

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



MEETING 18 MARCH 2019

MINUTES

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Ali Amin opened at 6:38pm on Monday 18 March 2019.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

Ali acknowledged that the SRC met on the land of the Kurna people.

1.2. Attendance

Ali Amin (*Chair*), Joanna Barry-Murphy (*Minutes*), Rebecca Etienne, Kynesha Temple, Sam Chapman, Chelsea Fernandez, Xin Wu (Carol), Yuchen Zhang (Elaine), Bingzhang Wu (Franz), Chongxin Ji (Lucas), Zihan Ma (Zephyrus), Tom Auld, Chuyue Qin (Angela), Tobias Threadgold, Michael Brohier, Isabel Hoo, Yoong Aun Lai (Andrew), Yiyun Tang (Teresa).

Late: Patrick Stewart, Chelsea Fernandez, Oscar Ong

Visitors: Mark Pace (SRC Administrator), Jordan Mumford, Alfred Lowe, Iacovos Digenis, Sarah Tynan, Jack Crawford, Tamsin Anspach, Arabella Wauchope, Felix Eldridge.

1.3. Apologies

Lisa Hanson, Samuel J. King

1.4. Adoption of Agenda

Move administrator's report first; Withdraw 7.2; Move 7.1, 7.4, 7.5 and 7.3 to the end.

1.5. Welcome

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: that the minutes of the meeting of 18 February 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Ali Amin

Seconded: Michael Brohier

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

ACTION	PERSON	STATUS
Roster for O'Week Stall (Monday-Wednesday)	Patrick Stewart	Complete
Liaise with the AUU regarding vending machines.	Kynesha Temple	In progress

Put Tobi and Zihan in contact with Phillippa Levy regarding student peer networking and the working group being set up.	Ali Amin	In progress
Ask the University to examine the impact of public transport cuts on students.	Ali Amin	In progress

4. Correspondence

Ali Amin advised the Council that he had received correspondence from the University, informing him that the Vice-Chancellor would no longer attend Student Affairs Committee meetings. Instead, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor will attend. In addition, terms of reference have been changed to remove accountability to the Vice-Chancellor.

5. New Members.

None.

9.2 Administrator's Report

Mark Pace, SRC administrator, introduced himself and explained his role to the SRC. Described availability, and summarised the work he has been doing in recent weeks.

7. General Business

7.1 Christchurch Attacks

Tom Auld spoke to his motion, and outlined his view that the SRC ought to stand in solidarity with the Muslim community, and in opposition to the far right, following the terrorist attacks in Christchurch.

Ali Amin passed the chair to Sam Chapman.

Ali Amin spoke in support of the motion. He outlined reports of neo-Nazi groups active on Adelaide campuses, including islamophobic posters being put up with razors behind them. He expressed his view that the University of Adelaide's response was not strong enough, particularly in contrast to that of the Vice Chancellor of Flinders University.

Sam Chapman passed the chair to Ali Amin.

Jack Crawford spoke in favour of the motion. He spoke of the Vigil that had been held at Marion Mosque, and noted his view that most students at the University would support this position.

Iacovos Digenis encouraged the SRC to take a more visible approach, such as a photograph for public distribution, rather than just a motion.

Motion: that the SRC:

- a. Stands in solidarity with Muslims in the wake of the fascist, terrorist attack in Christchurch.

- b. Opposes the deeply Islamophobic political climate which has created the basis for this far right attack,
- c. Condemns the far right and political forces which stoke Islamophobia.

Moved: Tom Auld

Seconded: Ali Amin

CARRIED

7.2 Christchurch Vigil

Item withdrawn.

6. Motions on Notice

Patrick Stewart arrived at 7:04pm.

6.1 Constitutional Amendment (Tobias Threadgold)

SRC Constitution – Section 8 – Meetings

g. No Member may exercise a vote by proxy or in any manner other than by personal attendance **unless by express permission of the SRC President.**

i. Members may attend meetings via video link and vote via distance only when previously approved by the SRC President.

And renumber subsequent sections accordingly.

Recommendation: that the SRC change the constitution to allow members to attend meetings via video link if approved by the SRC President.

Tobi Threadgold spoke to his motion and outlined his reasons for moving it. He spoke of the long travel times for students studying at a rural campus, as well as difficulties faced by International Students.

Ali Amin passed the chair to Patrick Stewart.

Ali Amin spoke in favour of the motion. He highlighted differences between the University of Adelaide's SRC and the UniSA Student Association regarding reimbursement of regional students for travel costs to meetings.

Patrick Stewart passed the chair to Ali Amin.

Patrick Stewart spoke in favour of the motion. He also asked for clarification on the wording of the amendments to the constitution, to ensure attendance by a proxy representative remained prohibited.

Patrick proposed that clause (g) be amended to read: "No member may exercise a vote by proxy." This was amenable to the mover.

Angela Qin spoke in favour of the motion, particularly for international students.

Motion: that the SRC amend Section 8 of its Constitution to read:

- g. No Member may exercise a vote by proxy.
- j. Members may attend meetings via video link and vote via distance only when previously approved by the SRC President.

Moved: Tobias Threadgold **Seconded:** Ali Amin **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Patrick Stewart sought leave to move a motion without notice, to grant a leave of absence to Haoyang Shi for the first three meetings of the current SRC. Patrick outlined that Haoyang Shi is an international student who had not been in Adelaide prior to academic semester, and was also not in Adelaide for this meeting. This would have the effect of removing the Member from the SRC if a leave of absence was not granted.

Ali Amin refused to consider the motion given the lack of notice.

Procedural Motion: that the Council dissent in the Chair's ruling.

Patrick Stewart moved and spoke to the motion. He outlined his view that international students should not be penalised for missing meetings outside of academic semester.

Ali Amin outlined his view that standing orders clearly gave him the power to decline to consider emergent business, and he would not depart from his ruling.

Patrick Stewart outlined the effect of a dissent motion.

Motion: that the Council dissent in the Chair's ruling.

Moved: Patrick Stewart **Seconded:** Joanna Barry-Murphy **CARRIED**

Patrick Stewart reiterated his view that Haoyang Shi should not be removed from the SRC, because this would penalise him for missing meetings prior to academic semester.

Angela Qin queried why the Member in question was interstate after the commencement of the academic year, and outlined the lengths she had gone to to ensure she attended meetings.

Ali Amin expressed his opposition to the motion and the precedent he believe it had sent.

Michael Brohier, Iacovos Digenis, Andrew Lai, Jack Crawford and Kynesha Temple also spoke to the motion and asked questions of the mover.

Motion: that Haoyang Shi be granted a leave of absence for the duration of the current meeting.

Moved: Patrick Stewart **Seconded:** Joanna Barry-Murphy **CARRIED**

Patrick Stewart noted that an AUU Board meeting was still ongoing.

Patrick Stewart left the meeting at 7:32pm.

7.5 Fraser Anning

Tobi spoke in favour of his motion. He stated that Senator Annign's comments were terrible, and that the petition calling for his removal was growing rapidly.

Motion: that the SRC:

- a. Condemns the comments made by Senator Fraser Anning on March 15 2019 in response to the New Zealand Mosque Shooting.
- b. Support the Change.Org petition by Kate Ahmad calling for the removal of Fraser Anning from parliament.

Moved: Tobias Threadgold

Seconded: Rebecca Etienne

CARRIED

7.6 NUS Climate Justice Forum

Tom Auld spoke in favour of the motion.

Ali Amin passed the chair to Sam Chapman.

Ali Amin spoke in opposition to the motion. He stated that, as NUS South Australian Branch President, he only became aware of this NUS event when the motion was received in the SRC meeting papers. He said that the NUS National Executive had not endorsed the event.

Jordan Mumford also spoke in opposition to the motion.

Jack Crawford spoke in support of the motion, and called on the NUS State Branch to hold a meeting.

Chelsea Fernandez arrived at the meeting.

Iacovos Digenis queried where the funds, if approved, would go if the NUS didn't support the event.

Alfred Lowe spoke against the motion and criticised the way in which the motion did not name the specific Kurna Elder.

Sarah Tynan noted she had no issue with such a forum being held, but said the proper NUS channels had not been followed.

Ali Amin outlined his support for a future SRC campaign on climate change.

Kynesha Temple asked questions of the mover about the forum.

Sam Chapman passed the chair to Ali Amin.

Motion: Once the date has been confirmed, and given that a Kurna Elder is found who is willing to perform a welcome to country for the event, the SRC will pass up to \$250 to pay for their time.

Moved: Tom Auld

MOTION LAPSED IN ABSENCE OF A SECONDER

7.3 Adani Coal Mine

Tom Auld spoke in support of his motion. He noted the School Strike for Climate which had recently been held, and spoke critically of the positions of the major political parties on the Adani coal mine.

Ali Amin spoke in opposition to the motion. He outlined his view that if the Federal Labor Party were to commit to overturning the mine's approvals and win office, Adani could take them to court over it and win.

Other SRC members and visitors also spoke on the motion and asked questions of the mover.

Kynesha Temple suggested amendments to the motion to remove condemnation of specific political parties, and instead focus on condemning the coal mine and Adani.

The amendment was not amenable to the mover.

Motion: that the SRC:

- a. Condemns the federal government and the Australian Labor Party for not having a firm stand against Adani.
- b. Is of the position that any contracts with Adani should be terminated due to the negative environmental impact of any future coal mines.

Moved: Tom Auld

MOTION LAPSED IN ABSENCE OF A SECONDER

7.4 Offshore Detention Centres

Patrick Stewart returned to the meeting. Oscar Ong, Tamsin Anspach, Felix Eldridge and Arabella Wauchope arrive as observers.

Tom Auld spoke in favour of his motion.

Michael Brohier spoke against the motion, questioning its relevance to the SRC and to students.

Kynesha Temple spoke in favour of the motion, saying that while not all students will be affected, some certainly will.

Recommendation: that the SRC:

- a. Condemns the federal government's decision to reopen the Christmas Island Detention Centre.
- b. Supports the right for all refugees on Manus Island and Nauru to receive medical attention onshore, as well as the right to live here freely.
- c. Supports the closure of all offshore detention centres under Australia's jurisdiction.

Moved: Tom Auld

Seconded: Kynesha Temple

CARRIED

8. Office Bearer Reports

8.1 President

Ali Amin passed the Chair to Patrick Stewart.

Ali spoke about the successful O'Week events, including at Roseworthy campus.

He spoke in favour of his motion regarding a *Future Directions of Student Representation Working Group*, and noted that this was the 10th anniversary of the SRC.

Patrick Stewart passed the Chair to Sam Chapman.

Patrick spoke in favour of the motion, but queried what role SRC Members would be able to play, the timelines for the working group, and when changes would need to be implemented to have effect for the next Student Elections.

Sam Chapman passed the Chair to Patrick Stewart.

Motion: That the SRC creates the 'Future Directions of Student Representation Working Group' and endorses its Terms of Reference.

Moved: Ali Amin

Seconded: Sam Chapman

CARRIED

Patrick Stewart noted that he and Michael Brohier had expressed interest in joining the Working Group.

Motion: That the SRC resolves to adopt the Affiliations and Printing Policy.

Patrick Stewart declared a conflict of interest as a member of the AUU Board, and did not take part in the debate.

Moved: Ali Amin

Seconded: Chelsea Fernandez

CARRIED

Patrick Stewart noted his abstention on the motion.

Ali Amin noted that he had attended a lecture on *Really Ending Poverty* on behalf of the SRC, and that good relationships had emerged from that.

He spoke about refurbishments to the Fix Lounge and SRC Office, as well as the autonomous spaces (Rainbow Room, Mature Age Lounge, Women's Room). He reminded relevant Office-Bearers that they are responsible for maintaining the autonomous spaces.

Ali spoke about the Royal Croquet Club, criticising its handling. He expressed his intention to consult with the Adelaide University Union about making a submission with the SRC on the future of the RCC on campus.

Motion: That the SRC resolves to adopt the following affiliation and subscription schedule and will pay affiliations sum on the receipt of the respective invoices.

Patrick Stewart declared a conflict of interest as a member of the AUU Board, and did not take part in the debate.

Ali Amin spoke to his motion, and noted that he would need to continue to work with the AUU to determine how the SRC's affiliations budget is broken down, and how affiliations funds can be spent.

Oscar Ong acknowledged Ali's concerns and said that this was an operational matter, rather than a matter for the AUU Board.

Moved: Ali Amin **Seconded:** Rebecca Etienne **CARRIED**

Patrick Stewart noted his abstention on the motion.

Motion: That the SRC authorises \$264 for the purchase of the Adobe App Suite.

Moved: Ali Amin **Seconded:** Sam Chapman **CARRIED**

Patrick Stewart passed the chair to Ali Amin.

8.2 General Secretary

Patrick Stewart spoke to his report.

Patrick noted the SRC's strong history of activism and action, and encouraged Members to seek out opportunities to engage in campaigns.

Patrick outlined plans for a Meet Your Reps event in Hub Central, and plans to use this as an opportunity to survey students about issues on campus. He noted his intention to work with the Rural Officer on developing similar events at Waite and Roseworthy campuses.

Recommendation: that the SRC authorise the General Secretary to hold and promote a *Meet Your Reps* event in Hub Central, and authorise the expenditure of \$30 for the purchase of food and other materials.

Moved: Patrick Stewart **Seconded:** Sam Chapman **CARRIED**

8.3 Postgraduate Officer

Franz spoke to his report. He noted that this was his first SRC meeting, and apologised for his absence prior to academic semester.

Oscar Ong asked questions about Franz's goals and expectations for the year, and Franz noted he would address these queries in his next report.

Angela Qin asked questions about Franz's specific proposals, and Franz outlined his belief that more research was needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Meeting recommenced at 8:48pm.

8.4 Education Officer

Sam Chapman spoke to his report.

He noted his thanks to Professor Philippa Levy for her genuine engagement with student representation during his time as Education Officer to date.

Sam spoke to the committee meetings he has attended to date.

Regarding APEAC, he noted the University's strong ties to the defence industry, and courses are often designed around it, and flagged that it is something he would like to explore through the potential Policy Committee.

Regarding QEC, Sam specifically flagged a significant number of errors in exam papers (49 announced in Semester 2 2018, and he believes current University policies to address these are failing. He reported that one Deputy Dean was asked to sign off on an exam paper without having read it.

He also noted his view that the University is breaching its obligations regarding staff qualifications, particularly with reference to undergraduate tutors. This is also something he intends to discuss in the potential policy committee.

Regarding the NTEU, he and Ali met them recently. They plan to collaborate with the NTEU on their campaigns, and they want to have an ongoing relationship.

Regarding the University Learning Committee (ULC), he noted falling standards in some areas, below UniSA's benchmark, which he expressed his concern about.

Motion: that the SRC

- a. Action the Education Officer to convene the Education Policy Committee as a Sub-Committee of the SRC.
- b. All faculty board members to be contacted by SRC President this week about joining the committee.

Sam spoke to his motion. He outlined his desire to have SRC Members and Faculty Board members provide more input to him so that he can more effectively put forward student views on University committees and in other forums.

Patrick Stewart asked about how to distribute the information more broadly. SRC Administrator to take minutes, meeting minutes will go through SRC, and meetings will be advertised for Members.

Moved: Sam Chapman

Seconded: Ali Amin

CARRIED

Tom Auld made some comments regarding the claim made in the Education Officer's report regarding the Australian Labor Party's support for students. He outlined reasons for which he believed this claim was dubious.

Tom also asked what the NUS 'A Future Worth Fighting For' campaign would mean in terms of events and activities.

Alfred Lowe, NUS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer, responded. He outlined priorities including addressing sexual harassment and assault, tackling climate change, fighting student poverty, ensuring affordable housing for students, and accessible higher education.

Sam said he did not know what the campaign would look like on campus, but that he supported it on an NUS level.

Jack Crawford, visitor, described the campaign's approach as 'heinous'.

Jack Crawford left the room at 9:06pm.

8.5 Queer Officer

Rebecca spoke to her report.

She outlined her plans for the SRC's George Duncan Memorial, and spoke briefly about the origins of the event. She provided an appendix to her report providing details of proposed expenditure.

Motion: that the SRC authorise \$500 for the Queer Officer to purchase a wreath, pay for catering and purchase additional nibbles.

Moved: Rebecca Etienne

Seconded: Patrick Stewart

CARRIED

8.6 Social Justice Officer

Zihan spoke to her report. She spoke about the lack of awareness of Student Care, Student Life and other services for students which they may need to access. She spoke about her view of the need for a poster campaign.

Ali suggested Zihan work with the AUU on a broader campaign.

Ali also said the SRC can provide printing services itself, at a much lower cost than previously outlined.

8.7 Disability Officer

Ali noted Samuel's apology for the meeting.

8.8 International Officer

Lucas spoke to his report. He focused on the impact of tuition fees being much higher for international students than domestic students.

He suggested focusing asking the University to justify their fees; provide better information about events to help international students; and work on free metro cards or extra printing funds for international students to help reduce the overall cost burden.

Oscar Ong, AUU President, suggested that Lucas investigate ways to use University Committees to reduce tuition fees for international students. He also asked for more detail on what events Lucas would like to hold through the SRC.

Lucas answered that the issue was as much about information about existing events, as balanced with new events.

Angela asked questions about the weekly International Student Newsletter and why international students don't know about events. She also expressed that the issue was not number of events, but promotion of events, and she has encountered the same issues as Lucas.

9. Other Reports

9.1 Executive

Ali noted the circular resolution passed by the SRC, and noted that none of the funds had been used because he didn't have the required receipts.

10. Emergent Business

Ali advised he plans to get independent legal advice regarding the AUU Board's recent motion pertaining to NUS affiliation, and will meet with Gary Sutherland on this.

He also advised he would actively oppose the Vice-Chancellor's withdrawal from the Student Affairs Committee.

He also asked that if SRC Members see racist content, they take photos and send them to the SRC, and then remove the content safely. Ali warned that these stickers at Flinders have been found to have razor blades behind them. Ali will follow this issue up with security.

Angela advised that the Learning and Technology Standing Meeting is this Thursday, and is looking for student engagement. Angela has provided details on Slack, and the meeting will focus on efficient use of tutorial areas on campus. 12:00pm-1:30pm, Schulz Building 110.

Meeting closed at 9:21pm.