

Student Engagement and Representation Officer

A huge Welcome to Jonathan! We know you'll do smashingly.

Flinders University Student Association NAB bank account 2014

Statement of Cash at Bank

January	
Opening Bank Balance 1/1/14	14,099.97
Closing Bank Balance 31/1/14	14,099.97

February	
Opening Bank Balance 1/2/14	14,099.97
Closing Bank Balance 31/2/14	14,099.97

March	
Opening Bank Balance 1/3/14	14,099.97
Closing Bank Balance 31/3/14	14,099.97

April	
Opening Bank Balance 1/4/14	14,099.97
Receipts	
Paypal transfer for pubcrawl sales	
16/04/2014	3253.58
Cash from pubcrawl sales	3580.00

DVD Rentals	115.00	
Employment Listings	30.00	
Cash Gain	10.00	6,988.58
Expenditure		
A1 Apparel Pubcrawl Shirts		(4,500.00)
Total		
Closing Bank Balance as at 30/4/13		16,588.55

Outstanding Accounts		
Bank Balance as at 30/4/13		16,588.55
Outstanding Expenditure		
Committed to FU General Ledger for FUSA Ball	(11,723.00)	
Committed to transfer of Movember donations	(23.35)	
Committed to FU General Ledger for Appreciation Dinner	(968.00)	(12,714.35)
Closing Balance adjusted for outstanding accounts		\$3,874.20

May		
Opening Bank Balance 1/5/14		16,588.55
Closing Bank Balance 31/5/14		16,588.55

June		
Opening Bank Balance 1/6/14		16,588.55
Receipts		16,588.55
Cash	545.8	
Cash Gain	545.8	
Closing Bank Balance 30/6/14		17,134.35

July		
Opening Bank Balance 1/7/14		17,134.35
Receipts		16,588.55

Cash	430.36	
Cash Gain	430.36	
Expenditure		
Internet Transfer	85	17,134.35
Internet Transfer	1071	
Internet Transfer	360	
Total Expenditure	1516	
Closing Bank Balance 31/7/14		16,048.71

August		
Opening Bank Balance 1/8/14		16,048.71
Receipts		16,588.55
Cash	1387	
Cash	364	
Cash	3397.88	
Cash Gain	5148.88	17,134.35
Expenditure		
Internet Transfer	5000	
Internet Transfer	2985.98	
Internet Transfer	171.16	
Internet Transfer	6115	
Internet Transfer	15.5	
Total Expenditure	14287.64	
Closing Bank Balance 31/8/14		6,909.95

September		
Opening Bank balance		6909.95
Reciepts		
Paypall	4500	
Total	4500	
Debits		
FBSSA Ball	585	
Total	585	
		10824.95
Closing Bank Balance		10824.95

5.4 Environment Officers Report

Environment Officer's Report - October

FEAG affiliation

I have spent a number of hours communicating with FEAG about ways in which they can affiliate, along with the implications of this. This discussion has been ongoing for many months.

Fair Trade campaign

I met with Flinders Fair Trade Society and VGen about the Fairtrade campaign. Fairtrade has brought on a new 5 member leadership team for 2015. Some Flinders Fair Traders and I also met with the South Australian Fair Trade Network and Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand CEO Molly Harriss Olsen to discuss Fair Trade strategy at Flinders and beyond.

University Hall 40 Hour Famine dinner

I was approached to speak at a 40 Hour Famine event at the Hall. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with Flinders students outside main campus and speak to Hallies about what is important to them. Congratulations on Hall residents and 40 Hour Famine leader Jacinta Clark for raising over \$3000 this year.

Steering Committee

I have approached a number of individuals about being on the Steering Committee for Fair Trade Accreditation, securing the support of the Sustainability officer.

Duck mental health

I asked a number of ducks about their feelings on Health and Counselling. Four out of six ducks ignored me, while two responded "quack". I explained to both of these ducks that the counselors are not quacks, they are trained mental health professionals who deliver a valuable service. I myself have greatly benefitted from seeing Health and Counselling in the past. Nonetheless, the ducks kept repeating their original statements. Clearly, the duck population have an unhealthy view of mental health issues that affect so many students. I would remind all ducks that despite the stigma, Health and Counselling's services have helped many students and I would encourage any duck or person feeling under pressure from uni, work/worm hunting, money/worm attainment problems or any number of issues to seek help.

University Council meeting

I have been writing a Fairtrade Accreditation motion for the university council and investigating how to get this onto the University Council's agenda.

FUSA Election regs: closed campus

Last September, Flinders Student Council passed an amendment to the election regulations, inserting s9.14 which states: "Only Flinders University Students are allowed to campaign on campus". However, while perusing the election regs

earlier this month I noticed that this regulation was not present, despite being passed by student council. I do not believe it has been removed or amended, so I believe it was never inserted into the official regulations in the first place, despite being passed by student council.

This regulation is important because it makes Flinders a 'closed campus'. Flinders student elections should be decided by Flinders students and should not be swayed by individuals with no connection to Flinders. This prevents elections being swayed by individuals bringing in overwhelming numbers of friends, employees, political party members, faction members, or other individuals with no connection to flinders and only want their friend to win for better or worse. Having a closed campus, where only flinders students can campaign, prevents this and ensures that Flinders student elections are decided based on flinders students only.

5.6 Women's Officer Report

Attended:

- RU Okay Day meeting;
- Hub Workshop;
- Hub Consultation Group; and
- Sport and Fitness Consultation Group.

Women's Collective:

- Scheduling meeting;
- Organising a speaker;
- Shaun re booking room, ordering food; and
- Organising parking permits.

Responded to emails and mail and attended to students under my portfolio.

5.7 International student's officer

August report,

Students' Work Rights

I had a meeting with Vanesa from Student Assist and the Welfare Officer to discuss how FUSA can support students regarding this issue and make them aware of their work rights. We suggested that the first step is creating a link on the FUSA website to provide information about students rights' at work. Such as Uni SA which has a lot of useful links about work Rights. We also discussed that it might be a good idea to invite expert people to give a presentation about the work rights. We also talked about possibly holding an event for the campaign in the future. We have also discussed about the "ARE YOU OK? day".

FUPS (Flinders University Postgraduate Society) at Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health sciences, Annual General Meeting

I attended in the FUPS meeting 4th of August, we discussed about a few matter such as "the University Speed dating which were held in July, and support by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Research, which is more about future career after graduating.

Hub Student Consultation group

A few meetings, I attended the Student Hub Consultation group meeting, and also discussed in the international subcommittee.

Flinders NDA event,

I attended the NDA event which was so successful and students enjoyed the event, thanks to Students president, Postgraduate Officer and our Education Officer for their speeches about the higher Education cuts.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY and DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING,

I attended to EODC meeting on 6th of Aug. We discussed about a few matters the minutes are available on the Finders website.

School of Medicine morning tea

I attended to the morning tea on 28rd of August which was organised by the FUPS and supported by the School of Medicine, which gave me the opportunity to meet other students and talked about the assistance they can get from FUSA.

Also met other international students and got their idea and opinion about the Students' Hub

Meeting with Ms. Jane Horgan (Coordinator ISSU)

I had a meeting with Ms Horgan and discussed about few items; mainly Health cover for the international students and University health cover provider and problems such as waiting period policy for pregnancy and others medical services. They are going to negotiate these issues with different Health Cover providers to see which one provide more supports to students.

Response to Emails,

I have replied to several emails about different issues associated with International students, several emails from CISA.

Sub-committee meeting

Provide information regarding Student Hub, discuss the Multicultural festival.

September report:

Are you ok day?

I went around the department and asking students and staff (more than 30 people) “ Are You OK” at the Are you ok day. One of our colleagues was really initiative for this event

FUPS (Flinders University Postgraduate Society) at Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health sciences, Annual General Meeting

I attended in the FUPS meeting 2nd of Sept, we discussed about a few matter such as “the Faculty of Health Science Speed dating which will be held in Nov, three universities dinner event.

Emails,

I had replied to several emails about different issues associated with International students,

Sub-committee meeting

Provide information regarding Student Hub, discuss the Multicultural festival.

I would like to ask the Welfare Officer to be involved in the Multicultural festival; if other BO and members are interested in they are so welcome.

We have two meetings last month.

We made an organizing committee for the Multicultural festival,

Miss Nur Nadira Zainal attend to the last meeting, she is Convener of the Multi-cultural festival.

Mr. Mohammad Mehbub (Etu) is Cultural Organizer,

Mr. Mousa Alghazwi is Treasurer

Mr. Karl Lee is a member of committee

Mr Andi Arjuna is a member and Food Manager

Mr. Anthon Le Communication officer

Mr. Prashanth Magandram member of committee and food Manager

As Nadira is away I will see Adam next week to discuss the proposal

Meeting with Ms Jessica Merrick

Associate Dean (University Hall) | Flinders Living

I had a meeting with the Associate Dean (University Hall) | Flinders Living, and followed up the Wi-Fi and the Computer room for Skype and OOVOO at the University Hall.

Mrs Merrick advised me that the net-work has been set up and students can access to Wi-Fi very soon. She also mentioned that there is a negotiation going on which university provide a free WiFi to University Hall

**Meeting with Ms Melissa Suckley
Associate Dean (DJ Village) | Flinders Living**

I had a meeting with the Associate Dean (DJ village) Flinders Living, and followed up the Wi-Fi and the Computer room for Skype and OOVVO at the University Hall.

Mrs Suckley, advised me that some rooms have access to the net-work which provide by private company and students charge based on their usage, not university WiFi. She also mentioned that there is a negotiation going on which university provide a free WiFi to DJ village. She also has promised to allocate a room in the Community Centre equipped with two PC for Skype and OOVVO and other social activities.

Welfare Officer's Report – September 2014

RUOK Day

I attended planning meetings for the RUOK day event on the 2nd and 3rd. I helped set up and pack up for the event on the 4th, and handed out food to students and helped run the photo booth.

Hub Consultation Group

I attended the Hub Consultation Group meeting on the 5th, and the wider student consultation meeting on the 16th.

Food & Beverage SCG

I attended the Food and Beverage Student Consultation Group meeting on the 16th.

National Day of Action

I went to the meeting of the SA Education Action Network on the 29th to help plan the upcoming NDA.

Mental Health Day

I spoke with Vanesa about assisting with the University's Mental Health Day event on the 9th of October.

5.7 International student's officer

April report,

ISSU morning tea

I joined ISSU for afternoon tea to meet other international students and got their idea and interests, which was held on Tuesday 2^{END} of April at Oasis Common Room, Union Building at 2:30 - 4:0 pm, A big thank- you to Vanesa And Sue for attending, 1.5hours

Hub Student Consultation group

I attend the Hub Student Consultation group meeting at 8th of April, 1 hour

Meeting with Ms. Vanesa Duran (Team Leader, Student Assist)

I had a meeting with Vanesa and discuss potential campaigns/activities for the year as well as the upcoming CISA national conference in Adelaide July 2014. 0.5 Hour

Sub-committee meeting

Date: 11th April 2014,

Time: 14:00 to 15:00 pm

Location: FUSA meeting room

Welcome and meeting open;

As is the practice of Flinders University, I acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of this country. In particular I acknowledge the Kaurna people, the traditional owners of the lands and waters of the region on which Flinders University at Bedford Park is located.

We discussed a few matters;

- 1- Hub Student Consultation group. We talked about the structure of new Students Hub which will be rebuilt in the Plaza
- 2- Availability of Shops and Foods after hours in the main campus.
- 3- Difficulties and problem about the Students accommodation in the village and student hall; Which Ms Madeline de Leon will follow this matter
- 4- Socialization programs; Pub Crawls, games, sport matches and races
- 5- Games: such as having tennis tables in the campus
- 6- Club day
- 7- English courses such as IELTS tutors
- 8- Finally the sub-commit asking for light refreshment during the meeting. I have also added a motion on the agenda for the Student Council to approve this.

FUPS (Flinders University Postgraduate Society) at Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health sciences, Annual General Meeting

I attend in the FUPS AGM in the 14 of April, 1 hour.

Harmony walk in May.

Working on setting up a Harmony walk with other university in South Australia

Talking with the Head of Health, Counselling and Disability Services

Spoke with Mr. Andrew Wood (Head Health, Counselling and Disability Services) and discuss whether the Health Service can see children of students. It is ongoing. 0.5 hour

Mental health Day 30 April,

I helped in servicing the food and BBQ for the day, thanks for Vanesa for organising this event with the Health, Counselling and Disability Services. 1.0 hour

Multicultural night: There will be a multicultural night on 7 July 14, from 7pm - 10.30pm.

I will send out an email to all students club in Flinders if they are interested to participate in. CISA is holding this event.

5.9 Social Activities Officer

Social Activities Officer August

Pub Crawl

I made the pub crawl roster and worked for several hours on the stall. I also spent time sorting out issues (answering queries, rostering issues, etc.) The pub crawl was definitely not as successful as semester 1. This is probably due to the venues chosen, the short time allowed to purchase shirts and the workload of semester 2.

SEO applications

I spent several hours reading all of the applications for the student experience officer roles, both media and clubs and events. I then spent several more hours at the SEO interviews.

Approx hours

3 hours on stall

2 hours sorting out roster, rostering issues, replying to queries

4 hours reading applications

3.5 hours interviewing

.5 hours on Open day stall

Total: 13

Social Activities Officer Report – September

9/9 Meeting with Chris

16/9 Meeting with Chris and Adam

16/9 Hub consultation

18/9 Festival Centre Tour (location of Ball)

18/9 Fusa Ball decorations

18/9 general ball planning

18/9 Sourcing ball photographer

18/9 Wrote sub-committee 'advertisement'

Other:

Significant amount of time sent sending/replying to emails and replying to queries about the ball on the Facebook event and organizing to have the ball advertised on the FUSA homepage.

5.10 Accessibility Officer's Report

ABILITY OFFICER REPORT

August 2014

1. Student with disability monthly meeting
 - I. On August 27th, student with disabilities monthly meeting was hold in OASIS room.
 - II. Matter of discussion:
 1. Some student with vision impairment strongly suggest the modification of Flinders Learning Online to more accessible format and compatible with screen reader software. Both internal and External student with vision impairment complains since they are not able to be actively involved in online discussion, although they have been given exceptions by lectures. Recommendation : IT support Flinders University consult with Vision Australia, Guidedogs or royal Society for the Blind to modify Flinder's website and FLO.
 2. External students with disabilities also complain regarding the recording quality of several lecture. They couldn't follow class or group discussion since most of the time the microphone is focus on the lecture, and not given to the student, and that cause miss leading of a discussion or question and answering session. Students with hearing impairment also complains that many time the power point is not visible through the camera, and have to hope that the lecturer did not forgot to upload the powerpoint presentation in the right timing. Recommendations : Ability officer together with disability counselor are ask to remind lectures about it through email and perhaps to bring the subject in meetings with lecturers.
 3. Adaptive technology room occupied during exam weeks. Student with disabilities have difficulties using the adaptive technology room during exam weeks. The room is usually reserved for exam by other students with disabilities. Some of the student who does not have their own assistive devices and also need to finish their assignments usually have to postponed their work until the exam weeks are finish. Recommendation :Announce the exact time when the room are reserved and distribute the schedule to student with disabilities through email. When there are two devices available,one might be able to be placed in public area.
 4. Student with disabilities and volunteer club. This suggestion emerge since strongly among student with disabilities in order to

empower student with disabilities Social, academic and psychologically. This club is hope to be able to provide simultaneous feedback to university, provide transition from Uni to working environment. It will also increase the sensitivity of other students in assisting fellow students with disabilities. Recommendation : consult to FUSA and other student councils on how to establish the club and get feedback from them.

III.

2. Matter to discuss in the next council meeting
 1. In response to the agreement of several student with disability to establish a club, I was wondering if other council member could give me any feedback regarding this matter.
 2. Due to communication problem, most of the student with hearing impairment refuse to join the monthly meeting and prefer to have their own meeting separately. My personal opinion, it is against inclusive model of society, because when the students with hearing impairment integrated with other students with disabilities, both group could learn on how to support each other and be more sensitive with other's need.
 3. During the orientation week, a stall was placed blocking the guide block. I shall remind everyone that is very important for all accessible path such as guiding block and ramp to be clear in any circumstances. With whom should I discuss about this if I want to bring this formally?

September

3. Activities
 - Council monthly meeting
- IV. Attending council monthly meeting on September 2nd for regular monthly meeting
 - Student Hubs modification meeting
- V. On September 5th, Ability officer attended Student Hubs consultation meeting with Chriss, Ella, Ira and few more other people including the representative of the project organizer. Ability officer also invite Sampath, a student with disability who is a wheelchair user to join the meeting. Ability officer raised an issue of accessibility feature during the modification of the hubs and remind the officer to create accessible and save path ways for student during the modification time.
 - Movie showing and discussion

- VI. On September 10th, Ability officer was invited to become guest speaker for a discussion forum organized by Indonesian Student Association (Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia-Australia/PPIA). Subject to discuss was Violence towards Women with disabilities. Ability officer describe how fragile are women with disability before law and justice. In the discussion, a movie titled "Pencari Keadilan" (Seeking for Justice) which is a reconstruction movie on how a deaf teenage become a victim of sexual harassment and her journey in filing the sue, investigation and court. The Movie is in Bahasa Indonesia, But comes with English subtitle. On October, this movie will be shown in a bigger event for all Flinders students.
- Disability Awareness Training with Gender Consortiums
- VII. On September 15th ability officer was invited to deliver Disability Awareness Training before ALA "Women and Children Save Environment" short course participants. There was 15 participants from Mongolia and Vietnam and the goal of the session is to sensitize them with the needs of people with disabilities in general, and specifically for women and children with disabilities.
4. Matter to discuss in the next council meeting
4. In response to the agreement of several student with disability to establish a club, I was wondering if other council member could give me any feedback regarding this matter.
 5. Due to communication problem, most of the student with hearing impairment refuse to join the monthly meeting and prefer to have their own meeting separately. My personal opinion, it is against inclusive model of society, because when the students with hearing impairment integrated with other students with disabilities, both group could learn on how to support each other and be more sensitive with other's need.
 6. During the orientation week, a stall was placed blocking the guide block. I shall remind everyone that is very important for all accessible path such as guiding block and ramp to be clear in any circumstances. With whom should I discuss about this if I want to bring this formally?

5.11 Post Graduate Officer's report

Postgraduate Officer Report – September 2014

This last month I have had three major activities: organising the Postgraduate Luncheon, planning the October National Day of Action and Responding to the anti-Muslim racism on campus.

Postgraduate Luncheon

Following on from the successful postgraduate on-campus event in semester one. I have been busy trying to plan and organise a similar event for semester 2. This event has been a complex task because I have had to liaise with the vast postgraduate population, in many localities, as well as working with the very helpful FUSA staff. Unfortunately the situation with the new Plaza redevelopment has led to some to-and-fro about a suitable venue. The most likely venue will be the humanities courtyard, however that faculty is hesitant about becoming the new defacto 'plaza'. As a result of this, the postgrad lunch will most likely be delayed until late October/ early November.

National Day of Action

The upcoming National Day of action, Thurs 16 Oct, has been called to respond to the further attempts of Christopher Pyne to deregulate universities and raise fees. These issues disproportionately affect Postgraduate students, many of whom already pay exorbitant fees for coursework degrees or now face the prospect of fees for research degrees for the first time. Many postgrads are older, have children or other dependents, and many are also international students and so saddled with the additional burden of extra fees and charges. Pyne's changes place more financial burden on postgrads and are draconian reforms. I have been meeting with relevant people about the planning for an event at Flinders on the day, and look forward to talking to many postgrads about why this campaign is important.

Anti-Muslim racism

In the last few weeks I have been inundated with reports from Muslim postgraduates, many of who are also international students, about the increase in incidents of physical and verbal violence against them. Women Muslims bear the brunt of this, because they often choose to wear a headscarf that identifies them. I have personally been informed of over 20 stories of women being attacked, including incidents both on and off-campus. These incidents include being spitten on, having headscarves ripped off, and being called "Terrorist Bitch" or similar profanities. This trend has increased, I believe, because the federal government and the mainstream media have been systematically stirring up anti-Muslim sentiments in Australia, in part to distract from the governments austerity budget, but also to justify Australia's amended anti-terror laws and military action in Iraq. It is outrageous that our Muslim postgrads, and others in the Flinders community, must suffer this racism, and FUSA must urgently take a stand about this. To lend support to these anecdotes, I am urgently commissioning a survey of Muslim students on campus, to determine and document the exact nature of their experience in the current climate.

5.11 Indigenous Officer's Report

April

11th – Discussed with the Adelaide student advisers of CareerTrackers Indigenous Internship Program to hold a networking event and about recruiting more Flinders students.

15th – Spoke with Shane Carr (Yunggorendi), to discuss whether Indigenous students are receiving as much tutoring support as they can.

16th – Had a meeting with Roxanna Henshaw and Stephanie Walker (FUSA) discussing possible events for Naidoc week or an alternative Indigenous awareness event.

18th – Spoke with the Flinders Indigenous Student Association (FISA) to see how they are progressing, and asked if the students need any assistance from FUSA. Also spoke about possible on-campus events.

20th – Spoke to FISA about their fundraiser event being held on the 1st of May

29th – Had a meeting with Yunggorendi to inform them of the situation between Indigenous students and on-campus accommodation. Students are supposed to be provided food over the weekends but it is not organised yet.

30th – Acknowledgement of country for EO Step-up Campaign and assisted at the FUSA stall

5.13

Manager Student Engagement – Update – OCTOBER 2014

FUSA Staff

Student Experience Officers (student positions)

These positions have now been filled. Alison Ashdown and Meaghan King will assist mostly with Clubs and Events and Elaine Cheng, Kate Van Der Horst and Sarah Gates are assisting with media related duties. They have already been doing some amazing work. Please make them feel welcome.

Indigenous Students Officer Vacancy

Given the resignation of Haidarr Jones from the above position, I invited applications to fill this position until the 31st of December 2014. I have received two applications. Student Council can appoint one of these at the next meeting on the 7th of October.

2015 FUSA/Office of Student Engagement Budget

The 2015 FUSA/Office of Student Engagement Budget (SSAF component) was tabled at the SSAF Budget Advisory Committee. This budget, along with other budget requests will be emailed to all students for feedback. This feedback will then be discussed at the Committee and a final proposal will be submitted to the VC for approval.

The non-SSAF component has to be approved by the DVC(A) and VC.

Student Hub

Empire Times and Student Radio space has been finalised.

As advised via email, the fortnightly meetings have been cancelled given that the University Project Team and the architects have enough information from students for the moment and have finalised the configuration of the spaces.

I will be in touch to invite you along to any future meetings that may occur where the architects require more information from students with regards to 'look and feel' of spaces and operational considerations.

Movement of FUSA, Empire Times and Equity Spaces

At this stage, the timeline for the move remains as late November whilst the construction of the new Student Hub takes place. I will notify Student Council once we know exactly where these services will be moved to and a more specific timeframe.

The Queer Space and Women's Room will have no location over the Uni break but will move into space under McHugh's before moving into their permanent homes in the new Student Hub.

FUSA Student Elections

In a bid to increase voter numbers and increase student awareness, a 'Student Presidential Debate' will be held between the two candidates who have nominated for Student President on The Plaza (Scholars Bar if the weather is inclement) on **Tuesday the 7th of October 12:30pm - 1:30pm**. This will be a chance for you to hear directly from the candidates and there will be time for questions from the audience.

The debate will be integrated with 'Relax Day' and there will be free haircuts, free BBQ, free pizza, free massages and live music.

Flinders One Student Consultation Groups

The last meetings held on the 16th of September were poorly attended and only two out of the six FUSA Student Council Representatives attended. Over the coming months, I will be reviewing the effectiveness of this model in consultation with the Flinders One General Manager and the University.

Alternative Election Voting System

I am still working with ITS around identifying a new EVS which both the University and FUSA could use for future elections. The aim is to have a new system by early next year. I will keep you informed.

Matters for Decision

6.1 Voter intimidation – Environment Officer

Last year a number of students said that they felt intimidated into voting a certain way during elections, in particular students who were approached by campaigning students with laptops and forced to vote with campaigners standing over them and watching.

I make a motion that:

1. Student Council condemns voter intimidation and coercion.
2. Student Council encourages the Returning Officer to take necessary steps to limit the possibility of voter intimidation and coercion.
3. Instances of voter intimidation and coercion should be dealt with swiftly and candidates penalized appropriately.
4. If a laptop, iPad, or any other device is used by campaigners for the purposes of allowing other students to vote, no candidate or campaigner may stand within five meters of the student while they are voting.
5. All determinations made by the returning officer should be published as soon as possible on a public forum and emailed to all candidates.

6.2 Appointing a student to the position of indigenous students officer – Chris O’Grady

Applications were invited from students for the above position to hold office from the **21st October to 31st December 2014** to fill the vacancy left by Haidarr Jones who resigned from the role.

Applicants were asked to submit an application form and include a written application outlining why the applicant thinks they should be chosen.

Please see attached applications that were received from two students: Tyme Childs and Latoya Rule.

Student Council can appoint one of these students to this role at the meeting 7th of October given that the resignation occurred within 2 months of the annual elections.

6.3 Computer Room – Tut Tut

Motion: I move that student council supports 24 hour access of the computer lab on Level 10 at the Victoria Square Campus.

6.4 Our Watch – John Photakis

Our Watch

Our Watch is a national campaign aimed at preventing violence against women and children. Every week a woman is killed by her current or former partner. The goal is for sexist attitudes for what they are. It is up to everyone to:

- Challenge stereotypes
- Call out sexist attitudes
- Speak out if you hear excuses for violence or victim blaming
- Spread the word that violence is never an option or a solution and there is NO excuse
- Acknowledge respect and equality when you see it
- Celebrate our role models

There is a you tube video with more information, search for “our watch campaign”

Motion:

FUSA endorse Our Watch campaign.

6.5

FUSA Student Council Induction – Chris O’Grady

Below is a proposal and budget for an induction session for next year’s Student Council that was put together in consultation with the Student President and General Secretary.

Motion: That Student Council approve the below budget to come from ‘Student Council – Professional Development’ (\$5,000) with the option for the Manager, Student Engagement to make minor changes if required.

FUSA Student Council Induction

– Proposed Reforms –

Oct. 17, 2014

Author: Dr Jonathon Louth, FUSA
Student Representation and Development Officer

Rationale

The intent is to develop a significant and meaningful induction process. Given the current Student Council induction process is limited in its scope we propose to develop an induction that better prepares incoming council members for the demands of student association governance. This is inclusive of:

1. More effective handover between outgoing and incoming councils. Currently handover procedures are limited. As a consequence new council members miss a valuable opportunity to better understand the intricacies of their new roles. This is particularly important for Office Bearers.

2. Team-building to develop the overall capacity of Student Council. Anecdotal evidence suggests that more could be done to enable *all* council members to feel comfortable within their new roles.
3. Providing in-depth sessions on how council and committees work; effective governance, student consultation and financial responsibility.
4. To bring FUSA in line with best practice across the Australian HE sector. We can certainly look to student associations at University of South Australia, RMIT, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales. Away days or residential retreats are commonplace and are considered an integral part of their induction process.
5. To provide a space for some exploratory strategic planning prior to the commencement of the new Student Council. Goal setting and planning for the upcoming year can begin before day-to-day Council matters obscure medium or longer term goals.
6. To make sure the new council is familiar with FUSA operational procedures.
7. To familiarise new members with FUSA office functions, including event organisation, media use and general student assistance.
8. To meet and be welcomed by senior university staff and to become familiar with institutional structures in a less formal setting.
9. To better improve student engagement, representation and to foster sustained civic engagement.

Proposed Induction Away Days Event

Venue: TBC (off campus).

- Holding the event off-campus is an important element. It is well documented that shifting outside of the workplace or institutional environment assists in producing a more cohesive learning and team-building environment.

Date: November 26 & 27, 2014

- The change of date is to move away from the poorly attended January half day induction. The new date will also allow an improved handover.

Day One

Morning Session:

1. Welcome and year in review: Outgoing President (Grace Hill)
2. History and Structure of FUSA (Chris O'Grady)
3. Team Building Exercise.
4. University Governance and Management Structures (Chris O'Grady)
5. Council Regulations and Standing Orders (Paul Harrison)
6. Transition Session A.

- a. Q and A with Outgoing President, General Secretary and select officers.
- b. Brainstorming session with incoming and outgoing counterparts to identify issues, concerns and best practice.

Lunch

Afternoon Session:

7. Roles and responsibilities
 - a. The importance of representing *student interests* (Jonathon Louth)
 - b. Student consultation (methods etc.) (Jonathon Louth)
 - c. Legal and financial responsibilities (Chris O'Grady)
8. Effective committee and council work
 - a. Preparation (Jonathon Louth)
 - b. The ins and outs of it (Paul Harrison)
9. Transition Session B.
 - a. Strategic planning for office bearers
 - b. General discussion on afternoon session.
10. Leadership and Organising: Guest speaker tbc.

Evening Session:

11. Pre-dinner drinks. (*proposed*)
 - a. Meet and greet with senior university executives.
12. Dinner (incoming council)

Day Two

Morning Session:

1. Welcome and insights from a former president (Robert Simms)
2. FUSA Office day-to-day running (Shaun Hobby)
3. Media (Steph Walker)
 - a. Social media use
 - b. Creating promotional material
 - c. Comms
4. Empire Times (editors)
 - a. Submission process
5. Clubs and societies (Adam Rau)
 - a. How to run an event.
6. Student Assist Workshop (Sue Myatt; Helen Laity)
 - a. Services offered by Student Assist
 - b. Identifying legitimate student grievances
 - c. Workshop: looking at case studies

Lunch

Afternoon Session:

7. Closed Planning Session
 - a. This session is for the incoming Student Council only
8. Future of FUSA and student representation (Jonathon Louth)
 - a. SRN review and reform
 - b. Student consultative committees
 - c. Improving student representation and training
9. Close: Incoming President

Draft Induction Budget - Away

Induction costings			
	Day One	Day Two	Totals
Venue hire	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$360.00
	\$1,000.0	\$1,000.0	
Catering	0	0	\$2,000.00
Dinner	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Misc.	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
			\$0.00
Totals	\$2,040.0	\$1,180.0	\$3,220.00
	0	0	

Catering Breakdown		Day One		Day two		Totals
Per		No.	sub-total	sub-		
			\$1,000.0		\$1,000.	\$2,000.
Breakfast & Lunch	\$40.00	25	0	25	00	00
Morning/Afternoon tea	\$0.00	25	\$0.00	25	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dinner (food only)	\$35.00	20	\$700.00	0	\$0.00	\$700.0
						0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>		<i>\$1,700.0</i>		<i>\$1,000.</i>	<i>\$2,700.</i>
			0		00	00

Proposed VC Drinks (not funded by			
No. of attendees	Per	No.	Tab
	35	\$8.00	2 \$560.00

6.6 Clubs Seeking affiliation – General Secretary

6.6.1 Flinders University Greens Club

Purpose: To facilitate green politics and give a presence of green politics at Flinders University

Motion: I motion that Flinders University Greens Club be non-financially affiliated with FUSA.

6.6.2 Flinders University History Society

Purpose: A social club for history enthusiasts

Motion: I motion that Flinders University History Society be financially affiliated with FUSA.

6.7 Executive Recommendations – General Secretary

6.7.2 Honorariums

Motion: I motion that we approve the following honorariums:

Matters for Discussion:

7.1 Racism on Campus – Post Graduate Officer

7.2 Student activists repeatedly harassing disabled students in areas of high traffic. – Accessibility Officer

8.1 Matters for Noting:

FUSA Student Elections – 2014 – Chris O’Grady

Report on Election Regulations and Related Matters

Returning Officer: Dr Rob Manwaring, School of Social and Policy Studies, Flinders University

14 October 2014

1. Background

This report outlines the 2014 FUSA elections, which closed at 3pm on Friday 10 October, as overseen by the Returning Officer (RO). The role of the RO is oversee the conduct of the elections, and the report offers some commentary of key events which took place, and also offers some reflections on how the conduct of future elections might be improved.

As RO, I was approached in 2013 by a student representative on FUSA Council if I was interested in taking on the RO role, as I gather, FUSA was keen to have an independent person oversee the elections. I agreed to this role, perhaps without full knowledge of the implications of my involvement, but as a lecturer in politics and public policy I was identified with having a useful skills set to carry out this role.

To date, I have overseen the FUSA 2013 elections, the 2014 student elections, and at least two by-elections during this time. By and large, both the elections in 2013 and the subsequent by-elections without major incident, although there were some issues with low turnout (see later comments), and some minor administrative issues with the nominations forms (which were arguably not as clear as they could have been- the form has since been revised).

The FUSA election regulations define the RO as a 'person or organisation engaged by the Student Council to conduct elections'. In general, I understand my role as RO to uphold the regulations that govern the election process, and as far as possible within the powers ascribed to the RO role, ensure the free and fair conduct of the elections. For all elections, I have either appointed the FUSA Manager, Student Engagement (Chris O'Grady) and colleagues as assistant RO(s), and/or consulted with this person on issues arising.

Given some of the events and issues that arose during the conduct of the 2014 student elections, this report offers my main review of the operation of the election process. Rather than offer a chronological sequence of significant events, the reports groups together key themes and related issues.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Use of Ipads/Electronic Devices

During the 2014 election, there were a number of complaints that one candidate from a specific ticket was voting on behalf of student(s) using an ipad or similar device. I received a number of suggestions and reports to this effect. However, I received only one testimonial from a student that this had taken place. Once I received this complaint from the student (asking for their vote to be retracted) I organised an interview with the candidate to challenge them on this issue. The assistant RO (Chris O'Grady) had seen this candidate earlier on the same day in

close proximation to a student whom was voting on an ipad, and cautioned him that he was too close to the student. The candidate categorically denied the suggestion that he had voted on the student's behalf, or for any student. I was highly concerned by this accusation, and despite the conflicting accounts, I issued a formal warning to the candidate, requested he desist from using his ipad or any electronic device in showing students how to vote. Given the diametrically opposing accounts – I deemed that there were insufficient grounds to disqualify the candidate. I also issued an email to all candidates warning them of this issue, and to request that no electronic devices were to be used for the rest of the election. The regulations, are relatively clear that candidates can not use 'coercion' in this regard, or vote on behalf a student.

The use of electronic voting does open up the possibility of abuse that neither fixed voting stations or paper ballot papers do offer; yet online voting arguably offers more flexibility. There is scope to further review the wording in the clause of the regulations in this regard. Student Council might also like to consider how the RO might deal with conflicting and opposing accounts of events.

2.2 Regulations of Materials

The regulation of materials, and the relevant wording in the election regulations is relatively clear, and the RO may deem what is 'offensive' and 'inappropriate'. It might well be worth Student Council offering examples of what they might deem inappropriate. In the 2013 election, one candidate used the FUSA logo on their material – mainly from ignorance – which when detected was amended. It is also not fully clear that all materials are passed to the RO as a matter of course. There is scope to make this clearer to all candidates

2.3 Candidate Behaviour and related issues

During the election, regrettably, a number of issues arose regarding the behaviour of the candidates. The RO received and dealt with a number of complaints made by both candidates and also supports and campaigners. These will not be detailed in full in this report; rather some of the key issues arising are dealt with here.

First, the general view of the RO is that campaigning is particularly and potentially fractious activity, and most political campaigns can be marked by behaviour which is not particularly savoury or helpful. However, give the clash of values, ideas, etc. much of this can be attributed to the general 'rough and tumble' of politics. For example, one candidate formally complained to the RO that a different candidate was 'telling lies' about their record in office in the previous year as a FUSA member. In this instance, I took no action, given this is a relatively common jibe made of incumbent candidates. As RO, I'm neither in a position to judge, or offer an opinion on the record of any candidate, and indeed deem that the electorate should decide such questions through their voting choices.

Second, the more significant issue is that the FUSA regulations remain silent on the *behaviour* of candidates. If the RO is to disqualify a candidate (and indeed an entire team of candidates), a request made of me a number of times during the campaign, then as far as my understanding of the regulations stands, there is no basis or authority for me to take such actions. A candidate who was disqualified would surely require (and be entitled to) a clear explanation of the breach of regulations which led to that decision; yet, despite a number of quite potentially serious altercations, I found no basis in the regulations to disqualify a candidate. Student Council might wish to consider how and what recommendations might foster a more inclusive campaign.

Third, even if the regulations had enabled the RO to take stronger action than that taken, the problem is complicated on how to deal with conflicting accounts of the same incident. A significant event took place later in the campaign between two candidates (and a subsequent and related incident with the supporter of one candidate alleging the other was physically intimidating). I interviewed both candidates about the event which took place – both were clearly upset by what had taken place; and both allege the diametric opposite account of what took place – that the other candidate was being physically intimidating, showed bullying behaviour and was verbally abusive. As RO, as I had not witnessed the event, I was not in a position to judge what had occurred; and having no grounds in the regulations to issue warnings or further action; I was only limited in my options. I counselled both candidates, acknowledged their upset, and suggested they avoid contact with other candidates.

Fourth, since there seems little or no mechanism in the election guidelines to deal with such incidents, I referred the candidates to the relevant University complaint mechanisms; and in my email to one of the candidates encouraged them to pursue this further if they felt they needed this issue addressed. As the regulations currently stand the only dispute mechanisms that are in effect are the University's which fall outside the elections regulations. The University takes all allegations of bullying, discrimination and harassment very seriously and all students are strongly encouraged to get the support they may need from the relevant staff members.

There is clearly scope for the powers of the RO to be reviewed, especially in the context of the behaviour of candidates, with some further guidance on how events with directly conflicting accounts be resolved.

The other significant event in this regard related to the contest between the two candidates seeking the position of Indigenous officer. Again, both candidates were clearly upset by what had occurred. One candidate had apparently made comments to students about the other. I interviewed both candidates (both of which had support from colleagues). Again, the accounts of what took place differed quite strongly, and I also took advice from key staff in Yunggorendi on the accusations made. I took no further course of action except to encourage an apology and make clear my views on this issue. Again, according to my reading of the regulations, there is no clear mechanism to warn or disqualify candidates for their behaviour – other than to refer them to appropriate external mechanisms.

2.4 External Supporters/Campaigners

Unfortunately, the 2014 campaign was marked by the unhelpful input of external campaigners – a problem blighted by an administrative problem in not updating the regulations. The Council had expressly forbidden the use of non-Flinders students in campaign activities, and this information was not clear in the out-dated regulations first sent to candidates. A subsequent email clarifying the situation was sent out later on day 1, although arguably at this point, the problem was underway.

In essence, the RO received a number of complaints that external newspaper sellers were engaged in campaigning for the ‘Student Voice’ ticket during the election. The assistant RO and FUSA colleagues spoke with both one of the Student Voice candidates and the newspaper sellers who repeatedly assured that they were not engaged in electioneering. It was only at the end of penultimate day of the campaign that *clear* evidence was presented that these newspapers sellers were over-stepping their role.

The difficulty with this issue relates to two issues. First, is the administrative capacity of the RO (and colleagues) to oversee alleged inappropriate behaviour. There is a lack of capacity by the RO (or supporting colleagues) to oversee the election to effectively ‘police’ all candidates and supporters during the campaign. This means that much of the ‘policing’ of behaviour is left to other candidates, and this leaves open that reports made may not be impartial, or may be vexatious.

This relates to the second, related issue (outlined above) about providing clear evidence of inappropriate behaviour. It is very difficult to substantiate such claims when the supporters consistently deny alleged covert campaign behaviour.

I discussed with the assistant RO the best way to deal with this ongoing issue during the campaign. Despite the rumours and persistent allegations about these sellers over-stepping their role, we did not have clear evidence until very late in the campaign. Once received, I emailed my concerns to the Student Voice lead candidates, and asked them request their supporters immediately desist in these activities, and stated that they faced disqualification. This was also conveyed to all candidates. Following this email, there were no further reports made to the RO about these external people.

Finally, it was worth Student Council reviewing this aspect of the regulations, and making more explicit appropriate action.

2.5 Registration/Eligibility of Voters

At both this election, and a previous election, there was some confusion about who constituted a student for the purposes of the election and integrity of the electoral roll. At the 2014 election, one student an intermitting PhD queried why

they were not on the electoral roll. For the purposes of clarity, it is worth making the exemption criteria more explicit.

2.6 Voter Turnout

In 2014, the voter turnout was greater than in the previous two elections, and actually seemed to rise. However, roughly 550 - 600 students cast ballots (from a student body of 23,000) which is low. I undertook an informal focus group with one of my politics tutorials on low turnout, and there is a range of factors at play here; including, but not limited to

- confusion as to what the candidates stood for
- generic, bland claims made by the candidates
- FUSA being seen as unimportant
- Lack of awareness of the campaign
- General political apathy and lack of engagement
- Suggestion that certain (non-humanities) faculty students are less likely to engage

FUSA Council should consider the ways in which participation might be improved

3. Recommendations and Suggestions

Following the 2014 election, the following suggestions might be considered for improving the conduct of future elections:

- 3.1 Conduct a review of the election guidelines, with a benchmarking process mapping the FUSA regulations against other University regulations
- 3.2 Consider inserting a clause around candidate behaviour
- 3.3 Consider developing a 'code of conduct' for candidates
- 3.4 The RO encouraged to deliver a pre-election talk to all candidates on expectations and issues; with possible 'daily briefings' to all ticket team leaders
- 3.5 Revised guidelines be sent to all candidates on appropriate behaviour
- 3.6 All campaigners to wear lanyards with their student identification cards
- 3.7 Reconsider the wording of the clause governing 'coercion' and therefore the use of electronic devices
- 3.8 Further guidance to be offered to RO on handling incidents with conflicting claims of inappropriate, etc. behaviour
- 3.9 Clarify further the wording regarding eligible students
- 3.10 Explore further options for improving voter turnout and engagement