

STUDENT SENATE

Subject	Student Senate Meeting 5/2021 (SS5)
Chair	Kyle Jackson (he/him)
Present	Representatives: Ainsley Lindsay, Courtney Dodson (she/her), Declan Hanrahan (he/him), Geeta Naralasetty (he/him), Harpreet Kaur Rai (she/her), Heba Abdulrahman (she/her), Jalen Ong (he/him), Janelle Moyes (she/her), Kyle Jackson (he/him), Laura Benney (she/her), Olivia Carey (she/her), Tristan Sicari (he/him). Guests: Teresa Tjia (she/her), Advisor; Tom Brooker (he/him), Executive Officer;
Apologies	Aditi Suman (she, her)
Absent	Elizabeth Tongway, Sage Akouri, Tanvi Mahajan
Venue	Online, Microsoft Teams
Date	18 th May, 2021
Runtime	5:00pm – 7:30pm

Meeting actions

1.3 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.	Ongoing. Check for feedback each meeting.
1.6 Honour Code Working Group update.	Ongoing. Tracking.
2.1 Teresa will bring Sage, Lizzie, and Heba into a working group for student communications once new Coordinator of Communications is appointed.	Ongoing. They have been appointed and this will happen in the next few weeks. Teresa will organise.
2.2 Sage will write to the RAP Committee supporting the possibility of a clear University policy on the use of Acknowledgement to Country.	Closed. Sage Akouri has consulted with Kyle Jackson.
2.4 Members to share any ideas in Microsoft Teams for training or PD opportunities they might be interested in.	Ongoing. Tom will continue to update Senate.
3.1 Tom to encourage reps to step up as Chairs in portfolios.	Close.
5.1: Representatives to provide a brief 'bio' for the website.	
5.2: Kyle to email the residence proposal to Teresa for her review.	
5.3: Teresa, Kyle, and Ainsley to meet and workshop the improvement of residence welfare services proposal.	
5.4: Tom to organise anonymous voting and feedback options to run during the Senate meeting.	
5.5: Representatives to further discuss in Teams the possibility of a cooling-off period for further comment on proposals or changing votes.	

Retreat actions for tracking

Action	Due / Notes
R.1 Kyle Jackson to develop “speak to your representative” posters for distribution to all campuses. Kyle to organise distribution.	29th July
R.3 Tom to organise a “talk to your reps” Moodle banner	29th July
R.4 Janelle Moyes to discuss the possibility of transgender awareness training for the Senate with Sage Akouri.	SS6, August 17th
R.5 Aditi, Ainsley and Heba to collaborate and develop ground rules and a model for regular student-run social debriefing, advice, and peer support session for students in leadership and volunteer roles. (Potentially involving Social Work students.)	SS6, August 17th
R.6 Tom, Teresa, and Lucinda Bilney to explore the possibility of EAP or professional “supervision” style model for student leaders and volunteers handling difficult disclosures, etc.	SS6, August 17th
R.7 Tom and Ellen Sabo to capture all student ideas from the “better University” session and table these for responses from relevant areas. Responses will be shared with the Senate.	SS6, August 17th
R.8 Representatives to collaborate and create a schedule for Semester Two student forums by campus (and online).	August 1st
R.9 Tom to uncover if focus group training can be arranged for the Senate to improve their ability to gather unbiased and diverse feedback during forums and possibly run their own more targeted focus groups.	SS6, August 17th
R.10 Tom to organise Indigenous Cultural Awareness training with the AEC for Student Senate.	SS6, August 17th

Proposal & Project Tracking

SSAF Proposal

Agreed actions	Status
Teresa to update the Senate as SSAF data is published to the website.	Tracking.
Tom to update the Representative's Guide/Senate training to give more information about SSAF and its relevance to the Senate.	Due SS6.
The Senate to receive regular SSAF updates and opportunities to comment on SSAF expenditure.	Ongoing.
The Senate Chair to write to the Dean of Students and Registrar formally conveying the SSAF resolution and the SSAF-related requests.	Closed.

Prayer Room and Multi-Faith Advisory Committee

Agreed actions	Status
Call for applications and launch Multi-Faith Advisory Committee.	Closed. Had first meeting yesterday. Launched!

Meeting Minutes

The meeting achieved quorum. **Olivia Carey**, outgoing Chair, gave the Acknowledgement of Country and opened the meeting at 5:05pm.

Announcement of new Chair and Vice-Chair

Tom Brooker announced at the close of representative voting the new Chair would be Kyle Jackson, and the new Vice-Chair would be Ainsley Lindsay.

Olivia Carey stepped down, Kyle Jackson commenced chairing the meeting.

Senate Advisor update

Teresa Tjia gave an update on University-wide matters. She commented:

- Despite the current Victorian lockdown, the University anticipates having students back as soon as possible.
- Orientation and early semester social activities have moved online or been postponed.
- The University has followed procedures and met SSAF legislative requirements every year, except 2021 where the Senate was not given SSAF report to review in advance. This omission occurred due to COVID disruption and changes in staff. At the next meeting we'll present the 2021 report and the Senate will see a draft 2022 budget by the end of the year.
- SSAF budget goes to Advocacy, Engagement, Senate and Careers.
- University has ongoing challenges managing the lockdowns and what does it mean for the student experience whether you are online or on campus. And supporting students with their mental health and motivation.
- The VC has established three taskforces: academic program viability and sustainability, student retention, and student attraction.

- The University has recently won some grants and gotten good recognition in the Times University Rankings.

Current students website area redevelopment

Hollie Heales was unable to attend, so Tom Brooker led this item. Representatives provided feedback on ways the current students page could be improved – and feedback on Hollie’s proposed new design. This feedback was forwarded to Hollie after the meeting.

Action 5.1: Representatives to provide a brief ‘bio’ for the website.

Proposal: improved welfare services on student residences

See SS5.R2 Residence welfare proposal

Ainsley Lindsay spoke about improving welfare services for students on residences. She noted the exceptionally low provision of welfare staff for residences in 2020/1 and called for improvements - detailed in the proposal.

Teresa agreed with Ainsley’s assessment, and noted that there were positions held up by the change paper which will now be advertised to expand provision of welfare services to residences. Specifically, an officer for Berwick and Gippsland.

Teresa noted that numbers in residences was an issue, as these are so low it’s difficult to affordably staff the residence. Teresa: “We need a model to support students in residence. It will be good to work through those proposals with you, have further discussions and come together with them and move forward from the next meeting.”

The motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution 5.1.21: that the Senate support the recommendation to have an adequate and meaningful increase to welfare on residential halls.

Action 5.2: Kyle to email the residence proposal to Teresa for her review.

Action 5.3: Teresa, Kyle, and Ainsley to meet and workshop the proposal.

Can we make a more welcoming Senate for dissenting views?

See SS5.R3 Culturally competent Senate

Jalen Ong, led a discussion with the Senate to reflect on their communication styles and improving how welcoming the group was for diverse and dissenting views. The discussion was prompted by the recent Cultural Competency Training the Senate received from International Student Services at the Senate Retreat.

Summary of discussion:

- Senate would like an anonymous voting option during the meeting.
- Senate would like an anonymous feedback option during the meeting.
- Senate would like to implement a cooling-off period (3 days after the meeting) where members can provide further feedback about proposals.

Action 5.4: Tom to organise anonymous voting and feedback options to run during the Senate meeting.

Action 5.5: Representatives to further discuss in Teams the possibility of a cooling-off period for further comment or even changing votes.

CISA Reaffiliation

See SS5.R4 Email re CISA reaffiliation

The discussed reaffiliating with CISA, the Council of International Students Australia. CISA is the national peak student representative organisation for international students studying at the postgraduate, undergraduate, private college, TAFE, ELICOS and foundation level.

The representatives noted there was no student currently interested in attending CISA meetings. The representatives agreed they'd like to put aside reaffiliation at this time, but would be happy to review this decision if any member wishes to get involved and attend CISA meetings.

The representatives would like to review the original CISA proposal.

Member reports

Aditi Suman	Submitted.
Ainsley Lindsay	Submitted.
Courtney Dodson	Submitted.
Declan Hanrahan	Submitted.
Lizzie Tongway	No report.
Geeta Naralasetty	Submitted.
Harpreet Kaur Rai	No report.
Heba Abdelrahman	Submitted.
Jalen Ong	Submitted.
Janelle Moyes	Submitted.
Kyle Jackson	Submitted.
Laura Benney	Submitted.
Olivia Carey	No report.
Sage Akouri	No report.
Tanvi Mahajan	No report.
Tristan Sicari	Submitted.

Kyle Jackson recently ran a NAIDOC event.

Ainsley Lindsay attended a funding committee hearing for a group. There's a new student clubs' model. Clubs send in applications for funding. If you meet certain criteria and you've got a good event plan you can get up to 5k in funding which is great for bigger clubs. It's a way for people to get funding without having to tick boxes. The associate model has been launched too. You can just 'be a group'. This model allows funding to flow into those groups.

Two people from SE and myself sit down and review the application and decide if it's approved.

I don't sit in on the one for BARS. That would be a bias. If I'm not available, they can ask another Senate representative or Tom.

Courtney Dodson ran some stalls and has been raising awareness on campus

Geeta Naralasetty thanked members noting it was his last meeting. He completed his masters last week. Geeta noted that he started a cultural association with his friends because of the Senate. Because of the confidence he had built through his experience in the Senate role.

Heba Abdulrahman noted her attendance at the retreat and the recent launch of her multifaith reference group

Jalen Ong organised a school of arts forum. Not a lot of people turned up. Some came with issues, it was good to connect with people who we were weren't connected with. We've made progress on lockers. I've been speaking with Security to improve issues about parking and security.

Laura Benney is organising the second instance of her initiative: the social event for new and old education students to enable the newer students to learn from the experience of the older students.

Olivia noted she was finishing her degree and leaving. This is her last meeting.

The Senate offered a formal thanks to Olivia for her time as Chair and thanked her for all the work she had done for the Senate.

Other Business

Kyle noted that in future he would plan for some open discussion prompts to be held during this section of the meeting.

Ainsley noted she would be bringing a proposal to a future meeting about provision of a bar for Mt Helen campus and asked other representatives for their feedback. Many representatives liked this proposal.

The Chair, Kyle Jackson, declared the meeting closed at 6:48pm.

The next meeting will be 5pm, August 17th 2021.

APPENDIX I: SENATE MEMBERSHIP

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

Name (pronouns)	Representative for
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
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
<i>Vacant</i>	International Students
<i>Vacant</i>	Learning and Teaching Quality Assurance Committee
<i>Vacant</i>	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)	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
<i>Vacant</i>	Sports
Olivia Carey (she/her)	Sustainability
<i>Vacant</i>	TAFE Board