

## STUDENT SENATE

Subject	<b>Student Senate Meeting 7/2021 (SS7)</b>
Chair	Kyle Jackson (he/him)
Present	Representatives: Abhishek (he/him), Aditi Suman (she/her), Ainsley Lindsay, Gurmaan Kaur (she/her), Harpreet Kaur Rai (she/her), Heba Abdulrahman (she/her), Jade De Angelis (she/her), Janelle Moyes (she/her), Kyle Jackson (he/him), Laura Benney (she/her), Liam Haintz (he/him), Sage Akouri (they/them), Sai Mandeep Kondeti (he/him), Sanjay Gurijala (he/him), Thaniya Nesakumar (she/her), Tristan Sicari (he/him).  Guests: Ankit Tyagi, student observer; Teresa Tjia, Senate Advisor; Tom Brooker, Executive Officer
Apologies	Lizzie Tongway
Absent	Courtney Dodson, Tanvi Mahajan, Declan Hanrahan, Jalen Ong
Venue	Online, Microsoft Teams
Date	21 <sup>st</sup> September, 2021
Runtime	5:00pm – 7:30pm

### Meeting Minutes

The meeting achieved quorum and opened at 5:11pm.

Kyle welcomed the seven new members and asked them to introduce themselves. They are:

- Sanjay Gurijala (Academic Board)
- Abhishek (International Students)
- Sai Mandeep Kondeti (Learning & Teaching Committee)
- Gurmaan Kaur (Mt Helen Campus)
- Thaniya Nesakumar (School of Business)
- Jade De Angelis (Sustainability)
- Liam Haintz (School of Science, Psychology and Sports)

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

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**Resolution 7.1.21:** *that the Senate ratify the minutes of the meeting held July 20 as an accurate record.*

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The Senate reviewed the open actions.

[See SS8.R2 Action Summary](#)

## Senate Advisor update

Teresa Tjia gave an update on SSAF and University-wide matters. Teresa discussed:

- Victorian Roadmap: we have to stay mostly online. Not what we wanted, but government guidelines. Federal and State Roadmaps mean a real return to campus for next year.
- Living Values Project: does the Senate want to get involved?
- Various strategic priority groups: students invited to give feedback.
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic (DVCA) Prof. Andy Smith is retiring.
- We'll invite DVCA Andy and DVCR Wendy Cross to last Senate meeting to share updates on our priority projects.
- Third-party provider being brought onboard to expand delivery of online courses for domestic students.
- Enrolment and timetabling are being decoupled for students. From next year they won't have to pick classes at the same time as enrolling.

Kyle asked if the Senate could get information about course changes for 2022. Teresa agreed she could provide this. Several students noted that sometimes course/unit changes were communicated too late. Teresa asked for any problems in this area to be escalated urgently to her so she can investigate.

## Student Services & Amenities Fee (SSAF) 2022 Priorities

**Kyle Jackson** lead a discussion on SSAF priorities for 2022.

What's one thing you'd like to see change at Federation University in 2022?

- Student consultation process/policy.
- Increased opportunities for students to get involved in events as we transition back to campus.
- International student enrolment system. Can it be automatic for international first years? Enrolling manually is no good for international, difficult and confusing. More support for this. Can there be more information during orientation to support students with this?
- Systems that can handle online learning with minimal disruption - i.e. Adobe connect is not great.
- Big learning curve for new international students – plagiarism problems. We need more awareness. The AIM and those staff, can they be in contact with the international office more and make sure the messages are getting across? These resources may not be reaching international students who need them most.

What new facility or service should the University offer that it doesn't already?

- Student bar.
- Jobs specifically for international students.
- More targeted approach or more targeted outreach for helping undergrad students find jobs from careers team.
- Utilise the canteen for "meals on wheels" for res students. i.e. weekly fee for healthy meals

What services do you think students will need to access or use more in the coming years?

- EDGE. Needs better marketing. It's a useful resource, but students don't know enough about it and it's has problems with not being user friendly.
- MINITAB. Access limitations – students need this software. The University should provide MINITAB access. Consider also the offshore! How do they access?

- Sage: Learning Skills Advisors will be more important than ever, less time with academic staff. More students will be reaching out for more support. Can we get stats, has the usage gone up?
- Ainsley: Improve marketing of services. Can we have a unit that runs through all the support services in depth to help students clearly understand what each service is for.
- Jade: Volunteer opportunities linked with more organisations to help give students an opportunity of what they might be interested working in

#### What's one facility or amenity you'd like to see added or changed?

- Tristan: Parking subsidy. General student parking is the issue.
- Ainsley: Vic Street. Our parking isn't clearly sign-posted and members of public take the spaces.
- Ainsley: Mt Helen, break-in need better security.
- Janelle: more outdoor/undercover seating.
- Laura: I don't know if this fits, but I'd love to see study exchange promoted more overtly (although that's definitely a post-COVID mission).
- Sage: gender-neutral toilets added to campuses. Not to replace existing options.
- Janelle: Free health checks 'student nurses to run as voluntary'
- Gurmaan: Res students get permits to park. Also, don't charge for permits on Mt Helen. It's unfair to charge \$155 for permits especially when there's so much free parking and there's so many break-ins.
- Sanjay: FRED Portal should resolve issues quicker.

#### How could the University improve student services?

- Improving student consultation processes.
- Student input. But not just surveys.
- Service awareness is the priority. It's no good to improve them, but no one has heard of it.
- Academic Advisors, Student Senate and Counselling – most students don't know about it.
- EDGE: Library should run a 'how to' course or create a series of 'how-to' videos.
- Aditi: more student forums.
- Mandeep: Forums good but participation a problem.

#### What's one thing the University is doing well?

- Gurmaan: Mentor programs.
- Ainsley: student welfare services is good in some areas, less so in others but it's in progress and improving.
- Tristan: the permit process for performing arts was good.
- Jade: information for mature age students and the Q&A were good.
- Laura: library support services are great – and should be promoted more!
- Gurmaan: staff are dealing well with online learning.

#### What consultation would you like see on SSAF each year?

- Senate should be consulted in advance on the budget, not once the budget is set.
- For consultation to be meaningful, the Senate should have influence.
- Ainsley: our input should be provided to all students so they know what we're asking for them. And lets them comment on that and get involved.
- All students should have opportunity to comment, not just Senate.
- Can we have an open invite to bring any students into our SSAF consultation session?

- FedLiving attitude towards students. They are usually quite dismissive or don't keep students informed. Maintenance issues in particular never get addressed properly. (I am currently working on a proposal regarding this issue if it would be better suited leaving it there)

What does effective consultation mean to you?

- It means we get to influence the decision.
- It means actually listening.
- It means it happens in a timely manner.
- It means they are taking on board your opinion.
- To be included. Before decisions are made. Not consulted part way or when the decision have already been decided.
- And keeping you updated on the progress.
- Intersectional representation in the committees.
- Giving everyone an opportunity to have their say before any actions have been taken or any decision made.
- Committee should be given multiple options to choose from if advice is needed rather than the one option that has been decided upon by staff.

### Proposal: Students with permits can return to res

See SS7.R3 Res Permits Proposal

**Tristian Sicari** presented a proposal to allow students who lived on residence but left during lockdown and are still paying for residence and have appropriate permits to return to Ballarat to be permitted to also return to their student residence.

Tristian additionally noted that:

- He had contacted Vic authorities and confirmed that the students should be legally able to return.
- He'd had no official response from the University, but had been told residences are 'high-risk' without explanation of what considerations went into that rating.
- He noted given the oversupply, returning students could effectively be isolated in empty residences.
- He noted, these students are presently paying AirB&B and/or travel fees to attend class in addition to their residence fees.

Motion was opened. Motion passed unanimously.

Teresa noted this was a complex issue, but she would raise it with the University's COVID Safety Group and get a response.

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**Resolution 7.2.21:** *that the Senate recommend the University allow students with permits to return to student residences.*

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**Action 7.1:** *Teresa will raise the proposal that students be permitted to return to residence with the COVID Group and get a response for the Senate by SS8.*

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### Proposal: central process for disciplinary hearings

See SS7.R4 Disciplinary Hearings Proposal

**Ainsley Lindsay** presented a proposal recommending the University adopt separate processes to handle academic and disciplinary matters, with disciplinary matters being handled by an established body rather than school-by-school.

Ainsley noted the disadvantages of leaving this to be handled school-by-school where different schools inconsistently apply different standards, expectations and outcomes.

Motion opened. Motion passed. 1 against and 1 abstain.

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**Resolution 7.3.21:** *that the Senate recommend the University defines and separates academic and conduct issues and creates a central point for student conduct disciplinary matters.*

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**Action 7.2:** *Ainsley and Tom to work together to raise and progress the disciplinary hearings proposal with the University.*

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### Proposal: Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy update

See SS7.R5 AoD Policy Submission

Ainsley Lindsay presented a proposal recommending changes to the University's Alcohol and other Drugs (AoD) Policy. See submission.

Ainsley noted the current policy:

- Is overly broad and sometimes unclear.
- Unduly restricts how clubs can advertise events.
- Makes some club events against policy, even though they meet relevant state/federal legislation.

**Sage Akouri** raised a concern around giving alcohol as prizes. They argued this was inappropriate and should be ruled out by policy and not done by University or clubs. They argued it was not inclusive or considerate of:

- People of religious backgrounds that are not accepting of alcohol.
- People with current or historic substance abuse issues.

- Minors.

Ainsley noted that even though the University's own policy current prohibits giving alcohol as prizes, they had attended several University-run events where alcohol was given as prizes. They also noted:

- It can be valuable as a fundraiser item at charity events.
- It can be important to sporting clubs, who also use such items at fundraisers.
- They did not want to make alcohol-as-prizes a common thing, but there were some occasions where they felt it was appropriate and they didn't want to rule those out.
- They would amend their proposal to clarify that non-alcoholic alternatives must be also given when alcohol is used as a prize.

Motion amended. Motion opened. Motion passed. Two students abstained from voting.

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***Resolution 7.4.21:** that the Senate recommend a number of changes to the University's Alcohol and Other Drugs (AoD) Policy with the changes discussed in the meeting added around non-alcoholic options for prizes.*

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***Action 7.3:** Kyle or Ainsley will submit the Alcohol and other Drugs Policy recommendations to the Policy Sponsor, Manager of Risk, Health and Safety Didier Leclere.*

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### Request to endorse Academic Integrity Module

The Chair of Academic Board, Elisa Zentveld, submitted a request in writing to the Senate. She explained that Academic Board are seeking to raise awareness of the Academic Integrity Module (AIM). AIM is a 30-minute module which provides students with an understanding of academic integrity. The Chair of the Board wrote, "this is important in a number of ways – firstly, referencing is a life-long skill and is often built-in to the marking rubric; secondly, knowledge of academic integrity should reduce the risk of students engaging in academic misconduct. Would the Senate be willing to consider endorsing completion of AIM, which could be a positive message that we send out? I.e. that completion of AIM is endorsed by Student Senate."

Kyle raised the motion. Motion passed. Three representatives abstained from voting explaining they'd like to read the Module first.

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***Resolution 7.5.21:** that the Senate publicly endorse the Academic Integrity Module.*

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Tom will inform the Chair of Academic Board that the Senate have decided to endorse AIM.

## Late item: CISA Reaffiliation Request

See CISA Reaffiliation Request

**Tom Brooker** explained that earlier that day two Brisbane students had contacted the Senate's Facebook page. The two students requested the Senate reaffiliate with CISA as they have been nominated for positions on the CISA executive, but cannot run unless the University is affiliated. Additionally the two students noted the valuable work of CISA. Tom noted the 2020 cost was \$440, and that it might have gone up in 2021. He did not know the new cost, but did not anticipate a large change.

Kyle opened the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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**Resolution 6.5.21: that the Senate agree to reaffiliate with CISA.**

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Tom emailed CISA to inform them of the outcome. Tom messaged the students raising this matter through the Facebook to inform them of the outcome.

## Consider commenting on policy under review

See SS7.R6 Policy Report August

Members were invited to review and comment on University policy coming up for or currently under review. No comments raised.

## Reports

See SS7.R7 Portfolio and member reports

***N.b. The new members were not required to submit a report for this meeting.***

Aditi Suman	Submitted.	Jalen Ong	Not submitted.
Ainsley Lindsay	Submitted.	Janelle Moyes	Not submitted.
Courtney Dodson	Submitted.	Kyle Jackson	Not submitted.
Declan Hanrahan	Submitted.	Laura Benney	Submitted.
Lizzie Tongway	Not submitted.	Sage Akouri	Submitted.
Harpreet Kaur Rai	Not submitted.	Tanvi Mahajan	Not submitted.
Heba Abdelrahman	Not submitted.	Tristan Sicari	Submitted.

Ainsley noted she'd raised the AoD Policy Proposal and is working with Ryan Parker of the Careers team to build online student leadership and clubs executives training.

Janelle apologised for failing to submit a report.

Laura reached out for more information about issues with placements in Education but didn't find anything. She investigated a concern around extensions for students on placements, but found there were already supports in place. She's now working on a new project trying to get more Education students connected with teaching organisations and volunteer opportunities during their study.

Sage: mentioned the LGBTQIA+ Awareness and Leadership training.

Tristan: awaiting meeting with City of Ballarat to raise student concerns and questions about parking in the city. Deferred due to lockdown.

### Any other business

Kyle still interested in reforming meeting format to make them faster and more engaging. Ainsley mentioned the student reference groups were about ready to go live and would be launched next week. She said that if students wanted a reference group for their area, they should get in touch.

Gurmaan asked to be connected with any School of Psych reference group. Tom noted one already existed run by the Course Coordinator and he would connect them.

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*Action 7.3: Tom and Gurmaan to connect with the Psychology Student Reference Group so Gurmaan might get involved.*

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The Chair, Kyle Jackson, declared the meeting closed at 7:55pm.

*The next and final meeting for 2021 will be 5pm, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2021.*



**APPENDIX I: SENATE MEMBERSHIP**

 As of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021: 36 roles, 20 occupied, 16 vacant.

<b>Name (pronouns)</b>	<b>Representative for</b>
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