



Auckland University of Technology Student Association Incorporated

Student Representative Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes for Student Representative Council Meeting on 24/08/2020 at 3:00pm to 4:30pm held online through Zoom.

MEMATANGA | MEMBERSHIP

Tiamana/Chairperson – Sisifa Lui (President)

Ngā Mema / Members

Nathan Fehr (Student Wellbeing Officer)

Te Haua Taua (Māori Affairs Officer)

Kelsey Cornthwaite (North Campus Representative)

Prayag (International Affairs Officer)

Anahita Oei (C&S Faculty Rep)

Sophia Weissenstein (City Campus Representative)

Charina Racasag(DCT Faculty Rep)

Daniel Scott (South Campus Rep)

Mauzmeen Khan (Diversity Officer)

Iram Shaikh (Mature Students Officer)

Sukhpreet Kaur Gill (Postgraduate Affairs Officer)

Esther Mackay (Rainbow Officer)

Apologies

Hallam Bailey (HES Faculty Rep)

Jessica Vea (Pasifika Affairs Officer)

Michael Kanara (Disabilities Officer)

Mariner Fagaiava-Muller (Vice President)

Daniel Scott (South Campus Representative)

Justin (Student)

The meeting is delayed for 15 minutes to watch The Prime Minister's announcement on changing lockdown levels. Alert level three is being extended to the 30th August and at alert level 2.5 people will be required to wear masks on public transport.

Agenda Item 1: General Manager's Immediate Response to the Prime Minister's Announcement

Simon is writing an email to AUT asking about their response to the Prime Minister's announcement. Will they provide masks for students returning to campus and for those using public transport? When will return date for University be based on this announcement? How will social gatherings on campus be managed?

Agenda Item 2: President's report

Sisifa confirms this meeting has enough attendees to meet quorum. She welcomes a student- Justin to the meeting. She thanks everyone for their management while herself and Mariner have been away. Mariner has got a new job at TVNZ and Sisifa has been unwell. She sends her love out to anyone experiencing sickness and to those with friends and family members who are sick. She asks that everyone continue to be kind to others as well as themselves.

Sisifa reports on the special projects and events happening prior to lockdown. The Presidents and Vice Presidents National forum was a positive event. People came up from Canterbury University, Waikato University and Auckland University. They did have a few negative reactions from the New Zealand University Student's Association (NZUSA) and other University Student Associations. This was because NZUSA felt the forum was duplicating the work they were already doing and thought that AUT should become a member of NZUSA if they wanted to network with other Student Associations. As a student, Sisifa is concerned about this response. It seems as if NZUSA is trying to restrict access to Student Associations across New Zealand. The forum was a valuable event to hold because it meant Sisifa got to meet and be supported by other Presidents and Vice Presidents without having a political agenda. The response from Canterbury University and Waikato University was very positive, but it did reflect some of the internal strife that comes from within the NZUSA. The NZUSA can be very protective of student networking events, but Sisifa does not answer to them, she answers to AUT students. If AUT students want to be affiliated with NZUSA, then that will happen. AUT students decide where AUTSA money goes and the affiliation cost for NZUSA is \$45,000.

Canterbury University is looking to host the next National Summit. They will extend the invitation to other executive members beyond the President and Vice President.

The AUTSA General Election Debate was also hosted at South Campus. There was a good term out in terms of the political leaders that were present. Sisifa apologises for event communications being delayed. Politicians were late in communicating to AUTSA whether they were attending so that made getting information out about the event to students and the SRC difficult. Mariner did a great job moderating the debate. It is important that students are politically involved. Political policy does not often reflect students from South Auckland, so it was important to have the debate at South Campus. Sisifa thanks the SRC and the AUTSA Operations Team for supporting these events.

One item that keeps bubbling up for Sisifa is the increasing fees. Students are not financially secure, and fees are increasing. The SRC need to look at how they can best approach gaining feedback from students, it will need to be done in a sensitive manner. The SRC Facebook page is limited in its outreach so the SRC will need to find new ways of looking out for students.

Sisifa acknowledges Nathan's efforts in chairing the last SRC meeting. She will follow up this meeting with a written report. Sisifa has not received anything from Mariner regarding today's meeting. She will speak with him offline to develop a report.

General business:

Agenda Item 3: SRC response to Auckland's lockdown

Kelsey gives an update on the work she is doing throughout the lockdown. She is part of the daily feedback meetings with AUT to talk about communications and the University wide response. It has been a big learning experience from the last lockdown. A lot of the processes needed to support students are already in place. Students do have access to digital technologies and are able to go online again quickly. AUTSA is reminding AUT of the support and services they should be providing to students.

There is a new cohort of students that have just come in, and some of them are not as equipped to go online. There have been requests for internet sticks and laptops. The turn around is 5 working days and lecturers are notified when a student requests access to those things so they can adjust their teaching practices and assignment deadlines etc.

Simon gives an operations update on the lockdown response. Communication this time around appears to have gone a lot smoother. The Operations team are all working from home and the Events team have picked up where they left off. The Club's team have reverted to online delivery and engagement. The Advocacy team was well prepared and the spike in cases was not as sharp as the first lockdown.

Agenda Item 4 and 5: Disability Officer's Trip to Wellington and Personal Development Plans for AUTSA Volunteers

Michael is not attending this meeting, so his agenda items will be tabled. Michael has released a report on his trip to Wellington and Simon strongly encourages people to read it. Michael could ratify these items offline.

Agenda Item 6: Elections ballot

Te Haua recommends that only Māori and Pasifika students vote on their representatives.

Simon recommends a ballot where students have the option to vote for all candidates. Students can vote for the positions they think are relevant to them. AUT does not keep a register of students who are disabled for example, so that voting option needs to be open for everyone. There will be a tick box available, where students can say a position does not apply to them.

AUTSA uses a different email list to the one AUT uses for comms. It is based around current enrolment data. It does not necessarily record all the ways a student may identify. Students can self-identify when they vote.

Kelsey agrees that people should be able to self-identify when they vote. Election results do get ratified at the AGM, so people can raise concerns if there are any. The worst-case scenario is that a candidate gets in when they should not have, and that can be addressed at the time. Candidates have nominated themselves for the role, so they seem themselves as being fit for that role.

Simon will be composing a draft ballot based on these recommendations. It will be beta tested by the SRC to see whether it works. It will go live at the end of the week. Last time some students could have voted multiple times. This time it will be a single use link that is non identifiable. To cover for anyone missing off the list, students can supply AUTSA with their student ID and the email can be resent. You will be able to see whether they have voted, but not how they voted.

Agenda Item 7: Update of Action Item List

Te Haua shares a list of action items that he has created from last week's agenda. He will send out a link to it after the meeting. Each action item has a person responsible for it and a member of AUTSA operational staff allocated to it.

Agenda Item 8: Decision around affiliating Allied Justice - International Network for Human Rights

The SRC need to decide whether to affiliate Allied Justice as a club. Ashley has sent through a document with her recommendations on it. Sisifa reads the document and outlines options for the SRC. Sisifa opens discussions for the SRC.

Te Haua says the club meet affiliation criteria. He asks that they make a commitment to host two events a year at AUT, and that they host events across all AUT campuses.

Kelsey says that if they ask this of Allied Justice, they must ask this for all clubs.

Simon states that the SRC having power over affiliations means they can make changes to clubs. It makes sense to affiliate Allied Justice.

Allied Justice can be affiliated as a club by AUTSA or they can just be supported by AUTSA.

Kelsey wants clarification around the SRC stance on political groups. Allied Justice seems to be already established externally. Is there focus more political, cultural, or educational?

Simon says that the SRC can give the club a particular status with a review period. Every club has its own unique quirks and the SRC must look at each club individually. Any funding application can be made on a case by case basis. AUT has research groups which are political but funded externally.

Kelsey wants clarification around what the difference between a club being affiliated and a club being supported is.

Simon clarifies that a club being affiliated means they must open up a bank account and go to AUTSA for funds. Being supported means a club can have AUT students as members. Affiliated groups are endorsed by AUTSA, whereas with supported clubs AUTSA does not necessarily agree with all the things being said but support their right to say them.

Clubs do have the right to request a reason as to why the SRC voted for a particular status.

Sisifa moves into voting process.

Motion: AUTSA registers Allied Justice - International Network for Human Rights as a supported club.

Motion moved by Sisifa

Seconded by Te Haua

Majority vote in favour of the motion. Kelsey defers her motion indefinitely until the AUT campuses reopen.

Motion passed.

Sisifa asks everyone to encourage election candidates to attend SRC meetings so that they can get a taste for the role. Te Haua has contacted all candidates who are running for the Māori Affairs Officer next year.

Agenda Item 9: Upcoming Events:

There is going to be a debate for the Māori Affairs Officer position on the 26th August at 8PM. Abel Johnston is running the debate. As the Māori Affairs Officer, Te Haua will send in some questions for candidates to answer.

Meng Foon, New Zealand's Race Relations Commissioner is coming to AUT. He is going to be welcomed with a pōwhiri on Wednesday the 23rd of September. He will talk about racism to University staff including Derek McCormack and students. He will be shown around all AUT campuses. Sisifa is happy to champion that through AUTSA.

Closing Remarks

Sisifa wishes everyone best of luck with online learning.

Simon updates everyone that he has received a communication from Joanna Scarborough (Group Director Student Services & Administration AUT) regarding AUT's response to latest lockdown announcement.

Sisifa closes meeting AT 4:37PM.

Te atawhai o te runga rawa

Te aroha o tētahi ki tētahi

Me ngā manaakitanga o te wā Haumī e Hui e Tāiki e!

Signed: E.L

Date: 30/07/2020