

**Adelaide University Law Students’ Society Incorporated (AULSS)**

**Committee Meeting 7 - Minutes**

to be held at 6:00pm on Monday 28th August 2023 in Ligertwood 231

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| **1** | ***Meeting Open*** | **BL** |

Bryan opens the meeting at 6.03pm

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| **2** | ***Acknowledgement of Country*** | **BL** |

Bryan read out the acknowledgement of country.

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| **3** | ***Attendance***  | **BL** |

In Person: Bryan Lau, Felix Eldridge, Henry Allen, Patricia Papathanasopoulos, Sophia Tait, Natalie Nimon, Hamish McNamara, Eleni Sarantou, Georgia Chiswell, Emma Colovic, Laila Dinan, Khaira Aziza Nathin, Elizabeth Chng, Henry Lewis, Zeyang (Aiden) Wang, Grace Jin, Kush Goyal, Aryaman Mehta, Emily Trieu, Eton Williams, Bhoomika Trivedi, Deeptanshu Sharma, Yurui (Rui) Jiang, Harry Passehl, Salma Mansurwala, Lydia Mel, Jennifer Lamb, Dua Junaidy, Kanella Mihalopoulos, Angela Carlisle, Navah Heidari, Judith McNamara (Visitor).

Online: Ruby Stewart, Kathryn Jannes, Charlotte (Charlie) Hayes, Chye Hui (Samantha) Kuan, Ikhwan Fazli Bin Adi Bokharee, Katie Cooper, Leah Schlein, Cate Lipsham.

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| **4** | ***Apologies***  | **BL** |

Valid apologies: Evelyn Walker, Cerys Davies, Minnah Butt, Minh Tran, Jarod Eddy, Tammy Tran.

Absences: Alannah Begbie, Chris Mary, Lili Caltabiano, Isabella Burgess.

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| **5** | **President’s Report** | **BL** |

Bryan invites the Dean to answer questions about the upcoming university merger. Judith wanted to give an opportunity to answer questions about the merger, noting that both universities have a microsite to share information.

Hamish asks how LLB student degree structures will change after the merger. Judith replies that there will be no change for existing students graduating before 2026, however for those students who are continuing on, they may choose to graduate with a University of Adelaide, or an Adelaide University parchment. There will be a time limit on this choice though, but this has not been determined yet.

Alannah enters the room at 6.07pm

Hamish asks whether there have been any discussions or decisions regarding changing degree structure such as that affecting honours students. Judith responded that no decision has been made but discussions will take place.

Felix asked whether there has been any consideration as to how the AULSS the UniSA counterpart will merge. Judith responded that it is likely that the two organisations will have to sit down and work out a plan to merge.

Sofia asked whether the merger process has been finalised. Judith responded that while the Universities of Adelaide and South Australia have completed all the steps they can at the moment, everyone is still waiting for the SA Parliament to formally pass the legislation that will trigger the merger. Adding to that, Judith explains that the current merger concept came from the Labor Party as an election commitment prior to the 2022 SA election. While Flinders University did not engage in the preliminary discussions, both UniSA and UoA considered it. The Universities wanted to have influence over the process, and a lot of discussion occurred prior to the two University Councils approving the proposal. Currently the next step is whether the SA Upper House will pass the legislation.

Judith asked what the feeling of the Committee members were regarding the merger. Responses mainly were either apathetic or unsure about what it really entailed. Judith wanted to reassure members by stating that the Adelaide Law School is a highly ranked Law School and it is larger than UniSA so the UoA side should have a lot of influence for the new School.

Katie asked if there are concerns about having a degree from a University that doesn’t exist. Judith responded that realistically the University would have some answer to this, potentially that they would reprint parchments or give some other documentation to graduates to explain what’s happened.

Patricia asked about potential job losses, to which Judith responded that the University of Adelaide has said there will be no net job losses initially, and then later revised their stance to also add no forced redundancies afterwards. Judith adds that realistically there will still be jobs, even if the titles change somewhat.

Hamish asks what individual advocacy can be done by the Law School and ABLE Faculty to ensure that job losses are minimised. Judith responds by saying that it is difficult to quantify, but the practical reality is that the Adelaide Law School will follow appropriate processes to appoint people. Given they are the larger School, they are best placed to influence employment makeup.

Rui and Ikhwan enter the room at 6.20pm

Regarding physical infrastructure and room allocations, Harry asks when the merger takes place, will the Law School be in Ligertwood, at the UniSA Law Building, or would there be different classes at each. Judith responded by stating that while there would be on Law School, her assumption is that it will be at the Adelaide campus mostly because it is larger.

Rui asks whether there will be cuts to courses within the degree. Judith responds by saying that some time has been spent over last 6 months to best plan for electives being offered over the next few years for 2024 and 2025. On the books there are more electives than there may appear from year to year. However, course structure has not been agreed yet, UniSA doesn’t have as many elective offerings so it is unclear post merger.

Patricia asks if the merger will be reducing competition between the Universities. Judith responds that the market is larger than within SA, but acknowledges that she is not an expert in this area.

Eleni asks would the new University considers new programs that they don’t offer currently. Judith responds that this is a complex question and there won’t be complete duplications of what is currently being offered at both institutions, but she is ultimately unsure.

Rui asks what will happen regarding student support structures. Judith responds that it is a bit of a grey area, but there may be an expansion of faculties. Student support services will of course exist somewhere, but no one will know exactly where in the structure they will fit for the time being. More likely that support would be centralised somewhere. Service should be maintained at high standards, and if not, then people should let the University know.

Harry, Jennifer, Kush, Georgia and Judith left the room at 6.33pm

Bryan largely takes his report as read but reminds members to come on time to the upcoming Special General Meeting on the 11th of September. He also notes that the Tri Society Blood Drive launch has been delayed, so tells Committee members to ignore that aspect of the report.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the President’s Report.

Moved: Natalie

Seconded: Rui

Carried unanimously.

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| **6** | **Vice-President’s Report** | **FE** |

Cate entered the room at 6.36pm

Felix notes that the sales of Semester 2 merchandise have now opened and encourages Committee members to spread the word about this. A small number of images of the items were attached to the agenda, with the rest of the merchandise line being available to peruse on the website itself.

Felix reminds members of the upcoming Special General Meeting and encourages attendance.

Regarding the proposed amendments to the AULSS election rules, Felix summarises the key changes, which are broadly what was foreshadowed at the last meeting. These changes mainly concern the introduction of a withdrawal period for nominations, toughening the penalties for non-compliance, clarifying ambiguity, codifies some existing informal interpretations of the rules, and various other smaller changes.

In response to the proposed addition in the rules of the power for the Executive to ban members from competitions if they were to egregiously violate the election rules, Rui asks if the Executive currently has the power to ban problematic competitors from competitions. Patricia replies that the Code of Conduct within the Competitions Policy that was passed earlier in the year addresses this.

Prior to the vote, Felix notes that there is a semicolon mistake in the definitions section, and also plans to move the definition of ‘election’ to be after ‘campaign material’ in the proposal so that it is alphabetised correctly. There are no objections to this minor amendment.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee repeal the existing AULSS Election Rules and adopt the amended tabled AULSS Election Rules.

Moved: Hamish

Seconded: Natalie

Carried unanimously.

Rui asks if any changes were made in that new version regarding the eligibility to contest positions on the Executive. Felix clarifies that this isn’t the case for any position other than President, which was already the de-facto interpreted eligibility of previous service on the Executive.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Vice President’s Report.

Moved: Hamish

Seconded: Patricia

Carried unanimously.

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| **7** | **Treasurer’s Report** | **MB** |

As Minnah is not present for this meeting, Aryaman delivers the report.

Aryaman notes that regarding sponsorship, the AULSS is only $400 short from last year’s levels. The sponsorship team is still contacting firms to get new money streams however. He adds that the current surplus is $24 thousand and current cash balance is $105 thousand. The increase of assets from last year is $19 thousand, although there are still some outstanding payments to be made.

Aryaman reminds members of the Committee that they need to seek approval for expenses prior to incurring them on behalf of the Society, and also to please fill out the appropriate reimbursement form to receive reimbursements for such expenses.
 **Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Moved: Hamish

Seconded: Emma

Carried unanimously.

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| **8** | **Director of Activities’ Report** | **NN** |

Natalie informs the Committee that the AULSS has unexpectedly made profits for both Law Dinner and Quiz Night after an initially grim prediction of losses for both events. She congratulates Emma for her work organising Quiz Night, noting that she thought the AULSS would make an $800 loss and then the event’s tickets sold out.

Natalie explains to the Committee that Next Gen which was hosting the event accidentally gave out free drinks rather than subsidized drinks which was what was agreed to by the AULSS, and some people were getting bottles of wine for free. Because of this confusion, Next Gen put an extra $200 on the tab. Later it transpired that they may even have just covered the entire tab, which means a total saving of somewhere between $700 to $1200 depending on how much of that tab they covered.

Natalie notes that the President of the Law Society will be speaking at the Law Dinner. Unfortunately, the Intercontinental Hotel doesn’t have speaker systems but Redbull offered to give that to us, and free red bull as well.

Natalie informs the Committee that because of these last two events, the Activities portfolio is now officially in profit for the year.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Director of Activities’ Report.

Mover: Sofia

Seconded: Emma

Carried unanimously.

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| **9** | **Director of Careers’ Report** | **ST** |

Sofia encourages people to attend the sponsored Thompson Geer seminar on Wednesday, and also the Leo Cussen presentation in week 11 on 17 October. She notes that the Court Tour event may be moved depending on Justice Bleby’s schedule.

Sofia reminds Committee members that they must attend at least 2 sponsored events per semester to get the reimbursement at the end of the year.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Director of Careers’ Report.

Moved: Natalie

Seconded: Hamish

Carried unanimously.

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| **10** | **Director of Communications’ Report** | **HA** |

Henry notes engagement is going down now, with initial numbers becoming a big problem, but the AULSS are finding ways to artificially boost them. He does confirm that the new rounds of documents for event planning are now being used properly which is good. He reaffirms the necessity for people to give at least 2 weeks’ notice for events.

Henry notes that the average likes per post have dropped in the last 2 weeks, now only 11 people as an average. He implores people to please like posts. He states that engagement representatives will be proposed at the SGM to help boost engagement via methods outside of formal social media.

Henry informs the Committee that the AULSS have been experimenting with Facebook advertising for the first time. The AULSS sold a number of tickets on the day it was trialled, but the Communications portfolio is unsure how many people extra bought them because of it. Despite the possibility of success, the advertising system is incredibly pricy and unpredictable, as well as there being the possibility of Facebook admins seemingly randomly rejecting posts.

There are no Hilarian or I.T. updates.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Director of Communications’ Report.

Moved: Grace

Seconded: Rui

Carried unanimously.

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| **11** | **Director of Competitions’ Report** | **PP** |

Patricia welcomes her new portfolio representatives. She briefly runs through the activities of the portfolio that are happening over the next few weeks.

Laila leaves the room at 7pm

Patricia notes that the Flinders LSS’ Competitions Director has resigned and their portfolio were told by Patricia because apparently they had not been informed by their own Society for some reason. This was raised while trying to finalise details for the intervarsity marathon competition.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Director of Competitions’ Report.

Moved: Rui

Seconded: Eton

Carried unanimously.

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| **12** | **Director of Education’s Report** | **ES** |

Eleni notes that she put up a document in the committee Facebook page regarding the electives guide and requests people write about their experiences doing those electives so that future students can read these reviews and consider that information before selecting electives.

Eleni notes that the First Year camp will be going ahead on the 16th-17th of September in Victor Harbor. She invites any Committee members that wish to attend to come along for free, provided that they assist with running the camp.

Eleni also notes that both earlier events in the semester have gone to plan.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Director of Education’s Report.

Moved: Hamish

Seconded: Henry A

Carried unanimously.

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| **13** | **Director of Social Justice and Equity’s Report** | **HM** |

Hamish briefly summarises upcoming events, two of which will be run with the Respectful Ligertwood Committee. He notes that previous events have gone well this semester, particularly the Neurodiversity in the Law Seminar.

Regarding the event of Wear it Purple Day, there was some feedback raised that the AULSS should ensure that the members of the Respectful Ligertwood Committee do more leg work when organising the event, because it was branded as a Respectful Ligertwood Committee event but the AULSS did most of the work.

Regarding the Intersociety Soccer event, there were some issues with the event marketing targeting specific groups, and the other societies organising the event were not very organised. Overall, though, Hamish states that it was a valuable event and does encourage continued engagement with those other societies.

Hamish provides an update regarding the free period product initiative. The project has some design input from the University they wanted to request people’s feedback as to the two graphic design concepts. The two designs are shown to the Committee, and Committee members broadly prefer option 1. Hamish adds that when the project eventually becomes active, they will be switching over to a proper vending machine structure instead of the current model which is just a box in the bathroom.

**Motion:**

That the AULSS Committee approve the Director of Social Justice and Equity’ Report.

Moved: Patricia

Seconded: Natalie

Carried unanimously.

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| **14** | **Other Business** | **BL** |

No other business is raised.

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| **15** | ***Meeting Close*** | **BL** |

Bryan closed the meeting at 7.11pm

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| **Notice**  |
| In accordance with clause 30 of the Constitution, notice of this meeting was circulated before the Committee Meeting, following consultation with the President. An agenda and related documents for this Committee Meeting were circulated on 24th August 2023.  |

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| **Quorum**  |
| In accordance with clause 22(1) of the Constitution, there being at least half of the current Committee plus one, including at least two members of the Executive, in attendance, quorum was present at the time the meeting opened.  |

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| **Chairperson**  |
| In accordance with clause 24(1) of the Constitution, the President acted as Chairperson.  |

Signed by the member who presided at this meeting pursuant to s 51(1)(b)(ii) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985* (SA):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Bryan Lau\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_President\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_05.10.23\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_