



MINUTES

Council Meeting:

Tuesday, 7th of May 2013

11:30am

MEETING DETAILS

Venue:	UN Meeting Room (UN413)
Chair:	Caroline Baker (President)
Minute-taker	Joshua Fernandez (Secretary/Treasurer)

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- Unconfirmed Minutes of April 8 Council meeting
- Report on Student Representation Survey
- 2012 funding agreement from Swinburne University of Technology
- SSU Standing Orders

1. MEETING OPEN:

Meeting opened by Caroline Baker (The Chair) at 11:59. The Chair will determine whether the meeting is quorate.

Procedural (Baker): That the meeting be suspended for 15 minutes

Carried Unanimously

Meeting recalled 12:00

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	Caroline Baker
EDUCATION/VICE PRESIDENT	Brendan Spackman-Williams
SECRETARY/TREASURER	Joshua Fernandez
ACCESS & EQUITY OFFICER	Caitlin Bruty
PRAHRAN CAMPUS CHAIR	Alice Mutton
QUEER REPRESENTATIVE	Andrew Morison
UNDERGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE	Jacqui Kleiner
PART-TIME REPRESENTATIVE	Andrew Newton
ENVIRONMENT/SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER	Lauren Kehoe
HAWTHORN CAMPUS CHAIR	Matthew Latham

Vacancies:

CROYDON CAMPUS CHAIR

Apologies:

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Salman Sheikh (From 12:08)
DISABILITY SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE	Karuna Santosa
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE	Valentine Lebrun
WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE	Memphis Calzoni
TAFE/APPRENTICESHIP REPRESENTATIVE	Fraser Blair
MATURE-AGED REPRESENTATIVE	Ashleigh Thornton

Absent without apology:

LILYDALE CAMPUS CHAIR
INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE
CLUBS & ACTIVITIES OFFICER
WANTIRNA CAMPUS CHAIR

Amie Watson (Arrived 12:46)
Megan Kelleher
Courtney Barber
Peter Coates (From 12:30)

Observers:

3. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES:

That Council accepts the apologies of the above listed names. All other Council members not present will be marked as absent.

- Mover: *Fernandez*
- Seconder: *Latham*

Carried Unanimously

4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

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

Baker: That general discussion in regards to the SSAF Funding Agreement and the SSAF Agreement & Honoraria Suspension motions be heard first

Acceptable to the mover

- Mover: *Fernandez*
- Seconder: *Bruty*

Carried (Kehoe abstention)

5. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The recorded minutes of the Council meeting held 8th April 2013 are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and should be published on the Union's website.

- Mover: *Fernandez*
- Seconder: *Morison*

Carried Unanimously

6. REPORTS:

Written Reports Received

EDUCATION/VICE PRESIDENT

Brendan Spackman-Williams

QUEER REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew Morison

DISABILITY SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE

Karuna Santosa

ENVIRONMENT/SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

Lauren Kehoe

No Written Reports Received – Verbal report provided

PRESIDENT

Caroline Baker

Chair to Education Officer/Vice-President 13:04

- Too busy to write report
- Focusing on SSAF currently
- Discussions with Vice-Chancellor on university funding cuts
- In discussions with Jeffrey Smart in regards to campus safety, especially for welfare rooms
- Attended SRC meeting with Education Officer/Vice-President to work together for students

Chair to President 13:13

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Joshua Fernandez

- Main focus is currently on SSAF funding negotiations

ACCESS & EQUITY OFFICER

Caitlin Bruty

- AGM was a success
- Queer collective and committee is growing stronger, especially over the past several weeks
- Blue Stockings week last week – celebrating women in higher education
 - Blue Stockings Week event on past Thursday and another soon
- Beginning to prepare for exam help stall
- Beginning advocacy campaign

PRAHRAN CAMPUS CHAIR

Alice Mutton

- Classes are moving to Hawthorn
- Issues of students being bullied by teachers at Prahran

WANTIRNA CAMPUS CHAIR

Peter Coates

- Minimal activity at Wantirna
- Primary focus at Wantirna is to build a Union base and campus collective
- Would like to address overpriced food and car parking on campus
- Future public transport may make campus more accessible
- In discussions with President to run a healthy food event on campus

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PART-TIME REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew Newton

- Have met with the Mature representative to create a joint collective
- Promotion to begin soon with poster

UNDERGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Jacqui Kleiner

- Attended Education Board meeting
- Keen to work on advocacy campaign and to attend rally
- In discussions with Disability representative to work on a stress-free week
- Attended Enviro collective meetings

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Salman Sheikh

- SISA BBQ on Thursday 9 May
- In talks with international students to help assist with issues

HAWTHORN CAMPUS CHAIR

Matthew Latham

- Heavily focused on events and Union services planning
- Would like to have assistance from more Council members
- Low on volunteer numbers especially with BBQ
- Low numbers are affecting event promotion
- Next three weeks are crucial with classes

Notice of Motion:**Acceptance of office-bearer reports**

- Mover– *Fernandez*
- Secunder – *Mutton*

Motion:

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

Carried Unanimously

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Standing Orders

- The President asks that all Council members to understand and follow standing orders

Student Consultative Panel

- Body created by University in response to TAFE cuts and to have student consultation on Transforming Swinburne
- The Education Officer/Vice-President would like Council members to engage with the body

Hiring of Receptionist

- Kate Mooney will be leaving the Union to travel
- Xavier Plummer will be replacing Kate, is currently in training with Kate

Student Representation and Governance Survey

- Presented the survey to Vice-Chancellor
- Findings include student belief that advocacy and other services should be run by an independent student organisation

Procedural (Morison): That discussion be moved to the next point

Procedural Lost

Procedural (Morison): That speakers only be heard once.

Procedural Carried

Procedural (Fernandez): That the NTEU be allowed to speak on EBA-related actions

Procedural Carried Unanimously

Volunteer Week

- All faculties are involved on an event on Wednesday 15 May to celebrate volunteers at Swinburne

Suspension of Honoraria

- Payments will be back-paid due to cash flow concerns

SSAF Funding Agreement

- The cost of an executive officer which should have been hired at the start of the year may be used to fund the Union's annual elections

8. NOTICES OF MOTION:

1. Notice of Motion No. 1 Temporary Suspension of Honoraria

- Mover– *Fernandez*
- Seconder – *Latham*

Preamble:

The current financial situation of the Union is untenable due to the impasse created through the lack of SSAF funding so far through the year. To ensure the continuing ability of the Union to function the payment of honoraria should temporarily be suspended until the provision of funds from the University is set.

The Remuneration Panel will still convene as per normal, with hours to be backlogged and paid in instalments once funding is received.

Motion:

That honoraria payments to office-bearers be suspended until the Union receives SSAF funding.

The Remuneration Panel will still convene as per normal, with hours to be backlogged and paid in instalments once funding is received.

Carried (Spackman-Williams abstention)

2. Notice of Motion No. 2 **Funding Agreement from SUT**

Chair handed to Education Officer/Vice-President 12:36

- Mover– *Baker*
- Secunder – *Bruty*

Preamble:

SUT has offered SSU a funding agreement totalling \$205,244. Details and conditions are included in the attached letter.

Council empowers the President to negotiate the agreement to then present the funding agreement to Council for final approval.

SSU should be presented annually with the percentage breakdown of the allocation of the SSAF.

The President and The Secretary/Treasurer has asked for the following amendments:

- The inclusion of an Executive Officer and the Annual Elections as proposed in the Union's SSAF proposal.
- The addition of a condition that the funds are received within 7 days of invoicing The University.
- That regular meetings between the President, Secretary/Treasurer and the Vice-President of Student Corporate Services and the Director of Student Services.

Motion:

That Council approves the funding agreement on the condition of the amendments being upheld:

- Welfare:
Offered: \$16,800
Asking \$20,800
- Events:
Offered: \$50,000
Asking: \$60,000

The addition of funding for an Executive Officer

The addition of funding for the Union's annual elections

and authorises its execution by the President. If the amendments are not upheld then Council will approve the amended agreement via email. The agreement will be approved by simple majority. The emails will be distributed at the next Council meeting.

***Carried Unanimously
Chair handed to President 12:45***

**3. Notice of Motion No. 3
Public Officer/Secretary Appointment**

- Mover– *Spackman-Williams*
- Seconder – *Baker*

Preamble:

It is a SSU constitutional requirement that the Public Officer (Now legally called Secretary) is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Union. Due to resignations this was not possible earlier on however considering the Union now has a Secretary/Treasurer they need to become the legal Secretary for the Union.

The Public Officer or Secretary acts as the key legal contact for the Taxation Office for record keeping and return submission purposes.

Motion:

Council appoints Joshua Fernandez as the Swinburne Student Union Secretary

Carried (Fernandez abstention)

4. Notice of Motion No. 4 Education Conference

- Mover– *Fernandez*
- Secunder – *Mutton*

Preamble:

The mid-year break sees many student and youth conferences around Australia. These include the National Union of Students' Education Conference, Queer Collaborations, Students of Sustainability and NOWSA.

These conferences provide a valuable opportunity to learn new skills and network with campus activists from around the country.

The Union has made allowances in its budget for representatives to attend conferences.

Motion:

That the Council empowers the welfare networks and collectives to organise and use their budgets to fund representatives to attend relevant conferences as they see fit, provided that all decisions are taken at properly constituted and minuted meetings.

That the Union funds flights, accommodation and conference registration for five representatives to attend the NUS Education Conference in Adelaide (July 10th to 12th), to the value of a maximum of \$500 each.

The Council members interested in attending the NUS Education Conference correspond with the Secretary/Treasurer by 5PM, Monday May 6 to be included in the straw poll.

That Council select the following five nominated representatives to attend the conference:

1. President
2. Education Officer/Vice-President
3. Secretary/Treasurer
4. Access & Equity Officer
5. Hawthorn Campus Chair

Conference attendees should apply for all available grants/fee reductions.

Carried Unanimously

5. Notice of Motion No. 5 **Federal Government Cuts to Tertiary Education**

- Mover– *Spackman-Williams*
- Secunder – *Morison*

Preamble:

In April the Federal Government announced huge cuts to the Higher Education sector, a combined total of \$2.8 billion, this particular cut will affect both University and student bottom lines. The implications of these cuts are unknown but given the atrocities that took place in 2012 at Swinburne as a result of the TAFE cuts the future is a worrisome one.

In addition to cuts to University funding, the start-up scholarships are being turned into student loans similar to HECS and the 10% discount for up-front payments is being completely scrapped. Lastly postgraduates and professionals in fields that wish to further their education are now limited in the amount of self-education expenses relating to their field that they are allowed to claim tax for.

This funding is being used to fund the Gonski reform which will improve education for Primary and Secondary but inevitably due to the cuts lower the standards of Higher Education.

The architect of the Gonski reform David Gonski in addition to the majority of Vice-Chancellors and Chancellors including Swinburne's own Chancellor Bill Scales who was one of the six individuals that was part of the team that wrote up the Gonski review are against the use of Higher Education Funds to fund this reform.

Amendment (Latham): That the Education Officer to also write to the Minister for Tertiary Education

Acceptable to the mover

Amendment (Bruty, Baker): That the motions be voted on separately

Carried (Fernandez against, Coates, Newton abstain)

Motion:

- The Swinburne Student Union Council condemns the Federal Labor Government for the proposed \$2.8 billion cuts to Higher Education.

Carried (Bruty, Mutton against, Baker abstention)

- The President will write to the Minister for Tertiary Education Chris Emerson and demand that he rescinds these cuts.

Carried Unanimously

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- The President will write to the Chancellor Bill Scales and Vice-Chancellor Linda Kristjanson of Swinburne University and request their support for the rally and action taking place on May 14th

Carried (Baker against)

- That all SSU office bearers will do their utmost to support, promote and attend the rally.

Carried (Mutton, Bruty against, Sheikh, Baker abstention)

6. Notice of Motion No. 6 NTEU Strike Action

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

Preamble:

The National Tertiary Education Union is currently in negotiations with the University in regards to the EBA between its members and SUT. The process is being protracted by the University who has not been able to set proper negotiation terms with the staff, therefore there is a very strong possibility of industrial action being undertaken by the staff.

In the case of strike action by students the Student Union should be ready to assist students whenever possible when they are inconvenienced. The Union will be able to direct students through the right channels if the strike actions disrupt their ability to study or receive test results.

Motion:

That the Union assists and will provides support to students if industrial action is conducted by the NTEU. This includes but is not limited to members of Council sitting on result release boards and distributing materials which explain the strike action to students.

Carried Unanimously

7. Notice of Motion No. 7 University Governance

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

Preamble:

On March the 28th an email from the Chancellery was received by all Swinburne staff members in regards to the restructuring of the university council and consultations between the university administration with staff and students.

Currently the Union is able to express its views with the Vice-Chancellor on a periodical basis, but overall the consultation process between the Union and the university has seen better days. Nonetheless the large amount of student representation bodies has ensured that the Union's voice has been marginalised over the past years, and the Union hopes that consultation reforms are of an adequate level. By stating that "consultation should be authentic and will include both formal and informal mechanisms", the university must ensure that the Student Union is a key player in all consultations.

The University governance reforms meanwhile has attacked the ability for the university's peak body to be diverse, with the number of university council members been lowered to 11. With staff and student representation being removed last year, this latest move has concentrated power for its members even further.

At the same time, there is also concern that the university council will seek candidates who are:

"senior and experienced individuals in the fields of financial management, commerce and the law, and those who have a successful history in senior management in large organisations".

By mentioning this, the University has stated that it is seeking to have businesspeople running the organisation. This would entrench the further neo-liberalisation of Swinburne, and will slowly erode the university into a for-profit institution with no regard for its teaching quality.

Motion:

That the Swinburne Student Union condemns Chancellor Bill Scales and the University for further restructuring the university council without student consultation or input.

That the President write to Chancellor Bill Scales to highlight the SSU's position on the removal of the council position and to enquire on the Union's ability to contribute to the student consultation process.

Carried Unanimously

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Notice of Motion

Remuneration Panel

- Mover– *Fernandez*
- Secorder – *Bruty*

Motion:

That the International Representative be appointed as the rotating Council member on the Remuneration Panel until the next Council meeting.

Carried (Baker, Spackman-Williams, Fernandez, Bruty, Latham, Coates, Mutton, Watson abstain)

Notice of Motion

Next Council meeting

- Mover– *Fernandez*
- Secorder – *Mutton*

Motion:

That the next Council meeting be held on Tuesday 28th May at 1:00pm.

Carried (Kliener abstain)

11. MEETING CLOSED:

Meeting closed by Caroline Baker (The Chair) at 14:41.