

## MINUTES

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### Student Representative Council Meeting #7 for 2021

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| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 October 2021   |
| <b>Time and venue:</b>    | 5:00pm – WebEx Teams Space  |
| <b>Discussion Theme:</b>  | Connecting with Local and International Communities   |
| <b>In attendance:</b>     | Aakansha Kalra, Alvin Adyco, Anandpreet Singh, Bianca Gold, Mark Woods, Mikayla Royal, Nisura Balasooriya, Ronnan O'Connor, Samuel Coulson, Sophie Broughton. |
| <b>Welcome:</b>           | Bianca Gold   |
| <b>Apologies:</b>         | Divyangana Sharma, Rimpal Kaur, Karanveer Singh, Shubhankar   |
| <b>Minutes secretary:</b> | Alvin Adyco   |

#### 1. Minutes of previous meeting

Nil discussion had, The minutes were read from the previous meeting and approved.

#### 2. Connecting with Local and International Communities

##### 2.1. Is engaging with local & international communities important to Holmesglen students? If so, why?

The student representatives indicated a number of students reported the importance to engage with local and international communities. The benefits include enabling students to stay passionate about the curriculum and an opportunity to assist them socially during tough times. This engagement creates more opportunities, helps in personal and professional development, and makes people feel welcomed and inclusive. It was reported majority of Bachelor of Sports Media students actively seek opportunities to engage with local communities. It was also noted some students would appreciate more opportunities to network assisting them stay online.

##### 2.2. Are Holmesglen students actively looking for opportunities to connect and engage with local and/or international communities? If so, how?

Student reps provided mixed response to this question. Some reps said that they are not actively looking but still regularly search for opportunities to connect and engage. The opportunity to connect during the pandemic has been increasingly difficult especially for international students even though they have been looking, they have not found the opportunities.

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Other reps said that they have been actively seeking the opportunities, especially for Bachelor of Sports Media students, as they are offered and provided such opportunities from their course. Overall, all reps agreed that it is helpful for students to connect with people with both similar and/or different cultural backgrounds.

### **2.3. Do Holmesglen students feel there are sufficient opportunities to engage with local and international community via their course?**

Student reps provided mixed response to this question. Some of them think that there are sufficient opportunities provided by their course with the like of Bachelor of Sports Media students.

Other reps indicated they do not feel supported by their course as they did not get many opportunities to connect with different communities within and outside of Holmesglen and felt that the communication with other people seemed very goal oriented.

Some students do not feel comfortable to engage with different communities as there are language barrier. They voiced concerns of insecurity with their language delivery, understanding, and comprehension as an ESL student. They wished there were more opportunities for students with similar background.

Communication platforms that Holmesglen have been utilising like WebEx and Holmesglen community website are great to increase the student engagement. However, further promotion is required as it appeared only limited students that know and use it. An integration with the current Holmesglen App and more visibility in parts of Brightspace would come in handy and improve the student engagement a lot more.

### **2.4. Do students want to engage with communities outside of their course delivery i.e. volunteer in a completely different field?**

Student reps mentioned they and their peers would like to would like to engage with communities outside of their course delivery as it is good to have a variety of experience in multiple areas. These opportunities would help develop students to be more well-rounded and add more skills that can be useful for their career.

Students feel that they could get different opportunities, meet new people, build their own portfolio, and expand their network by doing so. It would be a great way to promote their passion while working amongst the community.

However, although plenty of students interested in this, they were struggling or unable to participate in this sort of activity due to the online framework which has made it harder to manage their time. This might be because they already have commitments within and/or outside of their study.

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### **2.5. What model could be implemented to bring these opportunities to our students?**

#### **What would assist students to engage local or international communities?**

Most reps would like to come to campus and participate in campus organised clubs that can accommodate student's different interests. These activities do not have to be related to their course and can be in-person or virtual meetup form to encourage more engagement of international and local students.

Another idea was to invite guest speakers or graduates to talk about their experiences. Ideally, this will help students to network and build more connections with local and/or international communities. Furthermore, having a coordinator to oversee these opportunities would be required as resources on campus are limited and can help it being organised.

### **2.6. Are there particular community organisations or causes students feel they would like to connect with?**

Most reps and their peers did specify any particular community organisations or causes that they would like to connect. Other students from different backgrounds would like to connect with organisations that are related to their study field.

### **2.7. Would students like to engage with:**

#### **2.7.1. Not-for-profit organisations / charities**

#### **2.7.2. Local government / council entities**

#### **2.7.3. Members of the business sector**

It was unanimous that all reps would like to engage with the listed communities. These sorts of opportunities would enable students to further understand their industry, the communities around their industries and an opportunity to network for future employment opportunities. All three ideas were welcomed.

## **3. Recommendations**

### **3.1. What recommendations are you putting to the institute to improve the student experience regarding opportunities to connect with local and international communities?**

All student reps agreed to put forth the following recommendation to the institute:

1. Form a sub - committee to review the clubs and societies at Holmesglen.
2. Utilising Holmesglen campuses as a point of donation for charitable events and fund raisers.
3. Review the way of Holmesglen communicate with local volunteering opportunities is required
4. Additional collection of quantitative data relating to student connecting to communities require.

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**4. General business**

Nil

**5. Next meeting - Meeting # 8 - 5pm Thursday 4 November 2021**