

MINUTES

Student Representative Council Meeting # 6

Date:	7 September 2021
Time and venue:	5:00pm WebEx
In attendance:	Divyangana Sharma, Nisura Balasooriya, Sophie Broughton, Alvin Adyco, Rimpal Kaur, Shubhankar Rawat, Samuel Coulson, Ronan O'Connor, Mark Woods, Mikayla Royal, Michaela Hosking
Apologies:	Aakansha Kalra, Anandpreet Singh, Karanveer Singh, Tanya Gupta
Minutes secretary:	Alvin Adyco

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Nil discussion had.

2. Holmesglen and Students

2.1. Do students feel a sense of belonging and connection to Holmesglen?

Student reps provided a mixed response to this question. Some reps said they and their peers feel connected due to the regular communication and updates the institute has provided during the pandemic. Opportunities for collaborative projects amongst students also supports this sense of belonging. Other reps felt they belonged to their course / student cohort more than the institute.

2.2. What benefits do students think they would receive by being an alumnus?

Most students mentioned career support, advice and opportunities would be a benefit to remaining in touch with the institute after graduation. The ability to remain in touch with those they studied with and perhaps opportunities to continue using campus facilities.

2.3 How proud are you to be graduate soon from Holmesglen?

Most students put this down to the reputation of the course and the institute within the industry they hope to work in. In cases where they see or hear Holmesglen is a leader in education for that industry, they feel incredibly proud. In cases where students see poor behaviour amongst their own peers (especially in public), there is a level of concern and a feeling of 'second-hand embarrassment' to be affiliated with those peers and the institute.

3. Mode of Communication

3.1. How would students like to remain engaged with the institute after they graduate?

Student reps mentioned they and their peers would like to remain connected and engage with Holmesglen both online and in person. Facebook is the preferred online platform students wish to remain engaged. Students see the value of LinkedIn when it relates to their career, however,

to remain connected socially with their peers and the institute, Facebook is the preferred platform, specifically a Facebook group.

Reps also mentioned students would like to engage in person at the campus they studied. Opportunities to reunite with their peers and teachers as well as providing insights and advice to new students.

4. Terminology and language

4.1. Alumni vs past students vs Holmesglen graduates. What terminology speaks to students?

No students like the term 'past students'. All reps agreed that the term 'alumni' is foreign to most students, especially domestic students. Holmesglen graduates was the preferred term, as it captures the concept in simple language. Local students also felt the term 'alumni' to be too Americanised and didn't feel it fitted with Australian culture.

5. Meeting

5.1. When should Holmesglen begin talking to current students about alumni programs i.e. just before graduation, just after graduation?

All reps felt that the discussion about the alumni program needs to begin before students graduate. There is a feeling that the attention of graduates will be hard to gain as they begin their journey into their careers. The last semester is when students really begin to think about next steps and securing employment in their chosen field.

5.2. In recognition of the complexities of COVID19, do students prefer online or in person meet ups?

With the choice being taken away in recent times, all students would now prefer a face-to-face approach to meetings.

There is recognition that online has its benefits including a reduction in commuting, increase inclusivity (particularly for those who live interstate or overseas).

6. Connecting with past students

6.1. How do current students connect with past students? Is this of interest to current students? Very few current students are connecting with graduates. In some cases, connections are being made via LinkedIn but the connection is formed more because of the industry connection rather than the educational connection. Some reps mentioned they have connected with graduates via social media, however there is minimal engagement after the initial connection is made.

6.2 Do current students want Holmesglen to remain a connector to past students?

Most reps can see the value in remaining connected with graduates, particularly for career advice or connections. Reps continued to say that Holmesglen needs to act as the common ground / space for this connection to form i.e. Holmesglen meet ups, the Holmesglen social media group etc.

7. SRC Recommendations

All student reps agreed to put forth the following recommendations to the institute.

- 7.1. Terminology of 'alumni' to be changed to 'Holmesglen Graduates'
- 7.2. Holmesglen Graduates to be active on Facebook and LinkedIn as this is the preferred platform to connect.
- 7.3. More promotion of Holmesglen Graduate programs in student communication.
- 7.4. Formalise a program that brings Holmesglen graduates and current learners together to network
- 7.5. Increase the number of Holmesglen graduates 'guest speaking' to current learners.

8. General Business

Michaela requested that she be provided the opportunity to report back on the response to recommendations each meeting. All reps agreed to add this as a standing agenda item.

9. Next meeting – 11 October 2021, Connecting with Local and International Communities