



AGENDA

Council Meeting:

Monday, 2nd of June 2014

1:00 pm

MEETING DETAILS

Venue: Union Meeting Room Hawthorn (UN413)
Chair: Joshua Fernandez (President)
Minute-taker Brendan Spackman-Williams (General Secretary)

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

Council 2nd May Unconfirmed Minutes
Office Bearer Reports
Services Management Board Terms of Reference
Misconduct Policy

1. MEETING OPEN:

Meeting opened by Joshua Fernandez (The Chair) at 1:12.

Contemplation:

Council will observe 1 minute of silence for contemplation.

Acknowledgement of Country:

The SSU Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. Council honours their elders past and present and recognises that this always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

2. ATTENDANCE:

Present:

PRESIDENT	Joshua Fernandez
GENERAL SECRETARY	Brendan Spackman-Williams
DISABILITY REPRESENTATIVE	Pavithra Ramamurthy
ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER	Michael Klomp
INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Arsalan Shaikh
QUEER REPRESENTATIVE	Lee Taube
WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE	Linda Kenyon
UNDERGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE	Sumbula Ahmad (at 1:42)
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE	Gautham Raju
PART-TIME REPRESENTATIVE	Scott Morgan
MATURE-AGED REPRESENTATIVE	Andrew Morison
TAFE/APPRENTICESHIP REPRESENTATIVE	Summer White
CLUBS & ACTIVITIES OFFICER	Salman Arif

Vacancies:

WELFARE OFFICER
CROYDON CAMPUS CHAIR
HAWTHORN CAMPUS CHAIR
WANTIRNA CAMPUS CHAIR
INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE

Apologies:

EDUCATION OFFICER Joshua Briers

Absent without apology:

Observers:

Caitlin Bruty

3. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES:

That Council accepts the apologies of the Education Officer. All other Council members not present will be marked as absent.

- Mover: *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder: *Morgan*

Carried Unanimously

4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

That the agenda be accepted in its current form. Any amendments to its layout should be suggested here.

- Mover: *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder: *Kenyon*

Carried Unanimously

5. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The recorded minutes of the Council meeting held 2nd May 2014 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and should be published on the Union's website.

- Mover: *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder: *Ramamurthy*

Carried Unanimously

6. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- By-Election
 - General Secretary
 - Appeals process underway, no current candidate elected, election was called void by Returning Officer
 - Current Returning Officer's report to be circulated
- National Representative Body Affiliations
 - General Secretary
 - Awaiting CAPA invoice and documentation
- Gender Neutral Union Lounge Bathroom
 - General Secretary and Queer Representative
 - Jeffery Smart and Linda Kristjanson both on board with the idea
- Sponsorship
 - President
 - Up to \$500 budgeted for Sponsorship
- Constitutional Re-Write
 - General Secretary
 - To be done after Exams, representatives to consider positions for 2015

7. REPORTS:

Written Report Received

President – Joshua Fernandez
General Secretary – Brendan Spackman-Williams
Education Officer – Joshua Briers
Queer Representative – Lee Taube
Women's Representative – Linda Kenyon
TAFE/Apprenticeships – Summer White

Notice of Motion:

Acceptance of office-bearer reports

- Mover – *Kenyon*
- Seconder – *Morison*

Motion:

That Council accept the reports of office-bearers who provided reports.

Carried Unanimously

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- AGM – General Secretary
 - Concerns raised about timing and promotion of AGM during semester
- Exam Help Stall – General Secretary
 - Need Representatives to get involved, please speak to Josh Briers
 - Really important initiative for students
- Pirate Party – General Secretary
 - 20th June, Friday, last day of exams
 - Promotion way behind schedule
 - Rent and wear pirate costumes

9. NOTICES OF MOTION:

1. Notice of Motion

Remuneration Suspension

- Mover – *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder – *Fernandez*

Preamble:

Throughout 2014 there have been serious issues for the majority of Council members in providing written Council reports despite them being a Constitutional requirement.

A solution which is quite common at many other student organisations is to link remuneration and honoraria to these reports.

It is proposed that a similar process is used for the Swinburne Student Union in that if a Council report is not submitted at a meeting without adequate reason, the representative forgoes all remuneration payments up until the subsequent Council meeting.

Motion:

If Council members do not submit and have their written Council reports approved at Council meetings without adequate reason, then that Council member will forfeit all remuneration payments until a Council report is provided and approved by Council.

- Members must submit Council reports on time as per the instructions of the General Secretary in every Council Notice
- Written reports must be provided, verbal reports be they presented by themselves or supplements to the written report will not fulfil this requirement.
- Following all written reports a motion is passed as it currently is to approve all of the received reports.

- If a report is not approved or not received for a representative then that representative shall receive no remuneration until the next Council meeting when this process will begin again.

Amendment (Morgan): That reports can be backdated one period and that Remuneration remain unsuspending unless two consecutive reports are not submitted.

Acceptable to mover and seconder

Carried (1 abstention)

Chair handed to Part-Time representative.

2. Notice of Motion

Tertiary Deregulation

- Mover – *Fernandez*
- Seconder – *Spackman-Williams*

Preamble:

The Abbott government announced at the Federal budget moves to place barriers on the ability for students to attend University. The Group of 8 had successfully lobbied the government to place in the deregulation of domestic student funding to allow them to charge costs above that of the HECS threshold.

This attack on students is one which will see the enforcement of a US-based system of study; one where students are forced to take on private debt which will impact their ability to pay off their education. Whilst University students will in the long run receive higher incomes than that of non-tertiary qualified students, the imposition of this debt directly will make it hard for them to take up study whilst being forced to pay at the same time, notwithstanding the funds which they must procure during their study.

Motion:

That the Swinburne Student Union condemns the Federal Government on the imposition of student debt through fee deregulation.

That the Swinburne Student Union recognises that students must receive a fair go to access education.

That the Swinburne Student Union endorses the National Union of Students' campaign to stop fee deregulation.

Amendment (Taube): That the Swinburne Student Union meet at a date in the near future in order to discuss actions for the Student Union to take.

Amendment lost due to lack of a seconder

Amendment (Spackman-Williams): That the Swinburne Student Union with University collaboration (if willing) to contact the Education Minister and local MP regarding the Union's

position and recommends all representatives to attend NUS NDA's on this topic where possible.

Acceptable to Mover

Amendment (Klomp): That the Swinburne Student Union release an official statement through social media platforms and advertise this through online networks.

Acceptable to Mover and Seconder

Carried Unanimously

Chair handed to President

3. Notice of Motion

Election Regulation Amendments

- Mover – *Spackman-Williams*
- Seconder – *Fernandez*

Preamble:

In light of recent issues in the by-election in addition to some lessons learnt in previous by-elections some small changes have been recommended by or proposed by Returning Officers in addition to representatives.

Clause 20 as it currently stands is confusing and creates a grey area and does not properly illustrate its intent which is that individuals should not be able to hold or contest multiple positions nor should they do so if they already hold one.

Additionally 88 and 89 are confusing to read and although make sense, on first read they appear to contradict one another, it is proposed these are joint into one point.

Currently most time periods for by-elections are much shorter than that of normal elections, this is lacking in the case of nominations.

Motion:

That a new sub-clause be introduced:

20) a) No representative currently holding a position on a Student Union board or committee is able to nominate for another position on that board or committee.

Combining clauses 88 and 89:

88) Where an election has been declared absolutely void and a new election ordered, the Returning Officer may proceed as if the original election has been avoided, or may direct that only a poll shall be held again, clause 84 notwithstanding.

That clause 17) a) be amended to:

17) a) For by-elections, the minimum period required in clauses 12 (b) and (c) shall be reduced to not less than five (5) academic days.

Carried (1 abstention)

4. Notice of Motion **By-Election**

- Mover– *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder – *Fernandez*

Preamble:

With the recent resignation of the Hawthorn Campus Chair in addition to a few other vacant positions, another by-election needs to be held.

Furthermore, with the recent Welfare Officer election being void that itself will need to take place again.

Motion:

The positions to be elected include; Hawthorn Campus Chair, Croydon Campus Chair, Wantirna Campus Chair, Indigenous Representative and all vacant general representative positions on SISA, SUPA and campus committees. Additionally any other vacancies that arise before 12 PM Friday 20th June will be up for election.

Nominations open on Monday 23rd June at 9 AM.

Nominations close on Wednesday 2nd July at 5 PM.

The Returning Officer shall be determined by the President and General Secretary in collaboration with the Executive Officer, this will be circulated to all Council members for feedback before the final selection is made. Should it take place, this Returning Officer will also be the Returning Officer for the Welfare Officer by-election if takes place separately to these by-elections.

If a poll is required, it will be conducted under the following arrangements:

- Polling at the Hawthorn Campus shall begin on Monday 14th July and end on Tuesday 15th July
- If a poll is required at an Croydon Campus that poll shall take place on Wednesday 16th July
- If a poll is required at the Wantirna Campus that poll shall take place on Thursday 17th July
- For each day polling is open it shall be conducted between 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm
- The polling place shall be the Student Union office at Hawthorn on Level 4 of the UN Building
- The polling place at the Wantirna Campus shall be held in the WB building.
- The polling place at the Croydon Campus shall be held in the CF building.

- Students from campuses other than Hawthorn wishing to vote but who do not wish to travel to Hawthorn must contact the Returning Officer via email before 5 pm on Tuesday 8th July to arrange a postal vote. The email must include their name, student number and postal address

If all objections and appeals, if any, relating to the recent Welfare Officer by-election are heard and resolved by 12 PM Friday 20th June then the Welfare Officer will also be a position contested in this by-election.

Notice for the above dates and details shall be given via the Union's web presence, an email to members and notices placed on each campus by Monday 23rd June.

The cost for the election shall be up to \$750 regardless if a poll is required however reimbursements can be made for travel to external campuses.

Amendment (Spackman-Williams): The independent chair to for any appeals committee and the one responsible for the appointment of members to the appeals committee for these elections and future elections shall be James Searle.

Acceptable to Seconder

Carried Unanimously

5. Notice of Motion

Services Management Board – Terms of Reference

- Mover – *Spackman-Williams*
- Seconder – *Fernandez*

Preamble:

The Services Management Board has begun meeting for the first time in many years and as a result there are many lacking precedents and processes. It is unclear as to where the limits of this board properly sit and what parts of the Union constitute services.

As a result of this a Terms of Reference for the Services Management Board has been written up so provide some guidance in how the Board should proceed in the future.

Motion:

That the Union accept the Terms of Reference for the Services Management Board.

Amendment (Spackman-Williams): That “Campaign and Student Rally” be “Event Logistics”
Acceptable to Seconder

Carried/Lost

6. Notice of Motion **Misconduct Policy**

- Mover – *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder – *Fernandez*

Preamble:

Currently there is no set procedure in Union policy relating to how to deal with misconduct when it occurs, although discipline and matters of grievance are spoken about in the Constitution there are general misconduct issues that are missing there.

As a result a Misconduct Policy was written up to ensure the Union provides a safe, supportive and fair environment for all its staff, representatives and students.

Motion:

That the Swinburne Student Union accept and implement the Misconduct Policy.

Amendment (Taube): That 4.7 be “No legal representation is allowed, advocates or welfare support personnel are not seen as legal representation.

Acceptable to mover and secunder

Carried/Lost

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Notice of Motion **Remuneration Panel**

Motion:

That Linda Kenyon be appointed as the rotating Council member on the Remuneration Panel until the next Council meeting.

Carried (Secretariat + 1 abstention)

Notice of Motion **Next Council meeting**

- Mover– *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder - *Fernandez*

Motion:

That the next Council meeting be held on Friday 25th July at 1:00pm in the Union Meeting Room.

Carried Unanimously

10. MEETING CLOSED:

Meeting closed by Joshua Fernandez (The Chair) at 3:39.