

Formal Meeting SRC South 26th/3



SRC Formal meeting: March 26, 2015

MINUTES

A formal meeting of the Student Representative Council was held on Thursday
March 26, 2015 5.00pm

Present:

- Topher Webster (chairperson) , Hamish Giec-Yorston, John Tanner, Kat Elliston, Mikki Chin, Dipesh Gautam(Post Grad Council rep), Ariel Wells, Sophia Mallick, Anna Young, Liam (observer)

Absentees:

- On Ee Chin, Molly Hanson, Eibhlinn Cassidy

Acknowledgement of Country: Ariel Wells

- Topher:
 - *Electronic music society*- barrel (in-house DJ's): first week
 - TUU- pay \$920 to petition money for this society: security, liquor license
 - ***Motion One - Activities Budget***
 - SRC passed \$119.20 to the Electronic Music Society for their barrel on the first Wednesday after the Easter break
 - Moved: Topher. Seconded: Hamish
 - Passed with six votes in support
 - TUU working in collaboration with Red Bull for the Flying Wings event (paper plane thing)- TUU Activities Centre next week
 - SRC did not support funding being approved for this event
 - Formal apology from Topher to John for pushing for funds to come out of the Activity budget without appropriate consultation beforehand
- Sophia:
 - ***Motion 2***
 - Passing a motion to amend a previous motion with regards to the Solar Impulse presentation to a budget of \$260
 - Moved: Sophia. Seconded: Hamish
 - Passed unanimously
 - Organizing Reloved markets (in conjunction with the *Women's Collective*): looking for clothes donations. Profits go to the women's shelter (will check this with Ruby as she is the WC president and is organizing where the donations go)

- Event will be held on Tuesday 21 April during the middle of the day
- Posters to go up soon

Motion 3

- SOS (environmental) conference
 - SRC to endorse \$3000 for this event to come out of the State Council budget
 - Moved: Sophia. Seconded: Topher
 - Passed with unanimous support
 - Next TUU breakfast will be on Wednesday April 1, (set up 8am), serving 8.30- 11.30/12ish
 - The following people will help out: Ariel, Anna, Hamish, Kat, John, Sophia
- Anna:
 - *Queer Collective* wrist bands are here: SRC has permission to give away the wrist bands to individuals who are queer (one per person)
 - Collective group and email list is up
 - Will run a BBQ/ picnic event within the next month (with the collective)
 - A-Icon: segment Tap or Trap caused some drama, refer to Anna if anyone has complaints/ questions for this
 - Mikki:
 - Harmony Day: would like to thank the officers that helped set up for this event
 - Kat:
 - Food packages – advertise as a promotion of the SNGS (exact costs involved of the packages are yet to be calculated)
 - Idea is to have some basic (long-lasting) foods in bags we can give away to students. Within each bag there will be information about the SNGS and other financial support available from the TUU
 - Emergency food supply- meeting in the TUU boardroom Friday March 27 at 3pm with the aim of discussing the logistics of what sort of foods to have here and where they will be stored. All welcome to attend. Kat will report back with further information on this
 - Ariel:
 - Hobart Mob: The contact list for the Hobart Mob has been used to announce the AGM. I will be holding this in around two weeks a poll has been set up to decide a date and time that is convenient for the most amount of members.

- Paste-up was a success. Media came, massive exposure: great start to the department, got lots of signatures for the collective. Thank you to everyone that came and was involved.
- Ariel completed some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health training and found it to be very beneficial
- ‘ATSI’ acronym has now gone through the whole TUU and Ariel will now take this through the university to get it completely removed
- *Close the Gap* event: wanted to do, but was not able to get it done in time. Will incorporate this into NADOC Week event (move the finances across from the Close the Gap to the NADOC week event).
- Welcome and acknowledgement: letter from State Council website that as also attached to the minutes from the SRC North meeting. Allegations that ‘welcome to country’ was happening instead of ‘acknowledgements’ which was not true. Ariel would like to clarify that he has only ever done acknowledgements in the TUU
- Lifestyle choices from Abbott: want to put out a media release, but has postponed this due to the *Recognize* event. Would like to do something in response to that. Potential to get some photo exhibition happening (SRC approve of the photos happening, but need to work out the exact costs involved before motions are passed)
- Campaigns online associated with this: ‘Say no to the forced closure of Aboriginal communities’ on Facebook- urges SRC members to get involved in this
- ITAS: stresses it’s important and without it the amount of Aboriginals attending University will significantly decrease
 - NUS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander officer- ‘stop ITAS campaign page’ on Facebook. Please like this page to show your support

Motion 4

- Written a policy document with the make the acknowledgement of country (see Appendix A)
 - Endorsed within the SRC to take to the State Council to make an acknowledgement of country at every TUU meeting (formal and informal)
 - Moved: Ariel, seconded: Topher.
 - Passed with unanimous support

Things to follow up on:

- Minutes from the last meeting still need to be approved
- Publishing minutes from February onwards
- Hamish- to create an event page for the TUU breakfast for next week
- Formal meeting in two weeks- Secretary to organize
- Informal meeting next week (day yet to be advised)

Appendix A

Acknowledgement of Country Policy

Title

Acknowledgement of Country

Motion

That the Acknowledgement of Country be completed at the beginning of every meeting (formal and informal) undertaken by the Tasmania University Union (TUU) including Student Representative Council (SRC) (South, North and Cradle Coast), State Council, Post Graduate Council, Sports Council and Societies Council.

Preamble

The Acknowledgement of Country is a ceremony that is performed at the beginning of meetings and other events to pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community with particular emphasis placed on the specific country or region where the event is taking place.

The Acknowledgement of Country is an important ceremony that recognises the damage that has been inflicted on to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through policies implemented by previous Australian Governments, while also appreciating the accomplishments that have been made by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

An Acknowledgement of Country can be performed by anyone regardless of whether they identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or are from the country where the event is set to be performed.

A Country in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture refers to the geographical location of a language group otherwise known as the region.

Action

The TUU will instate the practice of performing an Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of every meeting (formal and informal) conducted by the Tasmania University Union (TUU).

The Acknowledgement of Country should be conducted by the most senior Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in attendance. In the absence of an Aboriginal

or Torres Strait Islander the chair should conduct the Acknowledgement of Country.

If the chair is absent from a meeting they can delegate the responsibility of the Acknowledgement of Country to another member of the council.

When the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer is unable to perform the Acknowledgement of Country they have the primary authority of choosing who is delegated to perform the Acknowledgement of Country in their absence superseding the authority of the chair.

TUU Councils that will be impacted by this policy include but are not limited to the Student Representative Council (SRC) South, North and Cradle Coast, State Council, Post Graduate Council, Sports Council and Societies Council.

Recommended Wording for the Acknowledgment of Country

As a reflection of this institution's recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, The University of Tasmania wishes to acknowledge the tribe name* People, the traditional owners and custodians of the land upon which this campus was built.

We acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

We also recognise the value of continuing Aboriginal knowledge and cultural practice, which informs our understandings of history, culture, science and environment; the University's role in research and education, and in supporting the development of the Tasmanian community.

***Tribe Name will change depending on the country that the campus has been built on.**

Minutes written by Kat Elliston and Liam Salter

Reports

Activities Officer Report February-March
John Tanner

Activities officer report Thurs 26 March

Work Completed

- Planning NDA event.
- Corresponding with other SRC about their events

Plans Moving Forward

- Plan SCAV Hunt.
- International movie night.

Motions

NONE

Summery

Since O-week I have not really had the capacity to do a whole lot around the TUU as I have been busy trying to catch up on my studies. I apologize If I have seemed unavailable.

Report: Welfare Officer: Kat Elliston

Establishing an emergency food supply in the TUU

- Have some food available in the TUU for students in dire financial need who need some food to get by until the next pay day or something
- I believe this is required, as I have heard reports that some students are too intimidated / embarrassed to seek help from the student advocates. Having the supply in the TUU for students to access would break down this barrier
- Need to work out logistics of how it would work in practice
 - What food and how much of it?
 - How would students get it?
 - Need to ensure it doesn't get abused by people that don't really need it
 - Need to ensure that those that do need it are also aware of the other help that is available
- Meeting with student advocates and some TUU reps later this week (date TBA). Anyone is welcome to join/ pass on questions/ comments to me
- Wellbeing Reference Group:
 - I, in conjunction with John Alford (from Launceston) are starting a wellbeing reference group. The focus of the group will be to work out ways to improve the wellbeing of students
 - Will present a verbal report of how the meeting with John went Tuesday (24th)
 - If anyone has any thoughts/ wants to get involved let me know
- Upcoming event:
 - Hoping to run it just after the mid-semester break (?)

- Based on what Kat did last year for the Safety Net Grant Scheme promotion- free food packages with info about TUU and SNGS
- Currently researching budget requirements

TUU SRC South Meeting Thursday 26 March 2015 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Report Ariel Wells

Progress Since Last Report

Hobart Mob

The contact list for the Hobart Mob has been used to announce the AGM. I will be holding this in around two weeks a poll has been set up to decide a date and time that is convenient for the most amount of members.

Recognise This Paste Up

The Recognise This Paste Up has finally been completed with an official unveiling on Monday the 16th of March. This event included A Welcome to Country performed by Aunty Brenda Hodge and speeches by Marta Hodul Lenton (Recognise) Ariel Wells (TUU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer South), Pete Dawson (Recognise This Youth Campaign Coordinator) and Clair Anderson (Aboriginal Higher Education Advisor). There was also a number of media outlets present including The Mercury, The Advocate, Edge Radio, Togatus and ABC enhancing the exposure this campaign achieved while also increasing the publicity of the TUU especial the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collective.

I would like to thank all the TUU Office Bearers who helped and attended this event despite being busy with their studies, TUU projects and other responsibilities, as well as TUU staff members David Quinn (Development Officer) and Vicki Blackburn (Contact Centre Supervisor). I'd also like to thank the Riawunna Centre's staff Tanya Wells (Administration Officer) for purchasing and preparing the food despite this not being a requirement of her position, Jaime Cave (Senior Executive Officer) and Aunty Brenda Hodge (Elder in Residence), Marta Hodul Lenton (Recognise), Pete Dawson (Recognise This Youth Campaign Coordinator) and Clair Anderson (Aboriginal Higher Education Advisor) as well as Campus Services and members of the University of Tasmania for working together to make this project a reality.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Training

In January I attended an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training Program that was organized by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC). I found this helpful in some of the duties I am expected to fulfill and recommend this training to all future TUU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officers.

Note: This was meant to be reported in the February report but was forgotten about as it was free and conducted outside of TUU duties.

ATSI Acronym

At the State Council on Thursday the 5th of March I proposed my motions to remove usage of the ATSI acronym in all forms within the TUU. This motion was unanimously accepted and has now been removed and replaced with its full title of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

The intention now is to take this change to the university and get them to alter their policies so they are in line with those of the TUU. I am currently investigating what processes need to be undertaken for this to occur.

Close the Gap Event

Due to conflicting commitments relating to other projects I was unable to organize the Close the Gap event in time for the event. After consultation with the Riawunna Centre in Hobart it was decided to abandon this event and instead focus on National Sorry Day on Tuesday the 26th of May.

Welcome to Country vs Acknowledgement of Country

Updates that have occurred since last meeting in relation to the email added as Appendix 1 in the SRC North meeting from the 3rd of March 2015. Due to the complicated nature of this issue I will deliver this report verbally.

Plans Going Forward

Lifestyle Choices

On the 10th of March 2015 Tony Abbott made a comment that Australia would not support the “Lifestyle Choices” of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote communities. This remark has been met with a lot of criticism even from his own advisors and shows the complete lack of understanding of the lives that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders experience.

I intended on sending out a media release but due to the close proximity to the Recognise This Paste Up event I decided that it would interfere with the publicity and exposure that would be generated potentially using the content of this media release in the Reecognise This Paste Up event articles which would be detrimental to the campaign for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Since that time the issue has not subsided but has gained traction and I would like to initiate something at the University of Tasmania (UTas) to bring exposure to this issue. I am planning on getting a number of volunteers to get their picture taken with a sign stating why they support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote communities and oppose the Government’s aim of removing their support. These images will be displayed at a location somewhere on the University of Tasmania Sandy Bay campus.

Say No To The Forced Closure Of Aboriginal Communities

There is a virtual campaign underway in opposition to the Government’s stance on regional Aboriginal communities. This campaign asks participants to change their profile picture to an image of a stop sign with the words “STOP the forced closure of Aboriginal communities make this your profile pic to show your support www.sosblakaustralia.com” this image is available from the facebook group Students say NO to forced closure of Aboriginal communities (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Students-say-NO-to-forced-closure-of-Aboriginal-Communitues/797151877036018>). I’m asking all TUU SRC South members that believe in this cause to change their profile pictures to show their support.

Note: I would like to thanks On Ee Chin (TUU SRC South Women’s Officer) for already completing this task and showing her support to this campaign.

Motions

Title: Lifestyle Choices Art Installation

Motion: That the SRC South authorizes the expenditure of \$XXX.XX for the creation and presentation of an art project to highlight the opposition to the lifestyle choices comment made by Tony Abbott.

Description: Twenty volunteers will be sought to have their photos taken while holding a sign stating why they support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote communities and oppose the Government's intention of removing their support.

Funding: \$XXX.XX to come from the TUU SRC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer South's budget.

Title: Acknowledgement of Country SRC South

Motion: That the TUU SRC South implement the Acknowledgement of Country to be completed at the beginning of every meeting (formal and informal) undertaken by the SRC South.

Description: The Acknowledgement of Country is a protocol widely used in Australia to acknowledge the history and experiences that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been and continue to be exposed to.

Justification: I consulted with many from within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community including Aunty Brenda Hodge the Elder in Residence in Hobart and it was the recommendation that this protocol be undertaken by the TUU as a sign of respect and commitment to the concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Title: Acknowledgement of Country TUU Policy endorsement

Motion: That the TUU SRC South endorses the Acknowledgement of Country Policy to be taken to State Council and hopefully implemented within the TUU.

Description: The Acknowledgement of Country is a protocol widely used in Australia to acknowledge the history and experiences that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been and continue to be exposed to.

Justification: I consulted with many from within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community including Aunty Brenda Hodge the Elder in Residence in Hobart and it was the recommendation that this protocol be undertaken by the TUU as a sign of respect and commitment to the concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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