MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE A.U.S.A. EXECUTIVE HELD ON MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2008 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM IN THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

PRESENT:
President (Chair), AVP, EVP, Treasurer, CAO (2), CSO, EAO (2), IAO (arrived 7.00pm), MO, NAO (Alex), OSO (arrived 6.10pm), PISO, WO, WRO.

APOLOGIES:
EVP

ABSENT:
SRC Chair, MSO.

IN ATTENDANCE:
Dingo Morgan Thomas, Ben Ross, Nick Mitchell, Richard Higgins, Dr Paul Hutchison MP, Dan Sloan – Craccum (arrived 8pm), Tom O’Connor (AUSA GM & Minute Taker).

Meeting Opened: 6.00pm

Visitors Business:
National Tertiary Spokesperson, Dr Paul Hutchison MP
Paul opened with thanks. Two major priorities for National, OECD countries in the 70s we were one of the lowest number of students attending University, now we have doubled the number of students. Student allowance, and living costs and course fees, have not changed since about 1992 and are inadequate. It is as costly for students who take on student loans and keep failing as it is for the University. Universities are not funded as well as they are in other countries such as Australia, we need to increase our economic growth and sustain it. We need to train, attract and retain our brightest. The Marsden fund needs to be trebled from what it is today, scientists lobbying for this. We don’t intend to change the open entry (John Key comment) Auckland University has limited resources and there is choice with AUT and Massey etc being in Auckland. 60% of the University income is not from Education funding??? We want to see TEC reforms, with aims we are supportive of, high quality, low compliance, but it will not work and is not the best way to go. Membership of student associations should remain voluntary nationally. He said that he supports the choice of students for what sort of membership model they want – as is the status quo. Would not be supportive of forcing all associations to be compulsory, or forcing all to be voluntary.

Questions: David Do 25 Rule, means testing, National
A) Always a balancing thing, we want high quality education we are looking at it.
Tax, we are looking to reduce taxation as they have in Australia. Variety of models are available with people living longer and infant mortality reducing.
Q) Policy National: encouraging research, the best lecturers may not come with that. Are you looking at ways to increase undergrad quality achievement?
A) Yes, there is a births system, looks at outputs on completion, grades and job level. Media school have a 98% job success when the students have completed.
Q) opens entry; plan to make all unions voluntary
A) No
Q) Azime
A) 480 million available for research, one of the things facing NZ today, another is we would like to see more participation between University and
Q) Student allowance is not enough, do you have plans to change that
A) Lot of options Scholarships, etc Otago has gone from 0.005% to now 7% of Maori students so things are improving.
Q) DH are you incentivising student to finish their studies quickly
A) It is highly expensive that advantages you to do well and finish quickly, inappropriate to not have students going overseas.
Q) Alex Tax payers need to see where money is going which makes Art students very nervous, will there be any directives to change this.
A) There has always been a grant for top achievers “modern Orgasm” issues like that? Became very controversial.
Q) Welfare: Students without food etc; students are hurting and need, means testing reduce 25 down 18.
A) Cant tell you, its up to the leader (John Key) to tell you that, what proportion of students are actually suffering badly, 15% surprised me, I would have thought it was more than that.
I would be interested to know in any particular, Q) high cost housing higher transport all affect students, higher food costs no specific policy. DD Q EVP Q tuition fee maxima is national rationing something like that, John has commented I would have to check up on that.

- **Electoral Matter** – The SRC Chair has indicated he wishes to lapse this evening, by not turning up. If this occurs, then Executive must appoint an interim SRC Chair. SRC this past week has made a strong recommendation for Dingo Morgan Thomas to be appointed as interim SRC Chair.

  CHAIR
  
  **E 101/08** THAT Morgan “Dingo” Thomas be appointed as interim SRC Chair.
  
  **Carried**

  CHAIR
  
  **E 102/08** THAT the IAO be granted leave.
  
  **Carried**

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

   CHAIR
   
   **E 103/08** THAT the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 17 March 2008 be received and adopted as a true and correct record.
   
   **Carried**

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

   - Lock fixed in Womenspace. WO
   - Trees in Symonds Street not to be cut down.

3. **Correspondence:**

   CHAIR
   
   **E 104/08** THAT the correspondence 70/08 to 81/08 be received AND THAT any correspondence from AUSA within these numbers be endorsed.
   
   **Carried**

4. **Health and Safety**

   - Lock fixed – WO
   - Loose glass hanging down from NTM - GM to investigate
   - Recycling not yet collected - Albie

5. **Regular Reporting to the Executive**

   CHAIR
   
   **E 105/08** THAT the President’s report be received.
   
   **Carried**

   CHAIR
   
   **E 106/08** THAT the AVP’s report be received.
   
   **Carried**

   CHAIR
   
   **E 107/08** THAT the Treasurer’s report be received.
   
   **Carried**

   CHAIR
   
   **E 108/08** THAT the Executive move into Committee of the Whole AND THAT any strangers be excluded.
   
   **Carried**
CHAIR
E 110/08 THAT the GM’s report be received.
Carried

6. Tabled Items:

• Motion to Rescind
   MCCRORY/HUDSON
E 111/08 THAT RN 423/96 be rescinded.
Carried

• Student Rep/Vice Chancellor Meeting – AVP led discussion on ideas for revamp. SRVC meeting planning “what do they want?”, “what do we want?”. Ten meeting agenda items AVP to put together. General discussion on what we could have them provide at each meeting – such as environmental etc. Class Reps need to be contacted more often.
• 10 Billion Dollar Day - report from EAG. April 10th Schedule. President spoke on this item and allocated tasks for the Executive.

7. Items for Noting

• Admissions and Equity Taskforce – Not discussed.
• Electoral Rules Group Report – Noted.
• Policy and Governance Committee Report – Noted.
• Bacchid Trust/Board Rep Situation – Not discussed.
• NZUSA Co-Presidents Time – Not discussed.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

• SRC Minutes
   CHAIR
E 113/08 THAT the minutes of the SRC meeting held on 17 October 2007 be received and the recommendations therein adopted.
Carried

• Appointment of Committee members to the AUSA Book Scholarships
   CHAIR
E 114/08 THAT the WO, EVP, President and CSO be on the AUSA Book Scholarships Committee.
Carried

• Doctoral Morning Tea Funding – Welfare Officer. GM and Treasurer to review availability of funds from WAVE. WAVE budget line for the money to be looked at – GM, WO, Denise. $50 for morning teas for welfare.
• NZ Superannuation Fund
   HAMED/MCCRORY
E 112/08 THAT AUSA supports the immediate divestment of the New Zealand Superannuation Fund away from corporations involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons, cluster munitions, corporations involved in supporting repressive or authoritarian regimes and involved in violations of indigenous peoples’ and other human rights including Total Oil, Rio Tinto, Freeport McMoran and Exxon Mobil and in corporations systematically violating labour and human rights including Wal-Mart.
Carried
Abstention: AVP, EAO, Treasurer

HAMED/NELDER
E 115/08 THAT AUSA instructs the student representatives on Bacchid to pursue the issue of ensuring Bacchid outlets which sell chocolate, also sell Fair Trade chocolate too.
Carried

CHAIR

E 116/08 THAT the Executive move into Committee of the Whole AND THAT any strangers be excluded, to discuss urgent April 1st Action to address Student Debt.

8.30pm – Ray Scott (EAO) left the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: 6pm on Monday, 7 April 2008 in the Executive Chambers

Meeting Closed at: 8.40pm

Signed as a true and correct record

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David Do, President, CHAIR