

STUDENT SENATE

Subject	Student Senate Meeting 8/2021 (SS8)
Chair	Kyle Jackson (he/him)
Present	Representatives: Abhishek (he/him), Aditi Suman (she/her), Ainsley Lindsay, Courtney Dodson (she/her), Lizzie Tongway (she/her), Gurmaan Kaur (she/her), Harpreet Kaur Rai (she/her), Heba Abdulrahman (she/her), Jade De Angelis (she/her), Jalen Ong (he/him), Janelle Moyes (she/her), Kyle Jackson (he/him), Laura Benney (she/her), Liam Haintz (he/him), Sai Mandeep Kondeti (he/him), Sanjay Gurijala (he/him), Thaniya Nesakumar (she/her), Tristan Sicari (he/him). Guests: Prof. Duncan Bentley, VC; Prof. Andy Smith, DVC A; Teresa Tjia, Senate Advisor; Helen Cooper, Project Manager; Tom Brooker, Executive Officer
Apologies	
Absent	Sage Akouri
Venue	Online, Microsoft Teams
Date	19th October, 2021
Runtime	5:00pm – 7:30pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting achieved quorum and opened at 5:00pm.

The Senate reviewed the prior minutes and voted to ratify them.

Resolution 8.1.21: *that the Senate ratify the minutes of the meeting held September 21 as an accurate record.*

The Senate reviewed the open actions.

[See SS8.R2 Action Summary](#)

Guest speaker: Vice Chancellor and President Prof. Duncan Bentley

The Vice Chancellor attended the final Senate meeting for 2021 at the invitation of the representatives. He presented on the challenges of 2021 and the opportunities for 2022. He acknowledged and thanked the Senate for their contribution to student wellbeing and improving the student experience in 2021. He particularly noted the work of the Senate in establishing the Multifaith Reference Group, contributions to University planning, and work to improve mental health services and support services for students.

Professor Bentley shared an update around the return to campus, noting the outstanding vaccination numbers for Victoria which are helping us get back onto campus sooner. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Looking to 2022, Professor Bentley talked about getting the gradual process of getting international students back on campus, the living values initiative, the strategic plan, vibrant University towns supported by study hubs, and the new business accelerator team.

Guest speaker: Deputy VC of Academic, Prof. Andy Smith and Dean Wendy Cross

The Vice Chancellor introduced Professor Andy Smith and noted this would be his last presentation to the Senate as he would soon be retiring. The Senate thanked DVC Smith and acknowledged his years of work.

Prof. Smith and Prof. Cross shared details of the project they've been working on to ready course delivery for future demands and the changing nature of work. See presentation for details.

Senate Advisor update

The newly hired Senior Manager of Student Engagement, Employment and Advocacy, Tammy Fitzgerald, sent her apologies. She will join Teresa as a Senate Advisor in 2022.

Teresa noted she had to wait for the University to formally approve the 2022 SSAF Budget before she could share it with the Senate. She asked the representatives if they'd like to schedule an additional meeting in the coming months to review the 2022 SSAF Budget?

Action 8.1: the Senate will discuss holding an *ad hoc* meeting before or after exams to review and provide feedback on the 2022 SSAF budget.

Teresa advised the Senate that the University's call centre had been having trouble with long wait-times, but this was largely resolved as of today.

Vaccinations: as per government directives anyone coming on campus from early November to be vaccinated. However, at the moment we're only obliged to collect vaccination data from staff, not students. We anticipate this will change and we've prepared several options for how we might collect this data. It remains to be seen if the government will prescribe/recommend a particular approach.

For students on placements, some are online and some are in-person. Many placements now require proof of vaccination. In those cases, the University is already collecting vaccination status information using InPlace.

Summer study will be a mix, with some students on campus and some studying from home. We're still very limited by density restrictions, but we're anticipating these will be loosened.

Kyle asked about common spaces, such as lounges and libraries. Teresa has been in discussion with libraries and will provide an update to Senate on this within the week.

Update on Student-Enabled Timetabling project

Helen Cooper updated the Senate on the roll-out of the student-enabled timetabling project which separates course enrolment from timetabling (ie. picking lecture, prac., tutorial times).

Problem: when you enrol you also enrol in your class. But the numbers are forecasts, so things often change. Administratively cumbersome, bad experience for students. Lots of manual work for staff.

Solution: separated enrolling into courses from picking your timetable. You don't choose classes or tutes. We take that information, timetabling generates the timetable, then you get to pick from that.

November: testing. We'd like students to get help out with the testing.

Reps volunteering to test: Jade De Angelis, Tristan Sicari, Ainsley Lindsay, Courtney Dodson, Manideep Kondeti, Liam Haintz, Sanjay Gurijala, Thaniya Philip.

Proposal: review impact of placements on scholarships

See SS8.R3 Placement Proposal

Motion: that the Senate recommend the University to consider mandatory placement hours as course contact hours and adjust classification of part-time/full-time study to match actual contact hours.

Motion passed.

Acknowledgement of departing members

The Chair and Senate formally thanked the departing members of 2021 and acknowledged their contribution. Lizzie Tongway and Laura Benney spoke about what they'd learned and been involved in during their time and thanked the Senate.

Declan Hanrahan, School of Business Board
Lizzie Tongway, SMB Campus
Heba Abdelrahman, Distance & Online
Janelle Moyes, Distance & Online
Laura Benney, School of Education Board
Tanvi Mahajan, Berwick Campus
Aditi Suman, Postgraduate
Heba Abdulrahman, Distance and Online

Reports

See SS8.R7 Portfolio and member reports

Abhishek	Submitted.	Janelle Moyes	Not submitted.
Aditi Suman	Submitted.	Kyle Jackson	Submitted.
Ainsley Lindsay	Submitted.	Laura Benney	Submitted.
Courtney Dodson	Submitted.	Liam Haintz	Submitted.
Declan Hanrahan	Not submitted.	Sage Akouri	Not submitted.
Lizzie Tongway	Not submitted.	Sai Mandeep Kondeti	Submitted.
Gurmaan Kaur	Submitted.	Sanjay Gurijala	Submitted.
Harpreet Kaur Rai	Not submitted.	Tanvi Mahajan	Not submitted.
Heba Abdelrahman	Not submitted.	Thaniya Nesakumar	Submitted.
Jade De Angelis	Submitted.	Tristan Sicari	Submitted.
Jalen Ong	Submitted.		

Courtney: environmental club for Berwick campus. Lots of interest. 30 members even without on campus recruiting! 25 members on our Facebook page. We've got volunteer opportunities. Community is reaching out and wanting to get involved as well.

Gurmaan: connecting with the EDGE staff. Emailed Naomi about lack of student attendance in EDGE programs. She's updated me on the work they've been doing to increase attendance in EDGE programs. She's asked for any ideas we might have about how students can get involved.

Jade: green spaces proposal in progress. A few emails about that. Done some research.

Jalen: thank everyone for their support with the last proposal about staff and students returning to campus and doing our assessment on campus. We did 8 shows to audiences of 20, means a lot to us and we thank you for your support.

Kyle: we recently got updates. Within two weeks we'll get new support staff for residences.

Laura: final project for Senate is a booklet for teacher education students.

Liam: getting used to the role, meeting school leaders. Joined disciplinary committee. Emailed by snr researcher from ANU about getting students to participate in a study about mental health.

Any other business

Jalen raised a concern about the handling of a sexual assault complaint raised by several students. The representatives discussed systemic concerns about grievance handling and decided to form a small working group to continue this discussion and make some recommendations for change.

Action: Tom and Jalen to further discuss the specific student complaint and ensure the students were advised and referred to appropriate further resources and services.

Action: Ainsley, Laura, Lizzie, Janelle and Liam to further discuss grievance processes with a view to making recommendations for improvement to the University.

Action: Tom to connect with the new Manager of Equity and get them involved in this discussion.

Heba noted an upcoming nutrition webinar organised by Health and Wellbeing and invited everyone.

Next meeting: TBA March 2022.

APPENDIX I: SENATE MEMBERSHIP

 As of September 15th, 2021: 36 roles, 20 occupied, 16 vacant.

Name (pronouns)	Representative for
Kyle Jackson (he/him)	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students
Sanjay Gurijala (he/him)	Academic Board
<i>Vacant</i>	Ballarat Residence Students
Tanvi Mahajan (she/her)	Berwick Campus Students
Courtney Dodson (she/her)	Berwick Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Berwick Residence Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Brisbane Campus Students
Tristan Sicari (he/him)	Camp St – Performing Arts Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Camp St – Visual Arts Students
Ainsley Lindsay	Clubs and Societies
Heba Abdelrahman (she/her)	Distance and Online Students
Janelle Moyes (she/her)	Distance and Online Students
Sage Akouri (they/them)	Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion
<i>Vacant</i>	FedCollege Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Gippsland Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Gippsland Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Gippsland Residence Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Horsham Campus – Higher Ed. Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Horsham Campus – TAFE/VCAL Students
Abhishek (he/him)	International Students
Sai Kondeti (he/him)	Learning and Teaching Quality Assurance Committee
Gurmaan Kaur (she/her)	Mt Helen Campus – Higher Ed. Students
Harpreet Kaur Rai (she/her)	Mt Helen Campus – Higher Ed. Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Mt Helen Campus – TAFE Students
Aditi Suman (she/her)	Postgraduate Students
Jalen Ong (he/him)	School of Arts Board
Declan Hanrahan (he/him)	<i>Incumbent</i> School of Business Board
Thaniya Nesakumar (she/her)	<i>Incoming</i> School of Business Board
Laura Benney (she/her)	School of Education Board
<i>Vacant</i>	School of Engineering, IT and Physical Sciences Board
<i>Vacant</i>	School of Health Board
Liam Haintz (he/him)	School of Science, Psychology and Sport Board
Lizzie Tongway (she/her)	SMB Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	SMB Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Sports
Jade De Angelis (she/her)	Sustainability
<i>Vacant</i>	TAFE Board