

## STUDENT SENATE

Subject	<b>Student Senate Meeting 2/2021 (SS2)</b>
Chair	Olivia Carey (she/her)
Present	<p>Representatives: Lizzie Tongway (she/her), Gautam Pal (he/him), Geeta Naralasetty (he/him), Heba Abdelrahman (she/her), Laura Benney (she/her), Olivia Carey (she/her), Sage Akouri (they/them), Sam McKeegan (he/him), Verana Hunter-Raye (she/her), Janelle Moyes (she/her).</p> <p>Guests: Teresa Tjia (she/her), Advisor; Tom Brooker (he/him), Executive Officer; Jason Giri (he/him), Dean of International.</p>
Apologies	Stephanie Fryer-Smith (she/her), Heather Marsh (she/her)
Absent	Declan Hanrahan (he/him), Kyle Jackson (he/him), Rasika Singla (she/her), Tanvi Mahajan (she/her)
Venue	Online, Microsoft Teams
Date	16 <sup>th</sup> March, 2021
Runtime	5:00pm – 7:00pm

### Meeting Actions

<b>1.1</b> Heather Marsh to provide a final report to the Senate on international student support in the context of COVID.	<b>Open.</b> Tom to check for SS3.
<b>1.2</b> Tom to check Gautam is the CISA liaison person.	<b>Closed.</b> Tom will liaise.
<b>1.3</b> Senate to provide ongoing feedback to Teresa on how students are experiencing return to campus process and the communications they are receiving from the University.	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>1.4</b> Tom to report on the implementation of the Ballarat City Parking proposal.	<b>Ongoing.</b> Awaiting response from Facilities.
<b>1.5</b> Tom to organise a workshop for Lizzie Tongway's two textbook proposals.	<b>Closed.</b> Friday 19.3
<b>1.6</b> Lizzie and Tom to organise an initial session for the Honour Code working group.	<b>Ongoing.</b> Lizzie is working with group. Meeting soon.
<b>1.7</b> Geeta to meet with International and discuss the fee rise.	<b>Closed.</b> See Geeta's report.
<b>2.1</b> Teresa will bring Sage, Lizzie, and Heba into a working group for student communications.	
<b>2.2</b> Sage will write to the RAP Committee supporting the possibility of a clear University policy on the use of Acknowledgement to Country.	
<b>2.3</b> Teresa will investigate what can be done to improve the experience of international students seeking updated CoE and support while updating renewing/extending visas due to COVID-19 lengthening their expected time spent studying.	
<b>2.4</b> Members to share any ideas in Microsoft Teams for training or PD opportunities they might be interested in.	

## Proposal & Project Tracking

### Intimacy Proposal

Agreed actions	Status
Tracking for an update from Heather Marsh about the implementation of the intimacy protocols project, as well as the triggering content protocols.	<b>Due SS3, 2021.</b>

### Ballarat City Parking

Agreed actions	Status
Tom to review progress and track implementation.	<b>Due SS2, 2021.</b>

### Professional Year

Agreed actions	Status
Tom to request briefing for Senate from PVC International about Professional Year. Tom to check if Gautam's Outreach portfolio want to carry this.	<b>Complete.</b>

### Industrial Year

Agreed actions	Status
Careers staff to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations generated by the industry engagement audit.	<b>Due SS3 2021.</b>

### Prayer Room and Multi-Faith Advisory Committee

Agreed actions	Status
Tom to meet with Heather Marsh and draft Multi-Faith Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.	<b>Complete.</b>
Call for applications and launch Multi-Faith Advisory Committee.	<b>Due SS4, 2021.</b>

## Meeting Minutes

**Olivia Carey**, Chair, opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

### Professional Year update

**Jason Giri**, the Dean of International, introduced himself and gave an overview of what a professional year scheme entails. Jason that professional years are highly discipline specific and required accreditation with a peak body. For the areas mentioned in the Senate proposal these are:

- Engineers Australia (EA)
- Australian Computer Society (ACS)
- Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA)

Were the University to offer a professional year they would need to spend at least a year seeking accreditation with the relevant body. It would also be very expensive. The accreditation would last several years, so the University would want to be assured that student demand would be sustained over the period. Jason explained the University could consider such an offering if they saw strong student and demand in the relevant area.

Jason invited students or representatives interested in a professional year offering in their discipline to speak to their peers and academics. A student survey, or petition signed by students interested in undertaking the offering, would be helpful to International in deciding to offer the program.

### Senate Advisor update

**Teresa Tjia** gave an update on University-wide matters.

There is significant relaxation and easing on **COVID** density requirements. Move to look at timetable and schedule more classes face-to-face. This semester if not too disruptive, next if so.

**Orientation** is just finishing now. Welcome events happened across all campuses. Our online programs had strong attendance and engagement.

**Retention strategies** are being reviewed and the Senate would be called on to contribute in the future.

Verana noted that increase of f2f would be good for Horsham, due to rural internet problems.

### University Strategic Plan

**Teresa Tjia** shared the University's strategic plan. She asked the Senate to consider how they might contribute to this plan and if they might want to build their own plan.

**Sage Akouri** suggested that an overall theme could be inclusive and easy access to student supports and improved student communication to raise support awareness.

**Verana Hunter-Raye** noted this is a relevant concern for Horsham where all support is online unless you drive two hours to Ballarat.

**Heba Abdulrahman** agreed with Sage's theme, as communications can be weak between different departments and areas. Students shouldn't have to repeat their story when seeking support.

## Proposal: Learning Technology Training

### See SS2.R3 Learning Technology Training Proposal

Since submitting the proposal, **Sage Akouri** found that such online teaching tech training exists – but is concerned promotion of this service is lacking. Teresa asked if the Moodle homepage is a good place to promote the service. Representatives' agreed.

Sage suggested a survey to ask students, how do they best get information from the University?

Teresa agreed a communications plan would be good and they need to work on it. Sage noted their own academics were not aware of the program.

Teresa announced she was launching a new staff role: Coordinator for Student Communications.

Sage and the Senate decided not to bring the motion in the original proposal to a vote, as the matter was already being progressed and could be tracked via the following action.

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*Action 2.1: Teresa will bring Sage, Lizzie, and Heba into a working group for student communications.*

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## Proposal: Acknowledgement of Country

### See SS2.R4 Acknowledgement of Country Proposal

**Sage Akouri** noted that some lecturers are giving Acknowledgement of Country before class, some are not. Students have been asking me about this inconsistency. Is it mandatory?

**Teresa Tjia** noted that for formal events it is something they do all the time. More and more people want to put it at the start of meetings. An additional consideration is how frequent.

Teresa said she believed it was not mandatory at the beginning of lectures and suggested we take this question to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee to see what they think.

**Olivia Carey** felt that all lecturers should do it at the start of each lecture. **Verana Hunter-Raye** noted that some are concerned about getting pronunciation wrong and felt more comfortable to cover the acknowledgement with a pre-written slide.

**Teresa** suggested Sage prepare a letter to the RAP on behalf of the Senate to check on the current requirement and suggest the change.

Sage moved a motion to this effect. Seconded by Verana. Motion passed.

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*Resolution SS2.1.21: that the Senate support Sage to write a letter to the RAP supporting the possibility of a clear University policy on use of AoC.*

*Action 2.2: Sage will write to the RAP Committee supporting the possibility of a clear University policy on the use of Acknowledgement to Country.*

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## Reports

Declan Hanrahan	Received.
Lizzie Tongway	Received.
Gautam Pal	Received.
Geeta Naralasetty	Received.
Heba Abdelrahman	Received.
Janelle Moyes	Not submitted.
Kyle Jackson	Not submitted.
Laura Benney	Submitted.
Olivia Carey	Not submitted.
Rasika Singla	Received.
Sage Akouri	Received.
Sam McKeegan	Received.
Tanvi Mahajan	Received.
Verana Hunter-Raye	Received.

**Laura Benney** gave an update on her Education student forum event. It is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> 2021 and she will provide a report on it at the next meeting. It will be held on Mt Helen and recorded for other campuses.

**Verana Hunter-Raye** will be supporting the delivery of a welcome lunch on her campus for students on 23 – 25<sup>th</sup> March. She will be promoting the Senate and holding a poll for an EOI on the establishment of a community garden. She is working with Engagement Officer Anabel.

Regarding the garden, she is meeting with the Head of Campus. She is hoping to tie the garden in with the horticultural students and get compost from students and the canteen.

**Sage Akouri** explained gender pronouns and how use of gender pronouns even by cis-gendered people (i.e. those who are not trans) can create a supportive space that normalises use for the LGBTQI+ community.

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*Resolution SS2.2.21: that the Senate will give pronouns next to their names in the agenda and minutes.*

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*NB. For the purposes of these minutes, the pronouns used are drawn from the gender field listed against each representative in a University administrative system. A form has been put out for representatives to identify their preferred pronouns, if different.*

Sage noted they have also asked the Equity Manager for LGBTQI+ training for the Senate.

**Lizzie Tongway** announced the opening of her ceramics exhibition in the Backspace Gallery in Ballarat over the next months. She will share a link with more information when it is available.

**Heba Abdulrahman** advised the Senate of difficulties she's had getting clear information from the University in relation to a visa extension due to COVID-19 delaying her studies. She was bounced around many different services and asked to complete the same form three times.

She is concerned about the lack of communication and coordination between the services and the experience other international students in similar circumstances might be having.

**Teresa Tjia** said she would see what could be done to improve clarity for students in these circumstances.

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***Action 2.3:** Teresa will investigate what can be done to improve the experience of international students seeking updated CoE and support while renewing/extending visas due to COVID-19 lengthening their expected time spent studying.*

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### Other Business

**Tom Brooker** invited the representatives to identify any other training or personal development opportunities they might be interested in.

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***Action 2.4:** Members to share any ideas in Microsoft Teams for training or PD opportunities they might be interested in.*

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The Chair, Olivia Carey, declared the meeting closed at 6:52pm.

The next meeting will be 5pm, April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021.

**APPENDIX I: SENATE MEMBERSHIP**

 As of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021: 36 roles, 14 occupied, 22 vacant.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representative for</b>
Kyle Jackson (he/him)	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students
Geeta Naralasetty (he/him)	Academic Board
<i>Vacant</i>	Ballarat Residence Students
Tanvi Mahajan (she/her)	Berwick Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Berwick Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Berwick Residence Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Brisbane Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Camp St – Performing Arts Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Camp St – Visual Arts Students
<i>Vacant</i>	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
Verana Hunter-Raye (she/her)	Horsham Campus – Higher Ed. Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Horsham Campus – TAFE/VCAL Students
Gautam Pal (he/him)	International Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Learning and Teaching Quality Assurance Committee
Rasika Singla (she/her)	Mt Helen Campus – Higher Ed. Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Mt Helen Campus – Higher Ed. Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Mt Helen Campus – TAFE Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Postgraduate Students
<i>Vacant</i>	School of Arts Board
Declan Hanrahan (he/him)	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
<i>Vacant</i>	School of Science, Psychology and Sport Board
Lizzie Tongway (she/her)	SMB Campus Students
<i>Vacant</i>	SMB Campus Students
Sam McKeegan (he/him)	Sports
Olivia Carey (she/her)	Sustainability
<i>Vacant</i>	TAFE Board