



Auckland University of Technology Student Association Incorporated

Student Representative Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes for the Student Representative Council Meeting at 3:00PM held at room ME109, Student Lounge, AUT South Campus, 640 Great South Rd and online via Zoom.

MEMATANGA | MEMBERSHIP

Tiamana/Chairperson –President Sisifa Lui

Ngā Mema / Members

Postgraduate Affairs Officer-Sukhpreet Kaur Gill

DCT Faculty Rep Charina Racasag

C&S Faculty Rep-Anahita Oei

North Campus Representative -Kelsey Cornwaith

Maori Affairs Officer-Te Haua Taua

Welfare Officer-Nathan Fehr

International Affairs Officer-Prayag Shethia

HES Faculty Rep- Hallam Bailey

City Campus Representative- Sophia Weissenstein

South Campus Representative Daniel Scott

Disabilities Officer – Michael Kanara

Diversity Affairs Officer- Mauzmeen Khan

AUTSA General Manager-Simon Bell

AUTSA Special Projects Manager-Gareth Jones

South Campus Coordinator-Patrick Waller

Student Representation Coordinator-Eliza Lyon

Activities Coordinator-Ashley Kirkness

Student-Ankshita

Student-Sivi

NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA/Apologies

Assistant Vice Chancellor- Walter Fraser

AUTSA Finance and Administration Manager-Alice Li
Vice President-Mariner Fagaiava-Muller
Pasifika Affairs Officer - Jessica Vea
Rainbow Officer-Esther Mackay
Mature Students Officer – Iram Shaikh
Governors Board Director- Darragh O'Riordan
Governors Board Director- Tom Donaldson
Governors Board Director -Guy Alexander

Meeting begins at 3:00pm.

Agenda Item 1: Greetings

Gareth begins the meeting with Karakia (a way of opening the meeting by acknowledging all the things you have) and all meeting attendees say it out loud together.

E te Ariki
Manaakitia mātou i o
Mātou mahi tēnei rā
Manaakitia hoki ngā
Kaimahi o t tēnei tari poari
Kia tau te rangimārie
Ki runga i o mātou whanau
Āmine

The Karakia will ensure a positive outcome of a meeting and protect people's mana and wellbeing. It acknowledges the respect and hospitality with which we treat people.

Sisifa welcomes everyone back to campus and acknowledges that it is the first meeting in person. She hopes that the meeting is a positive and productive one. She thanks everyone for being here and urges people to continue working hard for

students. She acknowledges the operations team in helping to get the mahi done. She welcomes new members and Simon and Gareth into their roles as AUTSA General Manager and Special Projects Coordinator, respectively. She also reminds everyone that Will Watterson has left as AUTSA general manager and is now working as AUSA general manager, and that there is the opportunity to collaborate with Auckland University using that connection.

Everyone introduces themselves one by one.

Agenda Item 2: Update on Vacancies

A. Accept Wujood's resignation as BEL Faculty Rep

Wujood has resigned from her role as the BEL faculty rep. Wujood has done an incredible job throughout the Covid-19 crisis whilst living in Oman. She had to go to committee meetings that were in the middle of the night for her because of the time difference. Sisifa commends the work she has done in that space in such a short period of time. Wujood felt she had to resign in the best interests of students because she felt it would be hard for her to represent them being so far away.

Te Haua says she did an impressive job and would like to pass a motion of thanks to her. She led about three student representation committees and did a lot of work for someone who was overseas.

Motion: Accept Wujood's resignation as well as give acknowledgement to the work she has done on behalf of BEL faculty and clubs.

Moved by Sisifa

Seconded Te Haua

All votes in favour, motion passed.

Michael asks if it would be okay for all the business students to step in collectively to help fill Wujood's position?

Anahita also agrees that it is important to step in to act for the students. It would be good for Kate Kearins (Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Business, Economics and Law) to know who to contact.

Sisifa recommends current BEL students within the SRC take on the responsibility of the role up until elections.

These are: Sophia, Te Haua, Micheal, Mariner, Sisifa, Anahita

Nathan suggests identifying what the BEL faculty rep has been doing, whether it is answering emails or organising events and then distributing those responsibilities amongst the SRC.

Simon and Eliza and are meeting Jane Henzell (Student Success Manager BEL faculty) next week and can update her and discuss with her about the support she needs.

Sophia is currently attending BEL faculty disciplinary hearings, but is getting enough support from the advocacy to not require additional support from the SRC.

Motion: Accept the recommendation that there be a support group of six SRC members from within the BEL faculty who take on the BEL faculty representative role in terms of admin, disciplinary representation, student representation and committee chairing.

Moved by Sisifa

Seconded by Nathan

All votes in favour, motion passed.

B. Accept Te Haua's resignation from the Governance Board

Te Haua has resigned from the governance board. Sisifa offers her gratitude and commends work of governance board this year. Being a student director as well as a student representative means you have a dual role and must exist in two spaces at once. Work that comes from governance board can impact on the work that is done as part of the SRC. Te Haua has done an immense amount of work, particularly over Covid-19, sometimes doing over 60 hours per week.

Te Haua explains that working with the Independent Directors is excellent. They come from different backgrounds and bring different perspectives. They do not work in the University environment, so they make recommendations based on what they would do in the workplace. Being on the Governance Board sometimes involves making decisions without knowing a lot of the context. You must be prepared to make tough decisions and be uncomfortable sometimes. Te Haua enjoyed his time on the governance board and saw elements of things he would not normally see as a student. There is a lot of opportunity from the role and you get to see a student's perspective how to manage staff. You can direct and scrutinize Simon and other staff.

Te Haua disagreed with Gareth on almost everything, but through that they were able to establish the Elections Committee and Investment Committee.

Gareth acknowledges the work that Te Haua put in and says that Te Haua caused a lot of problems for AUT. He changed the way the SRC works with AUT and helped create constitutional changes that will make a difference for years to come, including extending the SRC term out to two years. In their dealings with AUT, Sisifa's role was to be the overarching leader and Te Haua was the sharp edge of the sword. AUT were challenged by some of the things he was saying and brought some different perspectives to his role, preventing groupthink.

Gareth would like to mihi Te Haua's role in changing the narrative between AUT and AUTSA, particularly during Covid-19. He also acknowledges that Te Haua is still part of the Investment Committee.

Sisifa takes the opportunity to invite anyone on SRC to put themselves forward for the Governance Board. She reminds everyone that if you have questions about the role ask Te Haua, Nathan and Mariner.

Motion: Accept Te Haua's resignation from the student director role on AUTSA's governance board.

Motion moved by Sisifa

Seconded by Nathan

All votes in favour, motion passed.

C. Voting in of a new Student Governance Board Director:

Voting in of a new student director now needs to take place. Sisifa reminds everyone that students hold the power at the table, although the Governance Board helps handle more difficult decisions. She asks that SRC members put themselves forward and reminds them that they are more than capable of the position. She is grateful for Te Haua's work.

The floor opens to anyone who would like to speak.

Charina wants clarification on what governance board does.

Nathan explains that the governance board helps make decisions around finances, and employment, deal with disputes and encourage new ideas.

Gareth says the governance board scrutinize Simon in a nice way. They advise the President on the strategic direction of AUTSA. They also help with the commercialisation of AUTSA and Human Resources. They take pressure of the President and Vice President and help them in their roles.

Sivi asks whether the Governance Board's role is primarily to provide help with the strategy of AUTSA or whether it is more around providing accountability.

Te Haua states that it is both. Elements of the Governance Board are operationally driven, and the President will call on the board to help with matters that are confidential.

Sivi asks whether the Governance Board override the SRC.

The Governance Board is there for the General Manager and President to support them in their positions. The SRC appoint all Governance Board Directors and their role is to make recommendations for the GM and President.

Simon confirms the Governance Board interactions with the General Manager do involve some level of scrutiny, but mostly they provide guidance.

The Governance Board's interactions with the General Manager are mainly around guidance. They provide the 'why' behind things and the Operations Team and SRC determine the 'how'.

Te Haua says that they make financial decisions such as where money should go to and where it could be taken from.

Gareth states the Governance Board provide accountability and perspective. Being a Student Director in the Board is a steppingstone to bigger boards such as NZ Rugby or Fonterra. AUT is the second largest university in NZ so it does look impressive. The Governance Board takes on different personas. Currently it is in crisis mode and so a lot of the work has gone operational staff to deal with things on day to day basis. AUTSA Operational staff make frontline decisions, the Governance Board decide long term strategy. The Governance Board had multiple meetings with AUT during Covid-19 and had to be highly dynamic to adapt to the changing situation. The new Director could be coming into another crisis. Being on the Governance Board does give you power and there is a high level of accountability that goes with it.

Te Haua reminds everyone Governance Board members are remunerated and that they have a lot of responsibility, particularly around non-disclosure.

Simon confirms that non SRC members do not get to vote on who the Governance Board member should be.

The floor is opened for Nominations. Sisifa reminds everyone they make nominations for themselves or someone else.

Anahita nominates herself and delivers a speech to support her choice.

The link to her speech is here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13nwpv2TzhMKHifnsIoF1oVPdSnJBQeOKHnyUSYTbGYw/edit?usp=sharing>

Any other nominations are welcomed. Sisifa thanks Anahita for taking the step to nominate herself. Sophia and Mauzeem say they would have nominated Anahita had she not nominated herself and Kelsey commends her speech.

There are no other nominations for a Student Governance Board director.

Sisifa thanks Anahita for nominating herself and asks her to step out of the room for voting.

Motion: Accept Anahita's nomination and her proposal to be accepted onto the Governance Board as the new Student Director.

Moved by Sisifa

Seconded: Sophia

All votes in favour, motion passed.

Anahita is invited back in and congratulated.

The date for the next governance board meeting is in two weeks on the 21st August. Governance Board meetings are held once a month and they are catered.

Agenda Item 3: Presidents Report from Sisifa

Action: Sisifa will send something written to SRC by the end of the week.

Covid-19 has affected everyone in many ways, and the country is still in a vulnerable position. This year the SRC has primarily been reactive-both during and after the recent lockdown. The vision going forward is that AUTSA is more proactive. There are lot of exciting events coming up, which will change the way AUTSA moves forward. One of the key events coming up is the National Student's Association Summit, which is the first of its kind, being held at AUT on the 4th August. AUT will be hosting Presidents and Vice Presidents from across different universities in New Zealand. AUT have heard back from a few universities including Massey and Canterbury. Students from across different universities are excited to come and see AUT and have a lot to offer. It is important to network with students across the country and in different spaces and to create partnerships. Sisifa's challenge to AUTSA is to 'think big'. AUT students are the most important stakeholders at the University and they drastically out number staff.

\$10,000 is allocated to the SRC for projects, so try to avoid coming up with events or ideas that are smaller in scale. The money is for students and if they see AUTSA doing big things for them, they will do big things for AUTSA.

Michael tautokos what Sisifa has said. He has been down in Wellington, advocating for students with disabilities. He has been having conversations with the Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Education. He worked hard the whole time and recommends people take on opportunities when they come to make changes.

Sisifa and Mariner both went to the NZ University Student's Association 90th birthday celebration. They were there with current students and alumni including Grant Robertson, who was once the President.

Recommendation: AUTSA build and establish an alumni association so we can network with past students and invite them to help us.

Alumni could help AUTSA strategically and financially. AUT Alumni give \$800,000 dollars to the university each year. AUTSA could form connections with some of those alumni and receive funding as well.

Sisifa encourages people to network outside of AUTSA and to take opportunities where they can.

Prayag asks whether AUTSA will target student alumni or just past SRC members. Sisifa clarifies that it will be AUT students.

Te Haua says the next Club's Night could be an AUTSA showcase where they can recognise alumni. He has also spoken to the events team about having a 21-year celebration of alumni.

Sivi reiterates the importance of connection with alumni. As a club leader he can pass on his knowledge and skills to the people who run clubs after him, just as alumni could do for AUTSA.

Gareth says he met with the AUT alumni association; he is part of five different alumni associations. The University of Auckland has millions of alumni. AUT is only 20 years old, so it has less. Other universities can tap into the longitude of their associations, but AUTSA must come up with a new model to use its alumni. One way could be by getting alumni to sponsor events and projects and run interest groups. ASB/ANZ pay up to \$100,000 to the University of Auckland each year to go to career's day. AUT only got \$5000 this year. Scholarships and grants are a huge opportunity to make income and AUTSA could become self-reliant through alumni connections.

AUT has the power to cancel AUTSA, which is a real issue when it comes to governance. Gareth's role is to generate the framework and network to help AUTSA become financially viable.

Motion: Accept the Presidents report.

Moved by Sisifa

Seconded Nathan

All votes in favour, motion passed.

Since Mariner cannot make it today, he will send a written report this week.

Agenda Item 4: General Manager and Special Projects Manager Reports

A. Report from Simon

Simon has two days of being General Manager to report on. He is focusing on AUTSA's aspirations, rather than what we are currently delivering. He has submitted items for the next Student Advisory Committee which is following up on the 2019 outcomes report. 2019 was a good year for AUTSA: the output from organisation was fantastic and the election turn out was great. He is doing some work on the Pride Parade that will happen again in February next year, alongside people from UOA. He has also been reforecasting this year's budget and looking ahead to 2021 activities and how AUTSA will use money from AUT, particularly in response to critiques from students.

There are some major projects that are ongoing. Eliza is leading the class representation project and we are meeting faculties with class rep structures already in place first such as BEL faculty to find out what their needs are and where they opportunities for representation are.

There is always the possibility of retaliation from AUT for the work that AUTSA does. We want to be position where we can keep going despite that. Gareth will improve AUTSA's commercial viability.

B. Report from Gareth about Special Projects

Highlights: From January to July this year, AUTSA saved around \$300,000. AUTSA has overspent the last four years and been in the red for three years so this is a good improvement.

We need to redirect money to help students. Foodie Godmother is being allocated an extra \$50,000. From a financial perspective, AUTSA has not been in such a strong position for at least five years. SRC should have access to these finances, it is just a matter of transferring this information over. In saying this, we do not want to get into a situation we are asking for who is paying for trivial things such as coffee or toilet paper. It is not the Governance board's role to operate the entity, its role is to Govern it. The questions the Governance board has to grapple with are around strategic responsibilities, risk mitigation and conflict of interest so there needs to be a clear distinction between Governance board members and operational staff.

Last year's November SRC camp cost AUTSA \$2200 and we did not stay overnight. The food alone cost \$900.00. This year SRC camp cost under \$8000.00 for four nights.

Eliza and Anu were hired months later than they were originally supposed to be. This was because during board meetings it was asked how AUTSA would protect its income.

Covid-19 reduced costs because there were no on campus events.

AUTSA is in a very strong position financially. There is over 4.5 million dollars in the bank and AUTSA is earning higher commercial returns.

AUT could turn around at any stage and say they do not want to support AUTSA and remove funding. AUTSA is in such a strong position right now that it has the potential to change the narrative. Gareth's role is to protect and build AUTSA finances and develop its strategic narrative.

Gareth has also been looking at motels and retirement villages to purchase. AUTSA can create its own accommodation in direct competition to AUT. This will give us some strong assets to generate money at a quick rate and allow us to change the dialogue between AUT.

AUTSA is also going audit AUT. We want to know where the money from each student goes.

This year has also been a lot more stable than the last. Last year AUTSA had 6-7 Vice Presidents and 3 Presidents. We have just invited a very capable director onto the board who has replaced another very capable director, so we are in a strong position. We do need to change the narrative so that AUTSA is in control

Daniel has been fighting for parking issues for years and AUT has kept bouncing it around to different people, without giving AUTSA any answers. Having that self-reliance will give AUTSA power.

Gareth will forward the report he sent out of the Governance Board to the SRC.

Sisifa says there is a special projects budget that is given to SRC to use at their discretion. They can support their own initiatives or a student's initiatives. Last year by August, only \$10,000 had been used to support students. If we want that budget to increase, we need to show that we are making use of it.

We can elevate our arguments if we are able to say AUTSA does not need AUT's money.

AUT has noticed the success of Vesbar during Re-o week and the Lodge being booked out. Next year will have a very strong bank account balance. Financial accountability is about making sure you spend the money properly, not about saving money. If we save \$300,000 this year, we need to spend it in the future so that during the audit people can see we are making use of our money.

We must think about what is being done. Crucial that money is being used appropriately.

Motion: Accept the General Manager's and Special Projects Coordinator's report to the SRC.

Moved by Sisifa

Seconded Anahita

All votes in favour, motion passed.

There will be a follow up meeting to the strategic camp on the 29th of July at 2:30.

Meeting goes into a recess at 5:04pm.

Meeting Resumes at 5:21pm.

General Business:

Te Haua wants to move items 7 (parking situation), 8 (Out@AUT Support), 10 (Semester 2 Orientation planning) and item 16 (events proposals) forward on the agenda.

Motion moved by Te Haua

Seconded by Sisifa

All votes in favour, motion accepted

Agenda Item 5 Parking Issues at AUT (Daniel)

Last year Daniel put out a survey to find out the thoughts of South Campus students around parking. A lot of students have issues with parking and transport. 400 students completed the survey and the general consensus is that the parking situation is terrible; the ticket machines are unreliable, the carparks are too far away, the wardens are not very good etc.

A member of the Estates team said the changes were going to be made after a meeting with Daniel and Ben Webber (2019 Debate Magazine Editor). The changes

were going to make parking cheaper and more sustainable. This staff member left and nothing has been done. They had a six-month window before Covid-19 where changes could have been made. Daniel has not received a response on parking since June 6th.

Te Haua and Daniel have been discussing this issue and they are going to put out another survey, this time including students from the North Campus because they have had issues as well and it would be unjust to offer cheaper parking at one campus.

Daniel could go to local media and Government.

He would like to build an action plan for the SRC around this, so that it is not just him working on it.

Simon acknowledges Daniel has put in a lot of work fighting against AUT on this with little to no resolutions. He suggests delegating the issue to the operations team, with a clear problem to be solved outline and a timeline given.

Te Haua says we need to action an item on this. We must go at it from a wider scope with the aim of understanding what an 'exceptional learning experience' looks like for the South Campus. Daniel has done the groundwork on it; he has the student support and sentiment which needs to be combined with Walter Fraser's (Assistant Vice-Chancellor Pacific Advancement and South Campus) perspective on what is a supportive learning environment. He suggests creating a focus group within the SRC who will decide what their response to this and what is it that should be achieved. After that they can go back to the operations team and report on their strategy. It is an issue that affects students across all campuses, and it does prove a barrier to education.

Anahita thinks it is important to narrow down what should specifically be the focus in conversations with AUT.

Nathan suggests that they should focus on two things:

1. Working parking machines and the development of a system for students to use when machines do not work
2. Identifying the cost of parking at each location and how it can be subsidised.
Free parking is not a viable option.

Sivi says he is grateful for the mahi Daniel has done on collecting student sentiment around parking issues. He says that there is a disparity between the public transport and shuttle buses available between the North and South Campus. He also suggests using the opportunity to encourage students to choose more environmentally friendly options such as electric vehicles by subsidising their parking.

Michael suggests developing a plan for each scenario so that specific action points can be discussed with AUT.

Daniel says he has done research into what other universities have done and that there are options for reducing the cost of parking including requiring students to show their ID or having them purchase parking tickets for a year.

Motion: create a subcommittee of SRC members to look at issues of parking at AUT and how to create an exceptional learning experience so that students can participate in their studies effectively.

Motion moved by Te Haua

Seconded by Michael

All votes in favour, motion passed.

Motion: End discussion on parking issues at AUT

Motion moved by Te Haua

Seconded by Michael

All in favour, motion passed

Agenda Item 6: Supporting Out@AUT

Out@AUT have expressed interest in getting support from AUTSA to run their events.

Te Haua suggests they could seek support from Ashely to get advice on how to engage with people and recruit volunteers.

Ashley (activities coordinator and clubs administrator) is invited to speak. She has not had any communications with Out@AUT but would like to be CC'd into the emails around supporting the club so she can provide adequate support.

Sisifa tautokos what Ashely says and asks that Esther be embedded in the conversation.

Motion: SRC should work with Out@AUT and the AUTSA events team to help them branch and offer more events and engagement.

Moved by Te Haua
Anahita seconded

All in votes favour, motion carried.

Agenda Item 7: Semester Two Orientation Planning

Daniel wants to know what could have been done differently for South Campus orientation, so that they can create better engagement for next year. He noticed there was less engagement with the South campus orientation in comparison to the city.

Te Haua says out there also seemed to be less of a focus on AUTSA in the South campus.

Ashely clarifies that there was a miscommunication between herself and Walter, but this has been resolved and Walter sends his apologies. The events team will begin

earlier communications next year. She supports the idea of having a strategic plan for orientation in place and wants to commend the SRC members that were there for orientation. She also says that there was not as much engagement as there could have been for City Campus as well. Students were reluctant to get involved and left early. She is happy to be a part of any action plans with the SRC for orientation.

Simon states that AUT have often been critical of AUTSA and the SRC in terms of generation student engagement. He has suggested that AUT provide AUTSA and the SRC with the resources to do that.

Sisifa suggests that strategic meetings prior to orientation be led by Campus Representatives, with the rest of the SRC being there to support them.

Te Haua clarifies the need for short and longer-term action. SRC representation at orientation could be decided within minutes but there might also need to be longer term lobbying of AUT to create changes, for instance the introduction of pōwhiri's at each campus.

Ankshita says that she did not find out about AUTSA through orientation. She wonders whether AUTSA really wants to be found by students.

Ashely clarifies that there are two orientations: Academic orientation which deals with student services and courses and Orientation week and Re-O week. AUTSA does not get much say during academic orientation, but AUT to get quite a big say in Orientation and Re-O week.

Sivi says the campus Kai was very effective for student engagement.

Simon agrees that AUTSA needs to have a bigger voice at orientation. Funds for orientation come from the fees of current students. He clarifies that in semester 2 it is harder to engage with students because there are less new students.

Motion: Before every orientation the SRC will develop some sort of strategy for what to do during orientation.

Moved by Te Huau

Seconded by Michael

All votes in favour, motion carried.

Agenda Item 8 Upcoming Events:

A. International Affairs Officer (Prayag) Events

Prayag is organising a move night on Friday in the Student Lounge. He has kept it free and will have snacks and drinks to get more student engagement. He still needs to get funding for the event which is around \$90.00 but the events team will support him in this. He wanted to have a projector screen, but it is too late to buy one. If AUSTA wants to run more events like this, it would be a good idea to invest in a projector, so they do not have to use a sheet.

He is also going to collaborate with AUT Games Club to throw a Games Night at the end of week 3.

He is also aware that the operations team are organising a Puppies Day Out in Power Up Week and would like SRC support for this.

B. Maori Affairs Officer (Te Haua) Events

Next week is the trial for Te Haua's Korero and Kai initiative. It is an opportunity for Maori students to meet services that support them over food and will create engagement and discussion. It is in collaboration with Maori advancement and Maori liaison.

The first is at 11:45am on Monday 27th July at the Maori Liaison space in the WB building. Maori and Pasifika students are invited to attend and Te Haua is aiming to get 30 students in attendance, including new students.

The second is on Tuesday, 28th July, North campus at the Whanau room. Next is at South at Kai Fe or the AUTSA Lounge, Thursday. The idea is to normalise the relationship between the SRC, students and staff and create awareness of services such as the free breakfasts on offer across all campuses.

The next lot is planned for week 7, and there will also be one after exams.

He has also started a Korero Mai alongside Michael and has noticed more students coming to the lounge for support.

Sisifa recommends approaching Rebecca Shrigley to use the television screens around campus to promote these kinds of events.

Operations need to conduct a plan for how to run SRC meetings. The plan will be on how to construct the agenda and manage it and how to distribute minutes and advertise meetings. It will also look at how to decide which items require a more formal discussion and which ones can be discussed offline.

Simon acknowledges the work the SRC have done during Covid-19, which has gone above and beyond their expected hours, and the need to use their time wisely.

Meeting ends at 6:24pm.

Te atawhai o te runga rawa

Te aroha o tētahi ki tētahi

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



30/09/2020