
MINUTES OF THE AUSA EXECUTIVE MEETING ON THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 2019



AUSA Meeting Room | 5pm - 6:30pm

Present: President, Treasurer, EVP, ISO, WRO, WVP, EnVP

Apologies: CO, CCO, SCR, MSO, PISO

In attendance: James Ranstead, President of NZUSA

1 Preliminary Matters

1.1 Leave

CHAIR

E 113/19 THAT the CO be granted leave from this meeting as he has RA duty.

Carried U

CHAIR

E 114/19 THAT the CCO be granted leave from this meeting as she has nannying.

Carried U

CHAIR

E 115/19 THAT the SCR be granted leave from this meeting as he has a clinical class at this time.

Carried U

CHAIR

E 116/19 THAT the MSOs be granted leave from this meeting as they are attending to NTM matters.

Carried U

CHAIR

E 117/19 THAT the PISO be granted leave from this meeting as she is unwell.

Carried U

1.2 Declaration of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were noted.

1.3 Minutes of the previous Executive Meeting

CHAIR

E 118/19 THAT the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 31 July 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Carried U

2 NZUSA Policy Manifesto

The Chair welcomed the President of NZUSA, James Ranstead. Mr Ranstead presented NZUSA's plans for a Policy Manifesto for 2020, explaining that this would be a document setting out the political positions of NZUSA on behalf of students. Mr Ranstead explained that the Policy Manifesto would touch on areas of interest to students - specifically Tertiary Education Policy and issues relating to the accessibility and quality of education.

The AUSA Executive's feedback generally related to the following themes:

- Given NZUSA's lack of expertise and resources, it would be best if NZUSA addressed any Policy Manifesto with broad statements and aims as opposed to articulating actual public policy - this way, NZUSA could try realise its aims via multiple political avenues (ie, instead of saying, NZUSA supports Fees Free, NZUSA could say "students support affordable and accessible study, whether this is from Fees Free or from a higher threshold for Student Loan repayments").
- NZUSA should focus on capping maximum fees for domestic and international students.
- With the exception of Climate Justice and serious action on Climate Change, NZUSA should be careful not to step out of its mandate - NZUSA does not have the mandate, on behalf of students, to necessarily comment on issues such as the NZ taxation system or housing - despite how connected they are to students at present.
- NZUSA should comment on and encourage political parties to find an alternative to the "bums on seats" model of tertiary funding in New Zealand whereby Universities are competing against each other for market share of the tertiary student population by offering more and more of the same programmes that other institutions offer. The result, especially for Universities like the University of Auckland, is that new programmes to attract students were being launched in great numbers but the overall quality of its more traditional programmes was lowering. The AUSA Executive strongly urged NZUSA to consider a model in which Universities could feel more secure in the funding/income they would need to survive on their core and traditional academic offerings, as opposed to expanding to compete with other institutions for market share.

3 Reporting

Verbal Reports were given. Written Reports will be expected of all members at the Executive Meeting on 21 August 2019.

Signed as a TRUE and ACCURATE RECORD

George Barton
CHAIR, Acting President