

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES – 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Student Advisory Council held at 9:30am on 23rd September 2021 via WebEx.

PRESENT:

Jackson Cocks	Chair - University Council & Academic Senate (Undergraduate) (UGC)
Ben Hamill	Deputy Chair - UOW Clubs & Societies (Acting Chair for the meeting)
Carly Lavings	Deputy Chair - Persons with Disabilities Representative (PWD)
Sarah Vogel	Academic Senate (Postgraduate) (PGAS)
Jay Joshi	Academic Senate (Postgraduate) (PGAS)
Ashley Bannister	Academic Senate (Undergraduate) (UGAS)
Alec Hall	Academic Senate (Undergraduate) (UGAS)
Mahime Watanabe	International (ASSH) (PGASSH)
Rhys Smith	Undergraduate (ASSH) (UGASSH)
Bongani Munkuli	International Representative – BAL (IBL)
David Havyatt	Postgraduate Representative – BAL (PGBL)
Theo Totsis	Undergraduate Representative – BAL (UGBL)
Geeta Mahala	International Representative – EIS (IEIS)
Helena Ibro	Postgraduate Representative – EIS (PGEIS)
Aurora Green	LGBTIQ+ Representative (LGBTIQ+)
Matt Hammond	Undergraduate Representative (UGSMAH)
Emily Nield	Shoalhaven Campus Representative (SCR)
Amy Heyhoe	Southern Sydney (Loftus) Campus Representative (SSC)
Zara Nazeen	South Western Sydney Campus Representative (SWSC)
Sam Jennings	UOW Residences representative (UOWR)
Taani Hendriks	WUSA Representative (WUSA)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Theresa Hoynes	Director, Student and Accommodation Services Division (DSASD)
Rob Sim	Associate Director, Admissions, Fees and Scholarships (ADAFS)
Deb Porter	Manager, SSAD & Student Projects – Student Operation (MSSAF)
Christine Mason	Student Representation Coordinator – Student Operations (SRC)
Grace Mahon	Management Cadet (Shadow Executive Officer) (MCSASD)
Julie Coyle	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) (PVCS)
David Cater	Consultant University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
Mark Roberts	Senior Manager Business Improvement and Assurance Division (SMBIAD)
Luke McNamara	Project Officer FMD Construction (POFMD)

APOLOGIES

Paris Rawaqa	Women's Representative (WR)
Caitlyn Moore	UOW Clubs & Societies Representative (CAS)

Keval Patel
Samuel Harrison
Nic Mott

UOW Pulse Representative (UOWP)
Undergraduate Faculty Representative – EIS
Postgraduate Representative - SMAH

PART 1: OFFICIAL BUSINESS

***1.1 Welcome and Introduction**

The Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the September SAC meeting and thanked everyone who was attending.

The SSR acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and welcomed everyone to the fifth SAC meeting in 2021.

It was announced that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of taking minutes, there were no objections received from the floor.

The Acting Chair noted that the meeting was quorate.

The SRC is the Executive Officer and will take the minutes of the meeting; they will also carry no voting rights.

The Acting Chair welcomed all staff members from the University in attendance at the meeting.

***1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were received and noted.

***1.3 Arrangement of Agenda**

1.3.1 Conflicts of Interest

The DSASD AND PVC(S) declared that they have an interest Agenda Item 2.3 and will leave the meeting when the item was being discussed.

1.3.2 Confidential Items

The DSASD and PVC(S) left the meeting for this confidential item.

The Acting Chair noted that item 2.3 was tabled as a confidential item and that the recommendations and minutes associated with the item will be posted once final approval is signed off by Chief Operating Officer (COO).

1.3.3 Starring of Items

The Acting Chair acknowledged that all items were starred for discussion

1.4 Actions Arising from Previous Meetings

The Acting Chair noted the following action items arising from the July meeting and previous meetings in 2021.

Action item arising from resolution 2021/54 regarding concerns related to accommodation and living costs for HDR students who have had their candidature extended and are not scholarship holders.

The DSASD provided an update and noted that the HDR representatives have met regularly with the DVC(RI) and acknowledged that there is a process underway to extend candidature on the basis of need. HDR students will be allowed to extend their stay in residences and apply for a payment plan to assist with finances, as well as rental subsidies which will be administered on a case-by-case basis. They also noted that there is a housing support assistant helping students find alternative accommodation if needed.

The Acting Chair thanked the DSASD for the update.

The PGBAL representative raised the potential conflict of interest of all SAC members and the proposed funding of SAC Honorarium. The MSSAF advised that this would be addressed when Agenda Item 2.3 is discussed.

Action Item Resolution 2021/62 arising from the LGBTIQ+ representative's report.

The SRC noted that the action item regarding the use of preferred names in Student Systems is carried over. The Acting Chair acknowledged that the provision of preferred pronouns on the SAC website has been updated and thanked all members that provided their preference.

The Acting Chair noted the Action Item regarding student online exploitation from the previous meeting be updated by the DSASD. The DSASD confirmed that an update has been provided to the Director of Safe and Respectful Communities (SARC) and acknowledged that it is an issue of concern that will be acted upon when there is capacity to do so. The DSASD stated that the SARC team is currently in the peak of the National Students Safety Survey. They also reminded the SAC if they were invited to participate, it is important that they provide their input and complete the survey.

The Acting Chair stated that polling for preference to schedule 2022 SAC meetings has been carried over.

The Acting Chair noted that resolution 2021/27 seeking feedback from the SAC on Standing orders and stated that standing orders will be held over to November 2021 to be ready for 2022.

1.5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Acting Chair noted that due to part of the previous meeting held on 31st August 2021, which was thought to be inquorate, the following draft resolutions remain unresolved.

The Acting Chair read out the resolutions and with no objections recorded, the motion was passed.

Update on the National Student Safety Survey and Safe and Respectful Communities

RESOLVED 2021/ 64

that the Student Advisory Council note the update by the Portfolio Executive Manager, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Office and Associate Director, Student Residences regarding the strategic and operational realignment of the Safe & Respectful Communities team and the upcoming National Student Safety Survey.

Students as Partners Agreement

RESOLVED 2021/65

that the Student Advisory Council endorse the Students as Partners Partnership Agreement as set out in the agenda paper

LGBTIQ+ Representative Report

RESOLVED 2021/66

- i. that the Student Advisory Council note the LGBTIQ+ Student Representative's Report as set out in the agenda paper*
- ii. that the Student Advisory Council support the Representative's undertakings in the LGBTIQ+ Student Representative's Report, as set out in the agenda paper.*

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: 2021/67

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31ST August 2021 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

1.6 Chair's Report

a. Next VC & SAC Stand-up Meeting

The Acting Chair noted that the next VC stand up meeting was the 30th of September and encouraged SAC members to attend.

The DSASD stated that SAC members should email the SRC if they have any points of discussion prior to the stand-up meeting taking place.

b. Opportunity- UOW Malaysia- Project Generation W Forum: Racism, Stereotype & Judgemental: How to be Global Citizen

UOW Malaysia KDU has invited two SAC members to be part of their virtual campus on the 1st October 2021 from 2pm to 4pm (AEST) and to take part of the discussion/forum. The Acting Chair acknowledged it would be a great opportunity to enhance leadership skills and network with students at other campuses.

c. SAC Report and Presentation of UOW Youth Climate Change Project- University Council

The Acting Chair provided an update on the Climate Change statement and its presentation to Council.

The Acting Chair also provided additional information about the SAC report; the report will be presented in the Council meeting and will outline the activities and achievements of the SAC.

The SAC executive welcome input on this report from SAC members.

d. SAC Suggestions and Improvements

The Acting Chair acknowledged that as representatives approach the end of session, they are invited to provide suggestions and improvements for the SAC moving forward. They also noted that the SRC is reviewing the resources available in the SAC User Guide and Induction materials in time for 2022 induction.

If representatives wish to provide input on this, the SRC can organise a meeting with them.

1.7 Membership Business

There was no new membership business to report.

PART 2: GENERAL BUSINESS

*2.1 Future Health and Medical Services

The Acting Chair welcomed David Carter, external consultant from UTS and the SMBIAD to provide an update on this item.

The SMBIAD thanked the students who attended consultation sessions and acknowledged the productive input they provided. They noted that the external consultant was engaged by the University to develop a fit-for-purpose medical centre for the future.

The consultant thanked the SAC for inviting them and for their input throughout the consultation process. They updated the SAC on the interim services provided to students that were impacted by the closure of the campus clinic and a health information line.

Following stakeholder discussions, was that a general practice rather than just a medical centre be implemented at UOW. They highlighted the themes that were identified throughout consultation, including a general practice and primary care service, mental health, drug and alcohol services, LGBTQI+ Services, sports medicine, and health and wellness. There would also be provision for students to undertake placements within the practice in services such as health promotion and dietetics.

A report will be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor and the Senior Executive with the intention of having a timeline finalised by Christmas. It is intended to have a general practice present on campus before the beginning of Autumn Session. The DSASD asked whether the raised a question regarding the practice's current priorities and if these will be adapted over time to reflect the changing priorities of students.

The consultant acknowledged the importance of remaining updated with current values, noted that there should be a governance process with student, staff and community input. They proposed a 'health compact', which indicates the kinds of priorities students would like to see over time. The SMBIAD noted the importance of the reporting framework and the engagement with stakeholders. They noted that this dialogue has not existed under the previous model.

The PGBAL commented on the 'health compact' and stated the information should be public and should consider the longevity of the practice to ensure closure does not occur as with the previous campus clinic. The PGBAL raised a question regarding the Vice Chancellor's communications to the student body and the timeline before communication is made public.

The consultant responded that it is anticipated that the University will make a decision on the next phase of the general practice within the coming weeks with the possibility of an announcement around Christmas this year. The PGBAL suggested that there should be a concrete date, preferably before the end of session before an announcement is made, and that the University should emphasise that there is no landlord-tenant arrangement like that of the previous model.

The SMBIAD echoed the last comment of PGBAL and noted that the current model provides greater engagement with the University body, and stated that a procurement process for a formal partner is in place. They thanked the PGBAL for their input.

The Acting Chair thanked the SMBIAD and David Carter from UTS for the update and for creating a platform to allow for both student and community involvement in the consultation and development of the new general practice.

The Chair read out the draft resolution with no objections recorded, the motion was passed.

RESOLVED 2021/68

that the Student Advisory Council note the update on the consultation process and the next steps of the Future Health and Medical Services provided by David Carter from UTS and Mark Roberts, Business Assurance Improvement Division.

***2.2 Informal Learning Spaces**

The Acting Chair invited the POFMD to speak on this item.

The POFMD note that the Facilities Management Division (FMD) are undertaking a student-funded project for outdoor informal learning spaces and have engaged an architect to assist with concept drawings before a tender is sought to execute the project.

The POFMD displayed the concept drawings to the SAC for the McKinnon lawn. The MSSAF commented on the consultation with WIC for this project. The POFMD confirmed consultation was undertaken and involved requests for the incorporation of Indigenous plants and art.

The SAC provided feedback and asked questions regarding single or multiple charging stations and placement of stations to seating areas, the purpose of the sitting walls, water refill stations, removal of existing trees and importantly wheelchair/disability access in spaces if chairs are fixed.

The UGBAL raised a question regarding charging station spaces and if they were single or group charging spaces. The POFMD stated that there were a number of outlets at the station, but users cannot leave devices unattended, and the intention of the stations is to charge devices while occupying the area. On the point of wheelchair and disability access, the PVC(S) noted that it would be worthwhile to liaise with the Disabilities and Inclusion team. They also commented on vision-impaired students and acknowledged the work the Disabilities and Inclusion team is doing in this space, and that they would be happy to assist.

The Acting Chair noted that further questions would be taken on notice and feedback would be provided to FMD. They asked the POFMD to share the designs with the SAC.

Action Item - The POFMD will refer back to architect the ideas and suggestions of the SAC and that the concept drawings will be provided for SAC to review and provide feedback.

The Chair thanked the POFMD for their presentation.

The Chair read out the draft resolution with no objections recorded, the motion was passed.

RESOLVED 2021/69

that the Student Advisory Council note the presentation for outdoor informal learning spaces provided by the Facilities Management Division.

The Acting Chair proceeded to introduce the Agenda Item 2.3 and asked if the DSASD and PVCS identified as conflicts of interest to leave the room.

***2.3 SSAF Student Services and Amenities Fee Funding**

The minutes of the Agenda Item are recorded separately as confidential and will be released once final approval of funding recommendations is signed off by the COO.

PART 3: OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Before proceeding with Other Business the Acting Chair handed over duties to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Progress Reports from SAC Members

The Chair asked SAC Members if they had updates regarding projects they are working on, or if they would like to seek support from the SAC for their initiatives.

International Student Placements Report

The IEIS representative stated that they are working with the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences (EIS) on industry programs for international students. They noted that the report will be drafted and reviewed by EIS initially, and after this has occurred, it can be reviewed by the SAC for further feedback.

The DSASD noted that the PVCS may be helpful with this project. They also discussed the release of the International Student Barometer report, which detailed career opportunity challenges for international students. The DSASD would like the SAC to view a summary of the International Student Barometer report.

The PVCS stated that their team would welcome the project and assist the IEIS representative.

The PGBAL questioned which area of the University has responsibility for this. The IEIS representative noted that it is the student's responsibility to organise these placements, that it is difficult for international students, and the compliance measures needed to apply for industry placement. The PGBL raised that the VC was holding a Town Hall meeting with HDR students and suggested that the IEIS representative submit this issue as a question on notice.

The PVCS responded to the PGBAL and offered to produce a paper to describe the delineation of roles and responsibilities in this area. The PGBAL thanked the PVCS and stated that it might be useful.

Action Item - The DSASD to provide a summary of the International Student Barometer Report to the SAC.

SAC Standing Orders

The PGBL asked the Chair about the creation of the SAC's new standing orders. The Chair provided an update on the project and noted that it was being drafted and is almost finalised. They stated that they intend to have the standing orders submitted by 2022.

Governance Projects

The PGBL also questioned the UGC representative about a project regarding academic governance. The Chair confirmed that this project is in progress and involves the student-staff partnership innovation hub and further student consultation.

The PGBL raised a comment regarding governance documents and noted that they use language discussing representation of both genders, and this may need to be revised, as it is outdated to refer to gender as binary. The Chair acknowledged that this issue could be raised with the Governance Unit and can be discussed in further meetings.

Student Communications

The PGBL questioned if the Students as Partners working party can meet to address resolution 2021/20 regarding student communications before the end of 2021.

The ADAFS and the MSSAF offered to reach out to the working party to organise this meeting.

Action item - The ADAFS and the MSSAF to organise a meeting with the Students as Partners Working Party regarding student communication issues.

The PWD representative updated the SAC on their safe spaces project for students with disabilities. They discussed the creation of two separate safe spaces. The project is currently in the consultation stage and they asked the SAC if they would like to provide feedback. The UGAS representative commented on the inclusion of a second door entrance. Also discussed was the inclusion of an interactive wall for students to list their interests, a closed off quiet area and sensory considerations for the room.

The Chair raised a suggestion that the room is located on a ground floor and expressed concern of the narrow corridors in Building 19. The MSSAF recommended that the PWD representative consult with FMD. The PVC(S) confirmed that discussions with FMD have taken place and Building 19 was identified because it is quiet and close to other spaces. They also confirmed that the Disabilities and Inclusion team would assist in making the room accessible.

The Chair thanked the PWD for their input.

The CAS updated the SAC on the Sustainable Futures Committee. They noted that they are the undergraduate representative on that committee, and the PGAS is the postgraduate representative.

3.2 SAC social night

The Chair asked for the SAC's availabilities for a social night.

The PGAS posed a question about a possible in-person get-together and the Chair stated that it could be a possibility. A poll would be conducted on Webex.

***3.3 Final Business**

The PGBAL noted that the nomination period of some Faculty positions was extended due to no nominations received and encouraged members from those faculties to consider applying.

***3.4 SAC Membership Table**

Signed as a true record:



Acting Chair
19/10/2021