

## Student Representative Council Emergency Meeting Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

An emergency meeting of the University of Newcastle Students' Association (UNSA) Student Representative Council (SRC) was held at 5:00pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via Zoom.

In Attendance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President- Luka Harrison</li> <li>• Vice-President Education (VPED)- Chloe Jones</li> <li>• Vice President Experience &amp; Engagement (VPEX)- Georgie Cooper</li> <li>• Vice-President Welfare &amp; Wellbeing (VPW)- Jessica Philbrook</li> <li>• Postgraduate Students' Senate Convenor (PSSC) – Feisal Masmali</li> <li>• International Students' Senate Convenor (ISSC)- Shuang Zhang</li> <li>• Newcastle Campuses Committee Convenor (NCC)– Harry O'Brien Smith</li> <li>• Central Coast Campus Committee Convenor (CCCC)– Mandip Kour</li> <li>• Cloud Campus Committee Convenor (CLCC)- Rachel McGuinness</li> <li>• Sydney Campus Committee Convenor (SCC)- VACANT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Port Macquarie Campus Committee Convenor (PMCC)- Stephen Bennett</li> <li>• Student Accommodation Representative (SAR)- VACANT</li> <li>• University Council Student Representative (UCSR)- Lucas Dowling (not present)</li> <li>• Academic Senate Student Representative (ASR)- Evan Gibbs</li> <li>• Acting Queer Collective Convenor (AQCC)- Max Tran</li> <li>• Accessibility and Equity Collective Convenor (A&amp;EC)- VACANT</li> <li>• Indigenous Collective Convenor (INCC)- VACANT</li> <li>• Women's Collective Convenor (WCC)- VACANT</li> <li>• Parents and Carers Collective Convenor (PACCC)- VACANT</li> </ul>
Minute Taker:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNSA Student Representative Support Officer (SRSO)- Jen Hanson</li> </ul>	
By Invitation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNSA General Manager (GM)- Georgia Killick</li> </ul>	

**Meeting opens:** 5:04pm

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

#### 1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*Chair acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal people, on whose traditional land this Callaghan Campus of the University of Newcastle is situated.*

#### 1.2. APOLOGIES

None received. University Council Student Representative not present.

#### 1.3. QUORUM

Chair states that quorum is established.

#### 1.4. RIGHTS OF AUDIENCE AND DEBATE

Chair grants rights of audience and debate to UNSA GM and SRSO.

### 2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The chair calls on the Student Representative Council (SRC) to declare any previously undisclosed conflicts of interest relevant to today's agenda.

None are declared.

### 3. GENERAL BUSINESS & FUNDING REQUESTS

#### 3.1. One Nation - NSW Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020

See link [here](#).

Chair calls on the AQC to begin discussions:

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the UNSA Queer Collective (QC) held a meeting which included moving a motion asking UNSA to reject the bill and acknowledge that it will cause harm, write to a handful of representatives, and issue a joint media release to be sent to the university DVC-A and Equity & Diversity Coordinator.

As detailed in the Equality Australia link above, the bill acts to harm transgender diverse students by undermining the support received and denying their existence. In a nutshell, it stops schoolteachers and counsellors from affirming their genders and puts jobs at risk for those who do.

AQC Invites SRC members to ask questions and discuss.

NCCC reached out to his cohort and reads their feedback to the SRC.

Members discuss impacts that the bill would have on LGBTQIA+ university students. AQC states that the bill would impact students in secondary school which can indirectly carry on to university. It can be argued it does not directly affect university students, however down the line and more broadly it does affect students as a larger societal issue. To stay centrist and not take a stance on these issues sends a profound message to students.

VPW points out that Collectives are part of UNSA, they are not affiliated clubs. This could be a miscommunication around what the collectives are and how they operate. Student Associations have always been involved in social justice issues, which are inherently intertwined in politics, and action can be taken on these important issues without taking a side. Rejecting or approving a specific bill is not tied to political party, but solely the bill at hand and how it affects students. It can be viewed as our moral duty to use the voice that the SRC is given. It is important to listen to what Community is telling us is affecting them.

Members discuss implications of not endorsing the bill because some students who are members of UNSA will not support the bill. However, the bill is directly targeting an equity group and priority at risk population of transgender diverse students which UNSA has a duty to protect.

Chair states that while everyone on the SRC has a duty to consult with students, we're not going to be able to get an accurate read on every student's opinion on the matter. SRC members are elected by students to use their judgement to vote how they will. Going back and forth on whether majority of students agree or disagree isn't productive. Members agree that SRC members are elected to reflect their own views and vote how they see fit.

CLCC and ASR point out ramifications this bill could have on future students who are not yet at university and are not here to have their voice heard on the matter. With Nustep going away next year, a lot of students will have lack of support. The more support that can be given to

students, the better. If UNSA can show support as an organisation, then prospective students will see that UNSA (and the university as a whole) is a safe place.

Members agree that in the end, UNSA has values that must be lived by and there are many students who will be impacted if this bill goes into effect.

**3.2.** Motion: That UNSA formally reject the One Nation - NSW Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 and take proactive steps to advocate against the Bill to support Queer and Gender diverse students.

Moved by: AQC

Seconded: VPW

In Favour: 10

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

**4. MATTERS FOR NOTING & GENERAL QUESTIONS**

SRSO makes brief announcements.

**5. MEETING FINALISATION**

**5.1. Review actions to be taken**

ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
Contact representatives and ask them to reject the findings of the committee report, and stop this harmful bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Honourable Sarah Mitchell;</li> <li>• Premier Gladys Berejiklian;</li> <li>• The Honourable John Barilaro;</li> <li>• The Honourable Chris Minns; and,</li> <li>• Ms Prue Car.</li> </ul>	AQC & VPW	
Draft a joint media release from UNSA to the community calling for individuals and other organisations to reject the Bill, as explained by Equality Australia.	AQC & VPW	Complete
Send joint media release to University DVC-A and Equity and Diversity Coordinator.	AQC & VPW	

**5.2. Next meeting:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 5:30-7:30pm

**Meeting closes:** 5:35pm