



MEETING MINUTES
51st STUDENT ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

7th Ordinary Council Meeting of the 51st Student Association 1pm Thursday 23rd September 2021

PRESENT:

Emily Mulroy (President), Thomas Sherrington (Vice President), Emily Gamze (Townsville Campus Officer), Aminah Khan (Equity & Diverse Officer), Kimberly Thornley (Staff Representative), Garrett Swearingen (Cairns Campus Officer), Alison Edwards (General Manager), Maree Dinan-Thompson (DVC Nominee), Theresa Priddle (Council Secretary)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Meeting opened at 1.05 pm Thursday 23rd September 2021 by Emily Mulroy (President, Chair)

Acknowledgment of Country

1. **Apologies and Proxies**

Peter Loa (Postgraduate Officer) proxy given to EM
Cherie Lai (International Officer) resigned as of 17th September 2021

2. **Declaration of Conflicts Of Interest**

Nil

3. **Approval of Unstarred Items**

The Chair will invite members to indicate which unstarred items they wish to star.
Thereupon, all unstarred items will be deemed to have been approved or noted as approved or noted as presented.

4. **Confirmation of Minutes & Flying Minutes**

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Ordinary Meeting of the 51st Student Association Council – Thursday 26th August 2021

4.1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 5th Special Meeting of the 51st Student Association Council – Thursday 9th September 2021

Moved TS
Second EG
All in favour

5. **Legal Matters**

Nil

6. **Reports**

- 6.1 Finance Officer Report
- 6.2 President's report
- 6.3 Vice President report
- 6.4 Cairns Campus Officer report
- 6.5 Townsville Campus Officer report
- 6.6 International Student Officer report

Report to Council (7th Ordinary Council Meeting – 23 Sep 2021) POSITION: International Student Officer
NAME: Cherie Lai

Café International This year of Café International were heavily theme- based. Student led cultural associations (affiliated with JCUSA) such as LASA, PNGSA, SASA, JCU ASA took turns to host events alongside with international student support team. It has been a great semester with a number of regulars and some new faces to get to know to each time.
CISA: Anti- Discrimination Month: Panel session on intl' students' experiences in discrimination
JCU International Student Orientation: Meet and greet incoming JCU students (Townsville). There were only 12 attendees due to border closure, all students were in Australia before COVID lockdown. Most of them are observed as mature age students
JCUSA O-Week events (Semester 2): Movie Night – Only 5 students attended but all

reported that they enjoyed the movie.

Touring Townsville – Strand stopover was the highlight of the tour. Students had the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other.

Market Day – Free sausage triggered interest of student on JCUSA.

CISA: ATEM Conference: Representing international students as panelist to share personal experience to admission teams

RU OK? Day: Serving sausage at Central Plaza and catching up with international students. Some reported stress from heavy workload hence felt the importance of RU OK Day at JCU.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

- 23/04 51st JCUSA 1st International Sub-Committee Meeting – Meet and greet, briefing on roles and expectations, brainstorming on possible events.
- 27/04 CISA National Strategy Submission Briefing – consultation briefing with fellow members on the Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030.
- 12/05 CISA member catch-up: re-affiliation, update on tuition fee relief campaign, annual conference, etc.
- 19/5 JCUSA 4th Ordinary Council Meeting
- 16/6 JCUSA 3th Special Meeting; CISA members catch-up
- 19/7 JCUSA 5th Ordinary Council Meeting; Management Committee Meeting
- 12/8 JCUSA Council Special Meeting; Management Meeting
- 21/8 CISA ATEM Conference Briefing – Preparation for panel sharing
- 4/8; 25/8 CISA Sustainability Working Group – Discussion and brainstorming meeting
- 26/8 JCUSA 6th Ordinary Council Meeting
- 8/8 JCUSA Management Meeting
- 9/8 JCUSA 5th Special Meeting

COMMENTS / PLANNING

International student sub-committee has been established and maintained contact through Facebook Group. During our initial meeting, we have discussed the importance of transparent communication between JCU and students, they are pleased to learn about JCUSA Advocacy service and looking forward to assisting on planning and joining activities and events (E.g. Brunch after dusk). Although challenges were encountered to maintain interest and commitment, it was shown as a good platform for international student studying in Townsville and Cairns to share their suggestions for the betterment of learning experience in JCU. This has helped raising awareness of the functions and services provided by JCUSA. My hope for the next council's international officer would be to continue forming and maintaining of the sub-committee, invite interested students to attend JCUSA's Ordinary Council Meetings. Suggestion would be to recruit the committee of our affiliated student cultural groups to be part of the team.

CISA have raised concerns for both onshore and offshore international students regarding their mental health, student safety, discrimination, lack of financial support, workplace exploitation and quality of online learning experience, etc. Several forums, resource packs and information sessions have been held and advertised. Since all members and management are international students, the common struggles have been shared and suggestions on policy change have been passionately advocated. It is hopeful that CISA will be able to increase its representative and continuity with its sustainability project – hiring a secretary for administrative work.



Another suggestion for the next council would be enhancing collaborations with education institution groups (Study Cairns/Study Townsville). As these groups have experiences, expertise and resources to aid international students.

- 6.7 Equity & Diversity Officer report
- 6.8 Postgraduate Student Officer report
- 6.9 Sport and Recreation Officer report
- 6.10 Advocacy report

7. General Business

- 7.1 20210819 Motion to amend Constitution re Additions to Council positions 2nd Vote

Motion to the James Cook University Student Council Garrett Swearingen

Motion to Council:

That the following amendments be made to the constitution.

Section 6.2.1 of the Association Constitution be amended to read:

There will be eleven (11) elected Office Bearers who will be voting members and who shall include:

- (a) President, an Ordinary member of the Association, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (b) Vice-President, an Ordinary member of the Association elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (c) International Student's Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, who is enrolled as an International Student, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (d) Cairns Campus Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, who is enrolled at the Cairns Campus of James Cook University, elected by and from the Ordinary members enrolled at the Cairns Campus;
- (e) Townsville Campus Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association who is enrolled at the Townsville Campus of James Cook University, elected by and from the Ordinary members enrolled at the Townsville Campus;
- (f) Postgraduate Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association who is enrolled as a Postgraduate Student, elected by and from the Ordinary members who are enrolled as Postgraduate Students at large;
- (g) Equity and Diversity Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large.
- (h) First Nations Officer, an Ordinary member who identifies as having Australian First Nations Heritage, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (i) Environmental Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (j) **Sport and Wellbeing Officer**, an Ordinary member of the Association, who is enrolled at the Cairns or Townsville Campuses of James Cook University, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;



(k) Remote & External Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association who is enrolled as an External Student at JCU Online or enrolled at a study centre that is not Cairns or Townsville, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large.

Section 6.6.1 of the Association Constitution be amended to read:

Subject to 6.6.3, the following elected Office Bearers of the Association Council will hold office for a term of one (1) year from 1 November to 31 October of the following year:

The President

The Vice-President

The International Student's Officer

The Cairns Campus Officer

The Townsville Campus Officer

The Postgraduate Officer

The Equity and Diversity Officer

The First Nations Officer

The Environmental Officer

The Sport and Wellbeing Officer

The Remote & External Officer

Issue:

Council has opened nominations to non-voting positions which are the equivalent of these positions. This is a positive step towards greater representation of First Nations, Environmental, Sport & Recreation and Remote & External Officers. However, the fact that these positions will not be voting members of Council represents an equity issue, particularly in the case of the First Nations and Environmental Officers. Not allowing these positions a vote may be considered subjugating these issues below other concerns, which is out of step with our values of Reconciliation, sustainability, and equal representation for students. By making these voting positions we will be taking a major step forward in providing equitable representation on future Councils to all JCU students.

Motion was moved with the following provisions:

- 1) That the Council acknowledges that these positions were voting positions in the past, and that this was changed due to a lack of student engagement;
- 2) That the Council acknowledges that voting powers are not sufficient to engage students in these positions; and
- 3) That the Council acknowledges that increasing student engagement in these positions in the future will require additional incentives for applicants.

Moved GS
Seconded TS
All in favour
Passed Unanimously
2nd Vote

GS has been in consultation with the student body regarding ways to implement the changes from non-voting to voting members of the council and trying to ensure that we are representing all demographics across all Campuses. MDT suggested have the Sport & recreation Officer more towards recreation and student wellness. To incorporate these together to focus more on the wellbeing of students health & wellbeing and take the distinct focus off sport. Motion was amended to have a Sport & Wellbeing Officer.



7.2 Orientation Report SP2

MDT Orientation numbers were still quite low. COVID was a factor but we need to move away from this and find alternative ways to reach the student body. What might we do differently, what platforms do we do to change the student participation.

GS agreed but also believes COVID was a big factor, before COVID most of the events were attended by International students, so the numbers won't change that much until the borders reopen. Also until more classes are on campus the attendance will be low. More focus also on all campuses, City Campus.

MDT What can we do to engage more between City campus and Smithfield.

AK brought up that parking in or near the City campus is a big problem.

MDT what can we arrange for the City Campus

AK found that students show up to one event are likely to come to other events, GS can attest to this in Cairns

AE New council will decide O'Weeks event activities, they will be set in December

EG pointed out that Touring Cairns is mainly utilized by International students so need a way to encourage the locals to go.

7.3 WHS Report 20210802 to 20210914 Incident & Hazard Summary Report

2 minor incidents this month.

7.4 Discussion regarding International Officer Vacancy

International Officer Cheri Lei resigned from Council effective Friday 17th September 2021, due to leave of absence.

EM thanked Cheri for the great contribution to the Council during the year.

Given the time at which Cherie has resigned the Council agreed not to open the position for the remainder of this Council as nominations are now open for the 52nd Council Elections and there would be insufficient time to call for a Casual election to take place. EM will attend any of the International event on campus and will monitor the International email for any enquiries or issues.

MDT passed on information regarding Cairns Activation Strategy that we are undertaking. GS has been invited to be involved in the working group for the Cairns Campus. The next meeting will be on the 6th October. Keen to have students and not just staff representation at this meeting. The aim of the Activation strategy is about bringing together student density across a number of days and times at the Cairns campus and bringing classes back to campus at the same time as there has been a higher withdrawal of classes on the Cairns Campus and they are of different study periods at different times so it looks like there is not a lot of student body around the campus. Courses and times are more spread out.

I have activated this through the timetabled programs of study and are currently underway with draft timetabling for 2022 for teaching period 1 Jan- June across all those study periods for Cairns. By activating this through and putting some business rules into the timetable we are actually trying to condense the teaching across all of those study periods and courses to have overlap days so that we have lots of courses on campus on those particular days. Hoping at this stage most of the timetabling activity where there is likely to be some overlap is Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday based on traditional entries, as we know hardly anyone is on campus on Friday's, and Monday's is a little bit less because it is usually influenced by public holidays. At the same time I have worked with Deans relative to where we have had withdrawals away from activities on campus and so within the business imperatives that are to be adopted is a statement that says all internal offerings in Cairns are to conduct a weekly learning activity on campus, which could be a workshop or a tutorial, but internal attendance modes may include some online learning so it is not to say that an internal attendance mode doesn't include some online learning, for example, some of our subjects currently running with an internal attendance mode you will have pre-recorded content that is to be accessed before you come to the campus, that happens in Nursing, Business and happens in other places at the moment, so even though it is an internal attendance mode offering you will still have a percentage of some blended online activities but what we are actually asking for is that where people come to campus for minimum of one activity per week around tutorials, workshops etc., and we have to think of the condensation of it because in Cairns in particular with the travel to the campus we don't want them to be spread across all days so you are not coming 2hrs here 2 hrs. there that is why they need to be quite condensed so that then people will come to campus and stay at campus.

The new Pharmacy timetable have organised it around year levels as year levels are coordinated on a or 2 days and that is because that their course is structured on a blended model which also involves the teaching from pharmacy professionals so that there says to the pharmacy professional they don't have to free up one day of their practice to come in and be part of the teaching, so trying to organise some things that fit with industry, students, density on campus trying to get all those things to come together and realistically try to bring a hub of student activity to campus by centralizing some of the work and feed that through the timetabling to put some rules in there to bring it as overlap days and we will have more students on campus.



I have agreement from Deans around learning activities to be scheduled on campus. Also have agreement for not only the condensation, but we are going to be freeing the Cairns timetable up for an hour, it could be on a Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday, probably 12pm – 1pm, for set coordinated activities to run. That is across all courses at this stage.

The meetings will be where when other departments or groups have other activities they can coordinate with each other. A list will need to be put forward with coordinated events for about an 18 week timeframe from the front end of the year to the end of June, it will then be compiled and coordinated on an existing webpage, on a certain calendar and it will be an overflows of staff and activities run by different groups and agencies, but it needs to be on a day that we know we will have student density.

Also moving Cairns activities down towards Founders Lawn, drawing it away from the library lawn to the center of campus And making the events more central as feedback has been that the Cairns Campus is to spread out.

8. Question Time

Members of the Student Association may direct questions in writing to officers of the Student Association through the Secretary. Questions may be put on notice.

Meeting closed @ 2.11pm

Theresa Priddle
Secretary to JCUSA Council

