

2017 General Council Meeting

The Loft Meeting Room
Friday 11th August 2017

Present

Dylan Gojak, Macy Gregson, Ana Ferreira Manhoso, Edward Blake, Joshua Scardina, Rachel Porter, Justine Ralph, Darcy Harwood, Ashani Jeyadevan.

Apology

Emily Judd, Seth Wolff, Curtis Read, Dee Cooper, Emma Gooderson, Ashely-Rose Hooper, Daniel Ta.

Absent

Opening

Dylan opened the general meeting of the Student Association at 5.36pm.

Agenda Items

1. Acknowledgment of Country
Dylan reads through the acknowledgment of country.
2. Approving proxies
Macy reads out proxies. They are approved.
3. SGM
Dylan notes the outcome of the SGM from yesterday, and says that we did not foresee this negative outcome. Trying to keep track of the debate, proxies and attendance register was difficult. Ana also mentions that many students were ill-informed about the purpose of the SGM. Now that we know the gaps, Dylan says we can work towards improving our outcome and the way we run the meeting. After the vote was lost, Dylan reflected on the need for these changes. SAAF will come in next year, and so we will need to secure finances. Dylan and Ana have met with the main opposition groups to the SGM. They have supported the inclusion of a Faith Officer in future, but will look to support it at the next AGM. They were happy with the other changes. They have spoken to the VC, and the next SGM will take place at Founders Cup at 10.30am in Bateman Courtyard. All members must be in attendance or have a proxy. Ana mentions that when we met with them, they did not speak on behalf of everyone who holds their view. The biggest issue will be the Women's Officer. Organising proxies now will be the best way to ensure an outcome we want. Dylan and Ana have also discussed the need to increase marketing for the SGM,

especially through email.

Dylan will redo the running sheet to make it as simple as possible for students to follow. Joshua asks how to counter the image that we are just holding another vote to get the outcome we want. Dylan says to stress how close the vote was, and that we should not give up when we were so close. Ana says that using the angle 'we lost but we are trying again and listening to you' will work in our favour. Dylan says people need to know that the vote is 'all or nothing' for all officers. The next meeting has to be more transparent. He says we need more council members in attendance to ensure that we run it more efficiently and effectively. New proxy forms and ballot forms will be designed, and we may stamp people once they have voted. Darcy notes that a major problem was that people came in late and didn't know what they were voting for.

Ana and Dylan will think about marketing by Monday to emphasise the significance of this vote, and want to include the voice of the council members to back up these changes.

Dylan says we should not send out the terms of reference doc because people got confused about what they were voting for.

Rachel asks about the limitations on proxies. Dylan says that according to our SO councilors cannot be proxies for other councilors, but can be proxies for other ordinary members, and ordinary members can be proxies for councilors. There is no limit on the number of proxies – guidelines say that if people are holding more than 1 proxy do it by a poll, but there is no limit on the number.

Rachel thinks it will benefit us if we amend the Standing Orders. Dylan will take the weekend to look at the legislation and standard practice of other guilds to work out the best approach.

All proxy forms must be circulated to the secretary as soon as possible.

Ana will continue to lead the marketing campaign for the SGM. Ana says that Emil will likely be in charge of Facebook publicity.

Dylan thinks we need to divvy up points of order for each person to speak at the SGM.

Dylan asks someone to think about food options.

Dylan notes that he is disappointed that Emma, Curtis and Dee did not endeavor to get proxy forms to us given that we lost by 2 votes. Justine says that requesting a formal apology might not be necessary given that we had such short notice for proxy forms.

Dylan speaks about the proposal for the Faith Director and how it appeared to police the actions of the SA. Ana says that when we take up a position of the council, we automatically have to act within the Objects of the University.

Joshua asks for Dylan to read out the proposal for Faith Director. He reads it out. Joshua notes that what they have proposed is fulfilled by a paid position at the university, and the council agrees.

Dylan affirms that we created these roles to address the gaps at ND, and says they failed to address the gap by only allowing people of Roman Catholic Faith to run for this Director. Dee and Dylan concur that it is against our constitution to discriminate in this way.

Dylan has a problem with amendments at the SGM is too difficult to debate along with the resolution. Rachel says that if we include the Director, depending on the council of each year, it can morph into anything and could take any form.

Faith could be a component of the Equity and Access Officer.

We need to think strategically, and Dylan thinks we should give them Faith Officer. Dee says we might be able to publicise that we will discuss the Faith Director at the AGM. She says that if we make it more public then it will give them less ammunition to fight. She says we should say that we are debating/discussing it. We will endeavor to make this a debate issue at the AGM.

Dylan is surprised that we were seen in such a negative light because we actively consult to make sure that we are representative and act in accordance with the

Objects. Justine affirms that we are already consulting with Campus Ministry.

Dylan says that the University is better equipped to deliver services for the development of Faith than a group of students. He notes our responsibility to help students reach their spiritual and social potential, but we do what we can with our resources.

Dylan thinks we will propose it at the next SGM, and we have 2 options: put it in tonight or accept that she will propose it at the SGM. We will open it up for debate if it happens at the SGM. Ana says to see how it goes, and if it does not pass, then people will not vote against our resolution out of spite.

We need to increase advertisement and speak to friends. Joshua says that he was talking to people who attended the meeting that the council sounded rude, and suggests that we be the bigger people in this situation, even though it got quite heated by all sides. Next time, Dylan says he will not comment, but says he needs to rely on council members to reply instead.

Proper timekeeping will be practiced at the next one.

Dylan says we will not include the Faith Director and remind about the AGM. It may be likely that it will be presented as an amendment and voted on (50/50 vote).

Ashani suggests doing a before or after, or actually specifying what each director will be on social media.

Dylan says we also need to check student IDs, maybe having a deadline for proxies (12 hours as per Standing Orders).

The council will wait until Monday to organize proxies.

At the meeting, Ana said that the SA was disappointed to only meet under negative circumstances, and encouraged more face-to-face meetings that are more beneficial.

Dylan is positive in our efforts to make this vote pass next SGM.

Closing

Dylan closed the meeting at 6.40pm.