

**MINUTES OF THE AUSA AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2017 AT 1PM IN THE STUDENT UNION QUAD**

1. PRESENT:

PRESIDENT (CHAIR), EVP, WVP, TREASURER, MSO, EAO, GRAFTON REP, ISO, PEO, PISO, SF CHAIR, TAMAKI REP, WRO, AND 200+ MEMBERS.

2. APOLOGIES:

CSO, CAO, MO, QRO

3. ABSENT:

4. MEETING OPENED:

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

CHAIR

G 1/17 THAT the Minutes of the Autumn General Meeting held on 23 March 2016 be received and adopted as a true and accurate record.

Carried U

6. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

CHAIR

G 2/17 THAT the AUSA audited accounts as at 31 December 2015 be received and adopted.

Carried U

7. DECLARATION OF ELECTION OF THE 2017 OFFICERS, PORTFOLIO HOLDERS & CRACCUM EDITOR

CHAIR

G 3/17 THAT the results for the 2017 Officers, Portfolio holders and Craccum Editor be adopted.

President	Will Matthews
Administrative Vice-President	Sebastian Hartley
Education Vice-President	Jessica Palairt
Welfare Vice-President	Sarah Butterfield
Treasurer	Daniel Bradley
Clubs & Societies Rep	Fiona Wu
Cultural and Arts Officer	Caitlin Watters
Environmental Affairs Officer	Paht Satjipanon
Grafton Representative	Conor O'Hanlon
International Students Officer	Yi Xin Heng
Media Officer	Alana Misselbrook
Political Engagement Officer	Anna Cusack
Queer Rights Officer	Isabella Francis
Student Forum Chair	Penelope Jones
Tamaki Representative	Alishba Ali
Womens' Rights Officer	Noelle Dumo & Melissa Castelino
Craccum Editor	Samantha Gianotti & Catriona Britton

Carried U

8. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Penelope Jones (SF Chair) spoke in favour of this motion.

CHAIR

G 4/17 THAT the following changes be made to the Constitution:

Re-Designation of Student Forum Chairperson as Student Engagement Officer

THAT Rule 27(iv)(g) be amended to read:

“Student Engagement Officer”, who, for the avoidance of doubt, will be the same person who was known as the “Student Forum Chairperson” immediately before the coming into effect of this Rule, and who will continue in office as if they had initially been elected as Student Engagement Officer in accordance with these Rules;

AND THAT Rule 43(vii) be amended to read:

“The Student Engagement Officer is responsible for the conducting of online referenda, identifying the issues and needs of the student body and ensuring these concerns are reflected in Executive decision-making, and holding regular events on campus designed to both promote the Association’s activities and provide entertainment for students.”

Repeal of Existing Obsolete Referenda Provisions

AND THAT Rule 23 be repealed;

Adoption of New Referendum Procedure to Govern Online Referenda

AND THAT the heading “Referenda” be inserted between Rules 22 and 23:

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23:

Decisions of Association Acting by Referendum Bind Association

The Association Acting by Referendum is, second to the Association in General Meeting, the second highest decision-making authority of the Association, and may exercise by motion to that effect all of the Powers of the Association so far as its doing so is consistent with these Rules and is not inconsistent with a decision of the Association in General Meeting, and will bind the Association to that extent, provided that:

- a) any referendum involving finance, administrative, human resources, or governance matters will be indicative only and not binding on the Association, except where the referendum contains a proposed amendment of these Rules; and
- b) any referendum at which fewer than three percent of the total number of members cast valid votes will also be indicative only and not binding on the Association.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23A:

Submission Periods for Referenda

The following periods will be “submission periods” for the purposes of these Rules:

- a) the Monday of the first week of Semester One until the Friday of the third week of Semester One;
- b) the Monday of the seventh week of Semester One until the Friday of the ninth week of Semester One;
- c) the Monday of the first week of Semester Two until the Friday of the third week of Semester Two; and
- d) the Monday of the seventh week of Semester Two until the Friday of the ninth week of Semester Two.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23B:

Windows for Referenda

The following periods will be “windows for referenda” for the purposes of these Rules:

- a) the Monday of the fifth week of Semester One until the Friday of the sixth week of Semester One;
- b) the Monday of the tenth week of Semester One until the Friday of the twelfth week of Semester One;
- c) the Monday of the fifth week of Semester Two until the Friday of the sixth week of Semester Two; and
- d) the Monday of the tenth week of Semester Two until the Friday of the twelfth week of Semester Two.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23C:

Members May Submit Questions to Put to Association in Referendum

During any submissions period, any member may submit a question to the Student Engagement Officer to be put to the members of the Association by way of referendum, and if any questions have been received by the end of a submissions period, the Student Engagement Officer must, within three days of the close of the submissions period, consider the questions that have been received and must call for a referendum to occur during the next window for referenda to consider any questions that are not:

- i. frivolous;
- ii. contrary to the Constitution;
- iii. unfair in their effect on individual persons, with a referendum constituting a vote of no confidence in a member of the Executive not unfair for the purposes of this Rule;
- iv. biased or leading; or
- v. substantially similar to another question that has been received, if the Student Engagement Officer has already decided to call a referendum on that question.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23D:

Student Engagement Officer to Conduct Referenda

If the Student Engagement Officer calls for a referendum to take place, the Student Engagement Officer becomes charged with conducting the referendum in an open, transparent, and integral manner in accordance with these Rules and any policy the Executive in its exclusive jurisdiction adopts governing the conduct of referenda, and must:

- a) within three days, give all members notice of the referendum, the wording of the questions to be put to the membership, the voting period, and the means of voting;
- b) designate a period of no less than three and no more than five days in the next occurring window for referenda that will comprise the voting period, all of which days must be days on which lectures are scheduled for all faculties;
- c) remain strictly impartial in relation to the referendum and act as Returning Officer in the referendum, with any referendum in which the Student Engagement Officer is found to have become partial by a motion to that effect carried by a majority of at least three quarters by the Executive to be null and void;
- d) encourage *Craccum* to engage in coverage of the referendum and the issues to be considered at the referendum, and must take all reasonable steps to publicise the

occurrence of the referendum, the question to be put to the membership, the voting period, and the means of voting through media controlled by the Association in a fair and impartial manner;

- e) following the conclusion of the election, in their capacity as Returning Officer, promptly announce the results of the referendum to all members and direct any person or body to give effect to the result of the referendum, if the referendum is binding on the Association.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule23E:

Student Engagement Officer May Call Student Forums to Discuss Referenda Issues

If the Student Engagement Officer calls for a referendum to take place, the Student Engagement Officer, if they consider that it will aid in increasing student engagement with the referendum:

- a) may call a meeting, to be known as a 'Student Forum', at which meeting the Student Engagement Officer will Chair, to facilitate the discussion of referendum issues, which is to take place between the calling of the referendum and the beginning of the voting period;
- b) must, at any Student Forum held, ensure that the meeting is filmed or recorded, notify those present at the forum that it is being filmed and will be distributed online, and then distribute the film or recording of the meeting to allow members unable to attend to access that recording;
- c) must, at any Student Forum held, give all members present who wish to speak the opportunity to do so to the extent necessary to allow for fair discussion and debate of the questions at issue in the referendum, and may rule out of order any person being rude or abusive;
- d) must ensure that students not physically present at any Student Forum forum can participate by means of social media by asking speakers at the forum any useful and pertinent questions the Student Engagement Officer receives by means of social media related to the issues being discussed at the Student Forum;

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23F:

Question to be Answered in the Negative if Voting in Referendum Tied

Where the valid votes cast in a referendum are tied, the question put to the membership will be answered in the negative.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23G:

Association to Remain Impartial and Must Not be Represented as Partial in Conduct of Referenda

The Association must remain impartial in relation to referenda, and no person or body may seek to represent the views of the Association in campaigning in relation to referenda.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 23H:

Executive to Adopt Policy Governing the Conduct of Referenda

The Executive must adopt policy governing the conduct of referenda before the beginning of the next submissions period that occurs after this Rule comes into effect in order to, in addition to any other matter the Executive considers fit:

- a) establish the means by which voting is to be conducted, ensuring that whatever method is adopted offers all members a reasonable chance to participate and vote and;

- b) provide for a reasonable appeals procedure against decisions made by any person under these Rules or under any policy made by the Executive under these Rules that may affect the outcome of any referendum;
- c) regulate the conduct of campaigns by members in relation to referenda and provide for a complaints procedure to allow for alleged breaches of campaign regulations to be brought to the attention of the Student Engagement Officer in their capacity as Returning Officer and to allow them to:
 - i. investigate complaints; and
 - ii. impose penalties on members, but only of a financial nature, for proven breaches of campaign regulations.

Abolition of Student Forum

AND THAT Rule 2 be amended by deleting the definition of “Student Forum”;

AND THAT Rules 15(vii)-(viii) be repealed;

AND THAT Rule 20(i) be amended by deleting “or Student Forum”;

AND THAT Rule 27(i) be amended by deleting “the Student Forum or”;

AND THAT Rule 27(i) be amended by deleting “Student Forum and”;

AND THAT Rule 45(i) be amended by deleting “or three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Student Forum” and “or the Student Forum respectively” and “An Executive member shall be deemed to have been duly summoned to an Student Forum meeting if notice is given to him/her as provided in Rule 61(iii) at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time set for the meeting.”;

AND THAT Rule 46(i) be amended by deleting “or by the Student Forum”;

AND THAT Rule 46(b) be deleted;

AND THAT Rules 47-52 be repealed;

AND THAT Rule 65(iv) be amended by deleting “of Student Forum meetings”;

AND THAT Clause 1 of the First Schedule be amended by deleting “of the Student Forum”;

New Affiliation Procedure

AND THAT Rules 52-61 be repealed;

AND THAT the heading “Affiliated Bodies” be inserted after Rule 52;

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 53:

Association Will Not Support Student Bodies and Groups that Are Not Affiliated

No body or group of students may receive a grant from Association funds, and the Association will not support the granting of any funds intended for the improvement of students’ experiences and the furthering of students’ interests, unless that body or group is or becomes affiliated to the Association in accordance with these Rules.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 54:

Faculty Associations to be Affiliated Bodies

Faculty Associations, which AUSA recognises as catering to the needs of their student members within the context of their faculties and departments in the same manner that

AUSA caters to its student members within the category, are deemed to be affiliated for the purposes of these Rules.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 55:

Eligibility for Affiliation

In order to become affiliated, a body or group must have and maintain a policy of allowing all University of Auckland students to apply for membership, at-least 70% of its members must be students of the University of Auckland, and at-least two thirds of its executive members or other officeholders must be current students of the University of Auckland.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 56:

Process for Applying for Affiliation

Any body or group meeting the requirements for affiliation may apply to become affiliated by giving written notice of their desire to affiliate to the Clubs & Societies Officer, which notice must state the name of the body or group, the names and offices of its officeholders, briefly describe the purpose, history, and activities of the club or body, and certify that the body or group fulfils the requirements for affiliation.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 57:

Requirements for Consulting Membership

Having received an application to affiliate, the Clubs & Societies Officer will consult all members of the Association as to their views as to whether that body or group should be allowed to affiliated with AUSA by whatever means the Student Engagement Officer considers most likely to encourage student engagement with the matter and to be fair, transparent, democratic, and accountable, with strong consideration to be given to holding an indicative ballot polling all members for their opinion on affiliation.

AND THAT the following be inserted as Rule 58:

Executive to Approve or Decline Affiliation

Once the Clubs & Societies Officer considers that the membership has been adequately consulted, within fourteen days of receiving an application for affiliation, they must bring a motion at a meeting of the Executive to approve the application for affiliation. In the absence of any objections raised by the membership, the Executive must approve affiliation or, where objections have been raised, consider the substance of those objections and then decide whether allowing affiliation will advance the objects of the Association and promote the improvement of students' experiences.

(and then the Constitution re-numbered accordingly due to Rules 47-61 being repealed)

New Appointment Procedure for Media Complaints Tribunal

AND THAT Clause 1(iv) of the Eight Schedule be amended to read "Two persons appointed by the Executive by whatever means the Executive elects, with preference to be given by means of an election conducted by whatever means is most expedient, which must never been members of the Executive at the time of their appointment and who will be deemed to have relinquished their office if they become a member of the Executive."

Carried U

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

10. MEETING CLOSED:

Signed as a true and correct record

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Will Matthews, President, CHAIR