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# MINUTES OF THE AUSA SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 2020



Via Zoom <https://auckland.zoom.us/j/97156642025> | 1:02pm

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**Present:** Acting President, WVP, EnVP, QRO, MSO, PISO, Association Secretary and 131 Members of the Association.

## 1 Preliminary Matters

### 1.1 *Welcome*

Emma Rogers, Acting President of AUSA, welcomed everyone to the Special General Meeting and thanked them for attending.

### 1.2 *Acceptance of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 12 April 2019.*

**NB:** Members can view the minutes for the Special General Meeting of 2019 here:

<http://www.ausa.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Special-General-Meeting-Minutes-12-April-2019.pdf>

#### **CHAIR**

THAT the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on be accepted as a true and accurate record.  
*Carried Unanimously*

## 2 Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2019

The Chair invited George Barton, Acting President of AUSA in 2019, to speak to the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2019. In summary, George highlighted key wins in Student Voice with the implementation of a University Code of Conduct, mandatory bullying, harassment and discrimination training for Staff and Student Leaders and the adoption of a Student Charter. George also highlighted AUSA's financial performance, noting the turnaround from AUSA's Financial Position in 2018 with a loss of roughly \$160K to a \$70K surplus.

#### **CHAIR**

THAT the Annual Report and Audited Accounts as at 31 December 2019 be received and adopted.  
*Carried Unanimously*

**NB:** Members can view the Association's Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2019 here:

<http://www.ausa.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Annual-Report-2019.pdf>

**CHAIR**

**THAT** William Buck be appointed as Auditors of the Auckland University Students' Association until such time as the Executive recommends new Auditors to the membership.

*Carried Unanimously*

### **3 Proposed Changes to the AUSA Constitution**

The Chair opened discussion on the proposed Constitutional Changes by inviting George Barton to speak to the proposed changes.

NB: Constitutional Changes can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y3OsjzFzH6D2hDOYbkkjPMCcco6OuHIH/view?fbclid=IwAR2TZYtxQwESI\\_dIGT7ky3pWzSsU96fhUY8130k2UdahO-Oe03yc7m\\_-x04](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y3OsjzFzH6D2hDOYbkkjPMCcco6OuHIH/view?fbclid=IwAR2TZYtxQwESI_dIGT7ky3pWzSsU96fhUY8130k2UdahO-Oe03yc7m_-x04)

NB: The Solicitor Notice verifying that these changes keep AUSA as an Incorporated Society and Charity can be found here:

[AUSA - Solicitor Review & Confirmation re New Constitution, 7 August 2020 - 33915744 v 1 \(2\).pdf](#)

The Chair then put forward the following motions to the membership and invited debate and discussion. NB: Constitutional Changes require a 75% supermajority to be adopted.

#### **3.1 *Constitutional Amendments relating to the removal of rules relating to Strategic and Annual Plans, Referenda, Appointment of Executive Roles with less than Six Months till the End of the Term, Elections and Revisions to the Executive, Advisory Board and Craccum Administration Board Rules.***

George Barton spoke to these changes, noting that the benefit of hindsight had shown the Executive that many of the provisions in the Constitution were too specific and rigid and were attempting to operationalise best practice. George noted that Members had the ability to refer to a summary of the rule changes in the AUSA Facebook Event and highlighted the most significant changes.

**CHAIR**

**THAT** all proposed changes to the Constitution notified to members on 7 August 2020 (Proposed Changes notified 7 August 2020), with the exception of those changes relating to the deletion or creation of roles on the AUSA Executive be adopted.

*Carried Unanimously*

#### **3.2 *Constitutional Amendments relating to the removal of the Satellites Officer on the AUSA Executive***

Members asked questions about whether the removal of the Satellites Officer would limit AUSA's ability to represent students in Satellite Campuses. The Executive responded that they believed representation was better achieved by having the Presidents of the various Faculty and School Associations based at the University's other campuses on the AUSA Student Council, which ensured a breath of representation as opposed to one person representing over three campuses, with different faculties. Members of the Student Council from Faculty Associations also spoke in favour of the constitutional amendment to remove the role, saying that they had enjoyed the highest engagement this year without the role, on the basis of their involvement on the Student Council.

**CHAIR**

**THAT** the proposed change to the Constitution (as notified to members on 7 August 2020) to delete the role of Satellites Officer be adopted.

*Carried*

In Favour - 105

Against - 6

**3.3 *Constitutional Amendment relating to the removal of the Design Officer on the AUSA Executive***

**CHAIR**

**THAT** the proposed change to the Constitution (as notified to members on 7 August 2020) to delete the role of Design Officer be adopted.

*Carried*

In Favour - 102

Against - 8

**3.4 *Constitutional Amendment relating to the removal of the Campaigns Officer on the AUSA Executive***

Members had a lengthy discussion about the Campaigns Officer role. Speaking against the constitutional amendment, some members argued that it was necessary to retain the role to advance AUSA's student engagement and to promote an awareness of AUSA by students, particularly first year students. Speaking in favour, members of the Executive argued that this could be achieved by the Engagement Vice-President portfolio and AUSA's existing other Executive roles, in addition to AUSA staff and students.

**CHAIR**

**THAT** the proposed change to the Constitution (as notified to members on 7 August 2020) to delete the role of Campaigns Officer be adopted.

*Defeated*

In Favour - 69

Against - 44

**3.5 *Constitutional Amendment to establish the role of Postgraduate Student Officer on the AUSA Executive***

Members spoke strongly in favour of the creation of the role, many from the Postgraduate Students' Association at the University of Auckland noting that this had been a work in progress for many years.

**CHAIR**

**THAT** the proposed change to the Constitution (as notified to members on 7 August 2020) to create the role of Postgraduate Student Officer be adopted.

*Carried*

In Favour - 103

No - 1

**4 General Business**

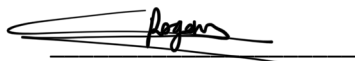
No General Business was raised.

**5 Closing**

The Acting President closed by thanking everyone for attending.

**Meeting closed at 2:03pm**

**Signed as a TRUE and ACCURATE RECORD:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma Rogers", is written over a horizontal line.

**Emma Rogers, Acting President**