

University Of The Sunshine Coast Student Guild 2022 Special General Meeting

The USC Student Guild Special General Meeting commenced at 4:30pm on Wednesday, the 24th of August in the J Block building, University of the Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs and via Zoom.

Present: Emily Wall (Acting Chair & Guild Operations Manager), Tony Campbell (Guild Engagement Officer), Erin Haynes (Treasurer), Victoria Wimsett (Guild Finance & Welfare Officer), Melinda Wells (Board Member), Jianne Lamadrid (Guild VP of Clubs & Societies), Harrison H.H (1129605), Erian Thompson (Board Member), Delaney Boorer (1135604), Xavier Luna (1144305), Benjamin Davis (1103162), Leo Sullivan (114321), Aukul Anyh (1136093), Chloe Henderson (1147277), Zac Winters (1134677), Teegan Guest (1151860), Terrance Koomen (1158695), Jack Grandelis (1152975), Imogen Hambleton (1134683), Thomas Adams (1111915), Noah Champion (1156279), Mitchell O'Halloran (1121398), Bree Glasbergen (1034639), Dominic Beaudequin (1128249)

Unable to attend: Raymond Abi-Fares (Guild Welfare and Advocacy Officer) (apology received), Kerry Clough (Guild Welfare and Advocacy Officer) (apology received), Daniel Bolton (Activities Officer) (apology received), Nicholas Duthie (Board Member) (no apology received)

1 Procedural matters

Meeting opened at 4:30pm.

1.1 Attendance and participation

The acting Chairperson, Emily Wall, acknowledged the traditional owners of all lands on which USC is located, especially the Gubbi Gubbi / Kabi Kabi people, as the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting was held and paid their respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting. It was noted that Ray Abi-Fares, Kerry Clough and Daniel Bolton sent their apologies by email.

1.2 Conflict of interest

No conflicts of interest were raised.

2 Discussion Items

2.1 Committee of Management Nominations

The Chairperson, Emily Wall, explained that the Student Guild is an independent, non-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting, representing and enriching the experience of students at UniSC. She added that it is governed by a committee of 9 elected students working in tandem with a team of 6 professional staff. It is funded by a combination of SSAF fees and other income streams.

It was noted that the roles of the Committee of Management include:

- Determining the strategic direction of the organisation
- Representing the organisation and the wider student body on working groups, committees, and University task forces
- Amplifying the student voice
- Promoting the Student Guilds services, support, and events to both students and UniSC staff.

The constitution states;

15.2 If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Committee of Management, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.

15.4 If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.

15.5 If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be held.

21.1 The Committee of Management may, whenever it determines, convene a special general meeting of the Student Guild.

21.2 The Committee of Management must, on the requisition in writing of at least 25 ordinary members, convene a special general meeting of the Student Guild.

23.3 If both the president and Secretary are absent, or decline to occupy the chair, or leave the chair, the Committee of Management must elect a person present to temporarily chair the meeting.

25.2 Ten (10) members present (being members entitled under this Constitution to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.

The Chairperson stated that there are four casual vacancies: President, Vice- President (Events & Marketing), Secretary and General Board Member. It was noted that as there are the same number of nominations as open positions, no further nominations can be received at the general meeting. It was discussed that the current board motioned to hold a Special General Meeting at the last board meeting, as there are a high number of positions to fill. It was confirmed that over 25 signatures of the wider student population were received.

President

The Chairperson stated that there is one nomination for President, Abbie Opuama.

'As a student at UniSc I have benefited from advocacy and support from the guild in times where I needed it. I have been a student at UniSc since 2018 and I am ready to give back and help bring a fresh perspective to the rights and needs of all students at UniSc.

I have a strong background in advocacy and experience as a member of Community advisory boards such as Gilead sciences and Queensland positive people. I am also a proud graduate of

the positive leadership development institute's certificate in leadership where I learnt to use my natural leadership and advocacy skills to promote equity not just got myself but for others as well. I would like to see the guild maintain its goal to advocate and support all UniSC students as well as help shape and form more ways for engagement from existing and emerging students, clubs and societies.'

The constitution states;

15.2 'If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Committee of Management, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.'

15.1.2 'must be delivered to the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting at which the election is to take place.'

As Abbie was the only nomination submitted seven days prior to the SGM, she is automatically elected as the President. The attendees congratulated Abbie on becoming the Student Guild President for 2022.

Vice- President (Events & Marketing)

The Chairperson noted that there are three nominations for this position, Abbie Opuama, Micaela Poggi and Noah Champion. As a board member cannot hold both the President and Vice President positions, Abbie Opuama is eliminated from the election.

Micaela Poggi has only nominated for this position.

'From a career perspective I would like to be able to practice in real life what I see every day in class. From a personal perspective to gain experience and become more social.'

Noah Champion has also nominated for the secretary position.

'My name is Noah Champion, and I am a first-year student who started in Semester 1 studying Business and Design, and I am here to nominate myself for the position of either Vice-President of Events and Marketing or Secretary of the Student Guild. Ambitious, I know, but change doesn't happen without personal risk for the sake of others.

You might not have heard of me or have seen me before, but that's normal considering that about 13,000 students are enrolled on the Sippy Downs campus alone, so the chances of seeing somebody who isn't in one of your classes is very slim, unless you have a good memory. As we all know, a few weeks ago UniSC had the Variety Festival for example, and for various reasons I couldn't attend in person, but I was disappointed to see that there was no online 'interactive experience' similar to the online Open Day's the uni had during lockdowns, if you remember.

So, if I am elected Vice-President of Events and Marketing, I will establish a system to put campus events onto Zoom, so that everybody, no matter what campus students are at, or if they're studying online, can interact with these events, because if we can record lectures and seminars and hold online classes, why can't we record events online besides the few pictures and images that are displayed on social media?

Now, if you choose to elect me Secretary, I will make sure to construct 'abridged' versions of the meeting records to be available for student view to increase transparency and connect the bridge between the Student Guild board and the student body, because if the Student Guild is truly an organisation that represents the students, then surely the students, which is you guys, should be allowed to see and hear what is discussed in these meetings, if you're interested. I know I can only have one position, but I'm just stating ideas I came up with.

Take your time and come to a decision about who you want representing you. This isn't about me; this is about you and who you believe is the best person to represent you. Thank you for your time.'

Secretary

There were two nominations for Secretary, Abbie Opuama and Noah Champion. *(Please see above for statements.)*

General Board Member

There were two nominations for General Board Member, Abbie Opuama and Mac Bista. *(Please see above for Abbie Opuamas statement.)*

Mac Bista 'As a General board member, I would like to learn the leadership skills, build network, and also socialise. Working in a team would give me the opportunity to improve my communication skills. I would also like to contribute and volunteer so I could be assisting those who need the support. I have worked in many social and community organisations. I would bring the positive energy, assist with innovative ideas and events. I would like to work as member this year and hopefully I will work towards secretary or VP and President in the future. I am really looking forward to working in a team and make a positive impact and contribution to this wonderful organisation. Thank you.'

Attendees listed their preferences for the three positions and their ballots were collected and counted by a Guild staff member, Victoria Wimsett, and a current board member, Erian Thompson.

2.1 Announcement of elected Committee Members

The Operations Manager announced that the newly elected Vice President of Events and Marketing and Secretary is Noah Champion and newly elected the General Board Member is Mac Bista. The attendees congratulated the students on their new positions with the UniSC Student Guild team.

The Chairperson thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 4:51pm.

Confirmed
(Chairperson)

Date