

STUDENT SENATE

Subject	Student Senate Meeting 4/2020 (SS4)
Chair	Marlee Bourke
Present	<p>Representatives: Ayush Dahiya, Marlee Bourke, Bijay Neupane, Fiona Archer, Gautam Pal, Geeta Sai Naralasetty, Harvinder Singh, Heba Adelrahman, Lizzie Tongway, Lucy Payne, Nadine Wilkinson, Olivia Carey, Senim Genc, Tanvi Mahajan, Mehar Deepak Chaganti, Hardeep Singh, Sanjampreet Kaur, Kyle Jackson, Verana Hunter-Raye, Beau Frichot, Rasika Singla, Lachlan Francis, Althea Alpitsis, Janelle Moyes.</p> <p>Guests: Greg Jakob (Advisor), Tom Hodgson (Executive Officer)</p>
Apologies	Melanie Bellingham, Sam McKeegan, Jennifer Davis, Prof. Andy Smith, Dr Jo van Son.
Venue	Online, Adobe Connect
Date	19 th May 2020
Runtime	5:00pm – 7:10pm

Meeting Actions

SS4

Action 4.1: Tom will work with the Residential Advisor to create a list of issues, and give this to Greg. The Senate will review progress at the next meeting.	
Action 4.2: Marlee and Tom draft an updated Terms of Reference included residence representatives. Members to consider in Teams and vote on at next meeting.	
Action 4.3: Heba, Tom, Jo and Greg will workshop the prayer room and advisory committee proposal, providing an action plan to the Senate by the next meeting.	
Action 4.4: Sam, Tom, Jo and Greg will workshop the facilities proposal and provide an agreed action plan to the Senate by the next meeting.	
Action 4.5: Verana, Tom, Jo and Greg will workshop the policy proposal and provide an agreed action plan to the Senate by the next meeting.	
Action 4.6: Olivia to gather Senate feedback on the jogging track proposal, and report on the outcome of her meeting with Jason at the next meeting.	

SS3

Action 3.1: Ayush to work with Tom, Jo and Greg to hone the Professional Year proposal.	Ongoing. Actions agreed. Senate to track progress.
Action 3.2: Tom to find an alternative voting tool for online Senate meetings due to difficulties on Skype for Business.	Closed. Using Adobe Connect.
Action 3.3: Saleem to work with Tom, Jo and Greg to hone the accommodation policy proposal.	Ongoing. Actions agreed. Senate to track progress.

Action 3.4: Chaganti to work with Tom, Jo and Greg to hone the industrial visits proposal.	Ongoing. Actions agreed. Senate to track progress.
Action 3.5: The Senate to consider the need for additional financial support and fee reduction once the new University financial support schemes have more chance to affect students.	Ongoing. Tracking this issue. See VC Letter in University update.
Action 3.6: Fiona to research parent room best practice guidelines and seek input from the Senate in Teams on a 'wish-list' of features for parenting rooms. Fiona to compile this information into a recommendation to Facilities.	Ongoing. Feedback sent. Awaiting Facilities response.
Action 3.7: Fiona and Heba to further discuss issues regarding on-campus prayer rooms, seeking to identify an existing code of practice to recommend. Fiona to raise these with Facilities.	Closed. Fiona submitted. See Heba's proposal.

SS2

Action 2.7: Tom to invite International Admissions to update the Senate on the accommodation scholarships process and messaging for international students.	Ongoing. Tom has organised staff to present for next meeting.
--	--

Meeting Minutes

Marlee Bourke, Chair, opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

University update: Greg Jakob

Since the last meeting, several international student representatives - writing on behalf of all international students - sent a letter to the Vice-Chancellor asking for a fee reduction.

See SS4.R7.

As they had requested, Greg had a response for them to this letter from the Vice-Chancellor which he detailed and later also sent by email.

See SS4.R8.

Greg is planning the return to campus. Some students will return from June 1st, assuming government restrictions loosen as planned. The return will be staggered; first to return will be practical classes and laboratories. Practical classes won't be shut down again unless we go into lockdown.

International students need to get back on campus so they can meet with staff and get the experience they are paying for. The University is working on this. Equity and few other University areas will need to return.

Greg invited members to let him know which University areas which they feel need priority access to campus when we begin to return.

With construction plans on hold, we have an opportunity to push for changes to existing spaces. If there are student spaces on our campuses we would like to see improved, let Greg know.

Student Experience staff will be working more closely with residence students from June. Connect staff will be move involved in residence activities and linking residence students with support services. For example, support staff will attend Residential Advisor meetings. The Director of CampusLife (which includes all residence services) and Greg, who directs Student Experience, will be working on how the two areas can be better linked.

Janelle asked about the exam timetable. Greg said this was almost finished and should be out by the end of next week (29/5). If students were not hearing about their final assessments through their Moodle shells, Greg asked the Senate to let him know.

Lucy said that Arts Academy (AA) students were hearing that 27th July was a likely date to return. She asked, if the outbreak improved and the Government loosed restrictions, would the University consider opening even sooner? Performing arts students would normally be rehearsing already for their shows and are concerned.

Greg explained that Arts Academy staff are investigating how students can return to their practical classes as soon as possible. This may involve splitting classes to maintain social distancing.

Bijay asked about IT Professional Association registration and Tanvi asked about reduction of fees for residence students. Greg asked both Bijay and Tanvi to email these issues to Tom, who could pass them on to him to look at.

Heba asked about placement opportunities for Masters of Social Work students within the Unviersity. Greg said he was looking at taking placement students within Student Experience.

Guest: Residential Advisor

Marlee Bourke invited a residential advisor to speak to representatives about the issues experienced by residential students. Greg offered to leave the meeting in case the Senate wished to discuss matters without management present, but the Senate agreed this was not necessary.

The advisor detailed a number of specific and systematic issues. Broadly, the advisor identified problems of unclear communication, insufficient transparency and accountability, culminating in a breakdown of trust between residential students, residential advisors and residential staff.

The specific issues detailed by the residential advisor are being collated into a tracker. The Senate will pass these to Greg to investigate and review progress each meeting.

Action 4.1: Tom will work with the Residential Advisor to create a list of issues, and give this to Greg. The Senate will review progress at the next meeting.

As to the structural issues, Greg reiterated the change occurring from June where Experience staff would be on hand to better support residence students. He thanked the student for bringing these matters to the attention of the Senate. The Senate, he noted, is both an important tool to leverage a response from the University and the right place to raise systematic issues.

Greg suggested the Senate establish a residential portfolio.

Proposal: Residence Representative

Marlee moved the proposal, Lizzie seconded. **See SS4.R2.**

Rasika suggested having a representative from each campus. Tom and Marlee to consider options, seek input from representatives who have or are living on residences, and make a recommendation in Teams for the Senate to consider. At the next meeting, they can ratify the new Terms of Reference creating the position.

Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution SS4/1/20: That the Senate approve the addition a new Senate member to represent Res.

Action 4.2: Marlee and Tom draft an updated Terms of Reference included residence representatives. Members to consider in Teams and vote on at next meeting.

Proposal: Redevelopment of women's' facilities in Muslim prayer rooms and advisory committee.

Heba Abdelrahman moved the proposal, Fiona Archer seconded.

See SS4.R3.

Greg said there was a need to adjust the language in the proposal to be inclusive to all faiths and he would explore the ways this in workshopping. Heba said it was her intention for the advisory committee to be multi-faith.

Lucy argued for the consideration of a prayer room on Camp St, since though they have no students whom she knew might use it yet, it could attract new students from more diverse backgrounds.

Verana noted that Horsham also does not have a prayer room.

The motion passed. Several members abstained from voting.

The proposal will proceed to workshopping.

Resolution SS4/2/20: That the Senate support the proposal to investigate possibilities for redevelopments/upgrades specifically for women's facilities in Muslim prayer rooms and establish a student advisory panel/committee.

Action 4.3: Heba, Tom, Jo and Greg will workshop the prayer room and advisory committee proposal, providing an action plan to the Senate by the next meeting.

Proposal: Facilities consultation

Lizzie moved the motion in Sam's absence. Seconded by Olivia. **See SS4.R4.**

Several representatives suggested students should only have input on spaces with student-uses. Greg agreed the proposal should be workshopped to consider how this might be integrated into University practice.

Motion passed unanimously. It will now be workshopped.

Resolution SS4/3/20: That the Senate support the proposal recommending the University the Senate notify and give opportunity to respond in the development process for any planned facility upgrades or construction of facilities.

Action 4.4: Sam, Tom, Jo and Greg will workshop the facilities proposal and provide an agreed action plan to the Senate by the next meeting.

Proposal: Policy consultation

Verana moved the motion, Ayush seconded. **See SS4.R5.**

Lizzie suggest the policy should only cover student-relevant policies and that reviewing all University policies might be too much work. Greg agreed a workshop would help focus the proposal, and explained the Senate could simply review each proposal as they came up for review.

Motion passed unanimously. It will now be workshopped.

Resolution SS4/4/20: That the Senate support the proposal recommending the University involve the Student Senate with the development and review of University policies.

Action 4.5: Verana, Tom, Jo and Greg will workshop the policy proposal and provide an agreed action plan to the Senate by the next meeting.

Member Reports

See SS4.R6.

Olivia noted the jogging track proposal for Mt Helen, and that she was meeting with the Sports Coordinator, Jason Slater, to discuss this. She asked the Senate for feedback about the idea which she might bring to the meeting with Jason.

Action 4.6: Olivia to gather Senate feedback on the jogging track proposal, and report on the outcome of her meeting with Jason at the next meeting.

Tom noted Ayush was looking at old proposals to see what might be worth raising again. Tom thanked Ayush for this.

Tom thanked Kyle for his self-made excellent report template and asked Kyle to send him a copy so the others could use it.

Other Business

The Chair, Marlee Bourke, declared the meeting closed at 7:10pm.

1. APPENDIX I: SENATE MEMBERSHIP

As of May 21st.

Name	Representative for
Althea Alpitsis	TAFE Board
Ayush Dahiya	Mt Helen Campus (HE)
Beau Frichot (Portfolio Chair)	Gippsland Campus
Bijay Neupane	Brisbane Campus
Lizzie Tongway (Portfolio Chair)	SMB Campus
Fiona Archer	School of Health and Life Sciences (UG)
Gautam Pal (Portfolio Chair)	International Students
Geeta Neralaselly	Academic Board
Hardeep Singh	Berwick Campus
Harvinder Singh	School of Nursing & Healthcare Professions Board
Heba Adelrahman	Distance & Online
Janelle Moyes	Distance & Online
Jennifer Davis	Learning & Teaching Committee
Kyle Jackson	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Lachlan Francis	School of Education Board
Lucy Payne	Camp St Performing Arts
Marlee Bourke (Chair)	School of Arts Board
Chaganti Deepak	School of SEIT Board
Melanie Bellingham	School of Business Board
Saleem Malik	Research Committee (HDR)
Nadine Wilkinson	Gippsland Campus
Olivia Carey	Sustainability
Rasika Singla	Mt Helen Campus (HE)
Sam McKeegan (Portfolio Chair)	Sports
Sanjampreet Kaur	Clubs and Societies
Senim Genc	Postgraduate
Tanvi Mahajan	Berwick Campus
Verana Hunter-Raye (Vice-Chair)	Western Campuses (HE)

Student Representative Vacancies

- Western Campuses (TAFE/VET/VCAL)
- SMB Campus (1 of 2 filled)
- Camp St (Visual Arts)
- Mt Helen Campus (TAFE)
- Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion
- School of Health and Life Sciences (PG)