



## EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

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| HELD           | VUWSA Meeting Room, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2014, 6pm |
| MEETING NUMBER | 14   |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| PRESENT                | Sonya Clark, Declan Doherty-Ramsay, Rāwinia Thompson, Rick Zwaan, Stephanie Gregor Jordan Lipski, Madeleine Ashton-Martyn, Alasdair Keating |
| APOLOGIES              | Toby Cooper   |
| ABSENT                 | Caroline Thirsk   |
| IN ATTENDANCE          | Sophie Boot ( <i>Salient</i> )  |
| MINUTES<br>RECORDED BY | Jordan Lipski   |

### MEETING OPENED AT 6.09PM

#### *Procedural Items*

##### **A. NOTIFICATIONS OF UN-NOTIFIED GENERAL BUSINESS**

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| DISCUSSION | Madeleine will table a written report on the "That's What She Said" conference she attended. |
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##### **B. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE MEETING**

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| DISCUSSION | None.   |
| RESOLUTION | THAT the minutes of the thirteenth Executive Meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record.<br><br>Sonya Clark/Declan Doherty-Ramsay<br>CARRIED<br>114/14 |

#### *Reports*

##### **A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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| DISCUSSION | Sonya spoke to a written report. |
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### **Student Media**

Sonya first discussed student media matters. She has met with the trustees of the Victoria Broadcasting Trust (VBT), and finally wound up the trust. The next step is to follow up the VBT's IRD liabilities. Sonya is pleased to have concluded the VBT windup, which has been an ongoing issue for some time.

The Victoria Broadcasting Club (VBC) has been working with Ngai Tauira and the Pasifika Students' Council to set up Maori- and Pasifika-oriented shows. Sonya also noted that the VBC is looking at consolidating with Salient. Lastly, VBC is looking into obtaining new computers.

Salient will be attending the Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA) awards in Auckland and will seek transport funding from VUWSA. Sonya also noted that Salient will exceed the printing line of its budget this year.

### **Staffing**

Sonya has been working on the General Manager job description with Kate McRoberts from Carte Blanche. The job will be advertised for four weeks, and an appointment panel will be convened.

Two positions have already been advertised: an executive assistant position and an events coordinator position.

Recruitment for a 2015 Salient editor is underway, and will likely be finalized by the end of the following week.

### **Ngai Tauira**

As reported at the last meeting, Sonya attended the Te Huinga Tauira Maori Students' Conference. This has helped build VUWSA's relationship with Ngai Tauira (NT), and plans are being made to create a new memorandum of understanding between VUWSA and NT. NT has asked that their O-week events be advertised alongside VUWSA's.

### **Survey**

Sonya requested feedback from the Executive on the draft survey to be sent to students. She emphasized that the main point of the survey is to obtain a clear mandate and pointers.

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|  | <p><b>Fee setting</b></p> <p>This took place the previous week. The meeting was productive, and the University Council is interested in having a workshop on quality. Sonya noted that the University has slipped significantly in QS world rankings.</p> <p><b>Car park changes</b></p> <p>Sonya has had a meeting with the University about car park changes, and conveyed the Executive's concerns. Work on this is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Reclaim Vic</b></p> <p>Reclaim Vic protested at the fee setting meeting. They have asked VUWSA to endorse their planned march concerning free education and some other issues.</p> <p>The Executive discussed whether to endorse the march, and came to a consensus that VUWSA should endorse it, but that VUWSA should be clear on its message and avoid association with broader issues that may be raised at the march.</p> |
| <b>RESOLUTION</b>  | THAT the Executive accept the President's Report.<br><br>Jordan Lipski/Rick Zwaan<br>CARRIED<br>115/14   |
| <b>ACTOIN POINT</b>  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>  |
| Send to the Executive links to the executive assistant and events coordinator job advertisements | Sonya Clark  |

#### ***Procedural Items***

##### **C. APOLOGIES**

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b> | The Executive noted the un-explained absence of Caroline Thirsk.                                  |
| <b>RESOLUTION</b> | THAT the apologies of Toby Cooper be accepted.<br><br>Sonya Clark/Rick Zwaan<br>CARRIED<br>116/14 |

## **General Business**

### **A. NEW ZEALAND UNION OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS**

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b> | <p>Sonya spoke to a written memorandum outlining her support for VUWSA's withdrawal from the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA).</p> <p>The key reasons highlighted are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NZUSA has not been performing well for a number of years, and the problems are systemic rather than related to a particular president</li><li>• In 2013 VUWSA members voted for VUWSA to remain a member of NZUSA on the condition that reforms are made; such reforms have not been made, and are unlikely to be made</li><li>• The \$45,000 membership fees can be better spent by VUWSA elsewhere</li><li>• New Zealand's national student voice will not be lost by VUWSA's withdrawal, because there has not been a significant national voice, and what is there will remain</li><li>• The NZUSA constitution requires a one year notice period, so in any event the 2015 VUWSA Executive will be able to withdraw the notice of withdrawal should it decide to remain in NZUSA</li><li>• VUWSA would be able to continue contributing to specific NZUSA campaigns or events</li></ul> <p>The Executive extensively discussed whether VUWSA should give notice of withdrawal from NZUSA, and came to the conclusion that it should. Rāwinia supports withdrawal only on the basis that national student issues remain a priority.</p> <p>While one year's notice must be given, with the result that VUWSA would still need to pay for NZUSA membership in 2015, Rick noted that that is a requirement under the NZUSA constitution, and may not be legally enforceable.</p> |
| <b>RESOLUTION</b> | THAT VUWSA withdraw its membership from the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations and that notice of withdrawal be given immediately.   |

### **B. CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTION UPDATE**

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b> | Alasdair spoke to a written report. He said that the goals of |
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|                   | <p>VUWSA's elections work were to increase student engagement with the election and raise student issues.</p> <p>The campaign has been successful, with around 1000 at two events, and 3710 advance votes cast on campus, around twice as many as expected.</p> <p>Alasdair said that there is room for improvement on support for events, but on the whole the Executive should be proud of what it has done. He invited any feedback by email.</p> <p>Rick thanked Alasdair and Declan for all their work on elections. Sonya added her appreciation. Declan thanked Alasdair for his work.</p> <p>Declan said that the website was particularly good, and is something that can be built on in the future.</p> |
| <b>RESOLUTION</b> | <p>THAT VUWSA thank all involved for their work on elections, especially Alasdair Keating and Declan Doherty-Ramsay.</p> <p>Sonya Clark/Rick Zwaan<br/>CARRIED<br/>118/14</p>   |

### C. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

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|                   | <p>Declan spoke to a written memorandum. He highlighted that one seat on the VUWSA Publications Committee for 2015 was not filled at the VUWSA election, due to an insufficient number of candidates.</p> <p>The role must be filled either by a by-election or a special general meeting (SGM). He recommended that VUWSA hold an SGM immediately following its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 1 October. The Executive agreed.</p> <p>Declan and Sonya also briefly discussed the AGM. Sonya noted that a quorum of 100 VUWSA members is necessary.</p> <p>Madeleine noted that Chrissy Brown, president of the Victoria University Women's Group, will introduce a motion at the AGM to make VUWSA pro-choice.</p> |
| <b>RESOLUTION</b> | <p>THAT the Executive call a special general meeting for the purpose of electing a student to the Publications Committee to be held immediately following the Annual General Meeting on 1 October at 1pm.</p>  |

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|  | Declan Doherty-Ramsay/Madeleine Ashton-Martyn<br>CARRIED<br>119/14 |
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#### D. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b>                                | Alasdair spoke to a written report recommending a change to the VUWSA Constitution in respect of membership.   |
|  | The Executive discussed the proposed amendment, already approved in principle, but it was decided that Alasdair and Rick should do more work on the wording. |
|  | Sonya thanked Alasdair for his work on this matter.  |
| <b>ACTION POINT</b>                              | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>  |
| Finalise wording of the constitutional amendment | Alasdair Keating, Rick Zwaan   |

#### E. STRESS FREE STUDY WEEK

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b> | Rick said that Stress Free Study Week will take place in three weeks' time.<br><br>VUWSA has had discussions with Krishna Foods about providing food for the event. Costs will be slightly higher than in previous years, but the quality of the food will be significantly improved.<br><br>The Executive agreed to increase the budget for the event.<br><br>Rick noted that Madeleine will take charge of Stress Free Study Week this trimester.<br><br>Madeleine noted that she has been investigating the purchase of a used van. She will bring a recommendation to the Executive. |
|                   | THAT VUWSA increase the Stress Free Study Week budget by \$2,500 to be split between food stock and other costs as appropriate.  |
|                   | Rick Zwaan/Madeleine Ashton-Martyn<br>CARRIED<br>120/14  |
|                   | <b>ACTOIN POINT</b>  |
|                   | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>  |
|                   | Provide a recommendation to the Executive on the purchase of a van   |
|                   | Madeleine Ashton-Martyn  |

**Committee**

**A. MOVEMENT INTO COMMITTEE**

|                   |       |
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| <b>RESOLUTION</b> | None. |
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***Other Urgent Business***

**F. “THAT’S WHAT SHE SAID” CONFERENCE**

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| <b>RESOLUTION</b> | THAT the Executive receive the written report by Madeleine Ashton-Martyn on the “That’s What She Said” conference she attended.<br><br>Rick Zwaan/Sonya Clark<br>CARRIED<br>121 |
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**MEETING CLOSED AT 7.57PM.**

These minutes were approved by the VUWSA Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

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President

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Secretary