

VUWSA Initial General Meeting (IGM) Minutes:

Date: 22nd March 2006, 12.40 pm.

Location: VUW Quad

Present executive members: Nick Kelly, Miri Duffield, Maddy Drew, Joel Cosgrove, Caroline Prendergast, Delia Timms, CJ Hunt.

Apologies: Kate McEachen, Mary Jane Waru, Hu Jia and Caroline Prendergast (late).

Note: No apologies were received from Melissa Barnard

Quorum Count: A Quorum count was taken - 110 members were present

1. Notification of items of general business

a) Caroline Prendergast's motions on feminism

2. Minutes of the 2005 IGM

Motion: That the IGM minutes of the 16/03/06 be accepted as a true and accurate record as amended.

Moved: Nick Kelly (from the chair)

1 abstention

Carried

3. Constitutional amendments

a) **Change to VUWSA general exec - *proposed by Nick Kelly***

Motion: That clause 20 of the constitution is changed. The changed version will read as follows 'An applicant may stand for the positions of President, Vice President (Education), Vice President (Welfare), Treasurer, Women's Rights Officer, Queer Officer, International Students Officer, Environmental Officer, Campaigns Officer, Activities Officer, Clubs Officer, Education Officer A and Education Officer B but can only hold one of those positions' and clause 21 be changed to read 'If after applications close there is only one candidate for the position of President, Vice President (Education), Vice President (Welfare), Treasurer, Women's Rights Officer, Queer Officer, International Students Officer, Environmental Officer, Campaigns Officer, Activities Officer, Clubs Officer, Education Officer A and Education Officer B the applicant(s) shall not be deemed to be elected but shall stand in the election who may be elected or defeated in the manner hereinafter provided'.

Moved: Nick Kelly (from the chair)

Seconded: Gareth Robinson

13 for, 53 against, 2 abstentions, carried.

b) Time limit on being VUWSA President - *Proposed Nicholas O’Kane*

Motion: That Part III Section 1 clause 4 which states ‘No person may hold the position of President for more than a total of twenty four (24) months’ be deleted from the VUWSA constitution. This motion is to take effect provided it is passed by a two thirds majority at the VUWSA initial general meeting immediately once registered.

Moved: Nicholas O’Kane

Seconded: Chris Bishop

6 for, 70 against, 3 abstentions, Failed.

c) Conflicts of interest

Motion: Part X Section 6 of the VUWSA constitution relating to conflicts of interest is amended. The amended part X Section 6 will say the following: ‘Candidates for the VUWSA executive and other student representative positions should declare any conflicts of interest. In particular candidates should inform Salient of any personal, financial or other interests that could create a conflict for the candidate if they are elected to the VUWSA executive or other student representative positions. Candidates should declare affiliations to political organisations. Candidates should declare circumstances they believe could result in a conflict of interest’.

Moved: Nick Kelly

Seconded: Jeremy Greenbrook

90 for, 4 against, 3 abstentions, Carried.

d) Changes to Rep Group charter - *Proposed Nicholas O’Kane*

The VUWSA Constitution be amended in the ways outlined below

That schedule 9 of the VUWSA constitution relating to representative groups is amended. The amended version would say “A Representative Organisation shall be recognised either by:

- (a) A General Meeting passing a resolution by a sixty percent majority to that effect in which case it shall continue to be recognised until a resolution is passed that it no longer be recognised; organisations so recognised by a General Meeting shall be listed at the end of this schedule, and such resolution shall be deemed to be an amendment to the Constitution; or
- (b) The Executive passing a resolution which shall have force for one calendar year from the date the resolution is passed.

In order to be recognised a Representative Organisation shall:

- (a) Have a clearly defined constituency consisting of at least 500 students of the Victoria University of Wellington including a provision for students who do not feel represented by the representative organization or have a conscientious objection to membership who would otherwise be

- members of the association to leave the organization (except where special permission is given by the executive involving a vote of approval by over 60% of all executive members or 60% majority vote in a general meeting) ;
- (b) Accept some devolved representative function otherwise performed by the Association;
 - (c) Have policies and undertake activities that are consistent with the goals of the Association; and
 - (d) Have a democratic structure including annual elections for all positions of authority within the representative organization where each member has one vote and all votes are equal.
 - (e) Be an incorporated society with a clear and transparent decision making process especially regarding financial matters and provide to the Executive of the association with copies of minutes for all official meetings where official decisions are made and budget documents.
 - (f) Have a written constitution that shall be a public document.

The Representative Organisation may apply to the Executive for funding from a fund known as the Student Representative Council Fund. Such application shall normally be made during the third trimester and shall be for the following year's activities.

The Executive shall grant funds according to the following criteria:

- (a) The number of students whose interests are represented by the Representative Organisation;
- (b) The extent of the representative functions that the Representative Organisation has had devolved to it;
- (c) The type and number of activities to be undertaken; and
- (d) The number of Association goals furthered by the Representative Organisation. The association is not to give a percentage of the budget of the association to a rep group (or Ngai Tauria) that is substantially higher than the percentage of students who are members of that rep group (regarding Ngai Tauria when determining the percentage of the VUWSA budget to be given to Ngai Tauria the funds Ngai Tauria gives to NZUSA and Salient under any memorandum of understanding between Ngai Tauria and the association are to be deducted) without the permission of a sixty percent majority vote of approval at a general meeting of the student body.

The Representative Organisation shall appoint one person from its membership who shall have the principal function of liaison and communication with the Executive.

In other matters the Representative Organisation shall set its own procedures and rules, provided they are in accord with this Constitution. Such rules and procedures must be in a written and accessible form.”

This motion will take effect on the 22nd of September 2006. Regarding the implementation of this motion all existing rep groups will still be recognized as long as they fulfil the a-f requirements. The constitutional amendments passed

at the 2005 annual general meeting relating to the recognition of rep groups will be repealed and Part 1 s.3 A (3) will be amended with the words “and acknowledge Ngai Taurira o te Kura Wananga o te Upoko o te Ika a Maui as official representatives of Maori students on campus ” being deleted.

No mover or seconder existed for this motion so this was automatically lost.

- d) Proposal for exec size to be determined by voter turnout, STV voting, Revenue, and Expenditure VP, change in bonus rules, new exec start in November - *Proposed by Nicholas O’Kane.***

Proposal for exec size to be determined by voter turnout

That Section 2 of the VUWSA constitution is amended. The amended version would state

“S.2 THE EXECUTIVE

1. The Executive of the Association shall comprise:

n) President

o) Vice-President (Education)

p) Vice-President (Welfare)

q) Vice President (Revenue and Expenditure)

r) All others who are elected to the executive in accordance with Schedule 2 of the constitution

6. In that period between his/her election and taking office, the President elect shall become a non voting member of the Executive, provided that this section shall not apply to any person who is, at the time of her/his election, a member of the Executive.

7. The Executive shall be elected annually in accordance with Schedule 2 of this constitution with voting taking place on five consecutive weekdays (Monday-Friday) starting during the month of September to be decided by the executive prior to the end of the month of June. It will take office on 1 November of the year in which it was elected. In the event of a vote of no confidence in the entire Executive succeeding at a Special General meeting new elections are to be held with voting occurring precisely 30-35 days after the special general meeting and the new executive taking office precisely 65 days after the special general meeting.

8. Every member of the Executive under S.7 and S.8 of this part shall be a member of the Association at the time of his/her election and during her/his term of office, provided that the President and Vice-Presidents need not enrol or study as a student during his/her term of office.

9. No act or proceeding of the Executive, or of any committee thereof, or of any person acting as a member of the said Executive or of any committee, shall be invalidated in consequence of there being a vacancy in the number of the said Executive or committee at the time of the act or proceeding.”

The word “Executive” be deleted from the title of schedule 7 of the constitution

STV voting

That Section 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3 of the Constitution be amended. The new version would state

‘S.1 THE OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice-President (Education), the Vice-President (Welfare) and the Treasurer.
2. The President is a full time position and shall receive a salary In 1993 of \$22,000 gross. In subsequent years the salary shall be automatically adjusted by the prevailing weekly wage index at the year prior to the year for which the President takes office.

3. Every candidate for the President shall be a student member of the Association at the time of her/his election.

Will be changed to say (points 4. and 5. should be 1. and 2. for some reason cutting and pasting couldn’t change these things):

Revenue and Expenditure VP

That Section 1.4 & 1.5 (on the Officers) of the Constitution is amended. The new version would state

‘S.1 THE OFFICERS

4. The Officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice-President (Education), the Vice-President (Welfare) and the Vice-president (Revenue and Expenditure).

5. The President is a full time position. The President shall receive a salary of \$27,000 gross and each Vice-President will receive a salary a salary of \$12 000 gross’.

Other amendments include ‘Part 3 section 1 clause 5 of the constitution which says will be deleted’

Change in Bonus rules

Part 3 Section 1 Clause 7 of the constitution will be amended. The amended version shall state which says

“Each member of the Executive, other than the President and the two Vice-Presidents, shall receive an honorarium of \$1000.00 per year paid in twelve (12) monthly instalments. Students who hold the offices listed in list X will get paid a salary of \$900 for each position in list X they hold.

List X

Women’s Rights officer

Queer Officer

Activities Officer
Campaigns Officer
Clubs officer
Education Officer A
Education Officer B
International Students Officer
Environment Officer”

The executive prior to the Annual General Meeting will recommend how much bonus payments each member of the executive and officers listed under list X will receive. The executive may not spend more than \$18 000 in bonus payments per year. The precise amount of bonus payment each person holding the offices listed in list X and each executive member gets will be decided at the Annual general Meeting.”

To Part 2 Section 2 (4) ,”(d) Will decide taking into consideration a recommendation made by the executive how much bonus payment each executive member and person holding offices listed under list X in Part 3 Section 1 Clause 7 gets”.

The “executive honoraria” clauses of schedule 5 will also be deleted.

STV Voting

Clause 20 in schedule 2 of the VUWSA constitution will be amended. The amended version will state “An applicant may stand for the positions of President, Vice-President (Education), Vice-President (Welfare), Vice President (Revenue and Expenditure) and for Executive member but can only hold one of those positions. A applicant may stand for the positions of Women’s rights officer, Queer Officer, Activities Officer, Campaigns Officer, Clubs Officer, Education Officer, International Students Officer and environment Officer and hold as many of the posts above as he or she is democratically elected to regardless as whether he or she is elected to the positions of President, Vice-President (Education), Vice-President (Welfare), Vice President (Revenue and Expenditure) and for Executive member, with the sole exception that no applicant can hold simultaneously more than one of the positions listed in list Z below List Z Education Vice President Education Officer A Education Officer B”

Clause 16 in schedule 2 of the VUWSA constitution will be rewritten to say “Each applicant shall make a signed application specifying whether she/he wishes to stand for the position of President, Vice-President (Education), Vice-President (Welfare), Vice president (Finance and Revenue), Other Executive member, Women’s Rights Officer , Queer Officer, International Students Officer, Environment Officer or Executive member or any of those positions and including his/her e-mail address and telephone number (if any).”

Clause 24 in schedule 2 of the VUWSA constitution will be rewritten to say”

Election to be held on (dates)

For

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. On this ballot paper you may vote by ranking you're preferred candidates in order to determine who holds what political offices in the association.
 - B. For the position of President you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - C. For the position of Vice-President (Education) you must vote by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - D. For the position of Vice-President (Welfare) you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - E. For the position of Vice-President (Revenue and Expenditure) you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - F. For the position of Women's Rights Officer you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - G. For the position of Queer Officer you must vote by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - H. For the position of Activities Officer you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - I. For the position of Campaigns Officer you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - J. For the position of Clubs Officer you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - K. For the positions of Education Officer you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - L. For the position of International students Officer you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - M. For the position of Environment Officer you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being your first preference, y being the last.
 - N. In the event that there is only one candidate for any one of these positions, you may vote 'no confidence' for that position.
 - O. For the Executive, you must vote for by ranking all candidates 1 to y, 1 being the first choice, y being the last.
 - P. No preference is implied by exercising neither option for a candidate.
 - Q. If the manner in which an option is chosen is not clear on the ballot paper, that vote shall be rendered invalid. All candidates must be ranked in order for the vote to be valid.
 - R. Marks on the ballot paper other than in exercise of either of the options and those properly put on it by a poll clerk will need the ballot paper invalid.
 - S. If you make a mistake on the ballot papers return it to the poll clerk for destruction and obtain a fresh paper.
 - T. When you have finished marking this paper in accordance with these instructions fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.
- (Set out: The candidates for President, Vice-President (Education), Vice-President (Welfare), Vice-President (Revenue and Expenditure), Women's Rights Officer, Queer Officer, Activities Officer, Campaigns Officer, Campaigns

Officer, Clubs Officer, Education Officer and for the Executive shall be listed with full names of incumbent listed first (if more than one incumbent the one who received most votes last election listed first) and after all incumbents have been listed the names of the rest of the candidates will be listed in alphabetical order for surname. A box for each option shall be placed beside each name).

Clause 29 in schedule 2 of the constitution will be rewritten to say” every member of the association who is on the role of electors shall be entitled to vote in accordance with the instructions found in clause 14.”

Clause 44 in Schedule 2 of the constitution will be amended to say”

44. The returning officer shall cause the votes to be counted in the following manner:

(a) The returning officer shall compare all rolls from the polling booths to determine that no member has voted twice and shall count from the rolls the number of those who have voted.

(b) Should any occurrence of dual voting be detected the votes shall be extracted and immediately deemed invalid.

(c) Each unopened paper shall be checked for the initials of the polling booth official or in the case of an absentee vote the signature of the returning officer and the number of a member on the electoral roll.

(d) If upon examination any paper does not conform to the instructions in Clause 24 of this Schedule it shall be deemed invalid and immediately set aside.

(e) The returning officer will count the total number of votes.

If 1-999 votes the executive will have 10 members (6 elected under schedule 2 clause 24 C), If 1000-1199 the executive will have 11 members (7 elected under schedule 2 clause 24 C) and if 1200 or more votes the executive will have 12 members (* elected under Schedule 2 clause 24 C).

(e) Each paper shall be opened.

(f) Each paper shall be examined for validity of voting.

(g) The Votes are to be counted the following way:

1. Determination of a quota using the formula n divided by r plus 1 = quota, with n being the number of valid votes cast and r being the number of positions remaining to be filled.

2. The votes for each candidate are counted. Those candidates with more than the quota are declared elected. Their votes will be redistributed so their next preference votes will be added on to the votes for other candidates with the quota being recalculated with r being recalculated each time one or more candidates being elected. If at any stage in counting the votes no candidate has obtained the quota the candidate who has the lowest number of votes is declared eliminated with his votes being redistributed as if he or she were elected, and that candidate is no longer be eligible for the position. This process is to continue until all positions are filled.

(H) - The six (6) or seven (7) or eight (8) candidates required under clause 24C of schedule 2 will be elected as described in point g above. All other of the offices

- All positions mentioned in section 2, clause 24 B, will be elected as described in point g above with the exception that once a candidate has obtained the quota he or she will be declared elected and no further redistribution of votes will occur.

- Executive positions unfilled shall be declared vacant by the returning officer, and filled in the manner prescribed by this constitution.

(I) Any other voting paper not adhering strictly to the instructions on the paper shall be examined by the returning officer and one assistant who shall declare it invalid unless they both agree that the paper does show a clear vote for one applicant. In the event of a tie, the returning officer and one of his/her assistants shall toss a coin or draw lots to decide which of the tied applicants shall be elected.

Clause 46, schedule 2, will be rewritten to say "Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association Inc.

DECLARATION OF ELECTION RESULT

I, _____ returning officer, declare that I have complied with all the provisions of the Constitution and its schedules regarding elections and declare that the following number of votes was cast:

	Votes of first preference for	Votes
obtained through		
redistribute-on of votes		
Name		
et al		
Total		

Accordingly, I hereby declare the following elected as:

(position) (name)
 Signature of returning officer
 Signature of assistants

Time Date Place'

New Exec Start in November

List B in Part 7 section 2 (3) will be rewritten to say “All others who are elected to the executive in accordance with schedule 2 of the constitution”
“In all places in the constitution where the word Treasurer” is used referring to the Treasurer in the executive of the association it will be replaced with “Vice-President (Revenue and Expenditure)

Clause 15 schedule 2 will be rewritten to say “Each applicant shall be on the roll, and a member of the association. “

The following will be added to schedule 7, “If the candidate elected to a position listed under list X in part 3 section 1 clause 7 is not elected to the executive through the rules found in schedule 2 of the constitution he or she shall be made an officer outside of the executive and will be required to carry out the functions to his job listed above in full co-operation with the executive and will have speaking rights at all executive meetings. A executive committee will be created to include the officer outside the executive and at least 3 people elected by the executive to help assist with co-operation between the officer outside of the executive and the executive. The committee will be formed in accordance with part 3 section 7 of this constitution.

The amendments to schedule 2 will come into effect on 26 September.
The first election using the new amended schedule 2 will occur to elect the 2007 executive will have voting occur on the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th of September 2006 and on 2 October 2006 with the reminder of this amendment taking effect on 1 November 2006 when the 2007 executive takes office.

Whether to break the motion up was discussed.

Point of Order: Gareth Robinson stated that before breaking it up the motion must first be voted on as a whole.

No seconder existed for the motion so it was automatically lost.

4. Election of Faculty Delegates

a) Academic Board (1 rep)

Motion: That CJ be appointed as the VUWSA Academic Board representative.

Moved: Nick Kelly from the chair

The motion was interrupted

Point of order: Jeremy Greenbrook spoke about the unconstitutional convention to not put VUWSA executive members on boards such as Academic board and to leave these positions for non - VUWSA executive students.

CJ withdrew his nomination

Motion: That Geoff Hayward be appointed as the VUWSA Academic board representative

Moved: Nick Kelly (from the chair)

35 for, 45 against, Failed.

Motion: That Charles Ropitini is appointed as the VUWSA Academic board representative.

Moved: Nick Kelly (from the chair)

101 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions, carried.

b) Academic committee (1 rep)

Discussion on this position interrupted for Quorum count. Quorum count totalled 40 members.

IGM meeting closed at 1.10 pm due to us being in quorum.