

**University of Melbourne Student Union**  
**Meeting of the Policy and Regulations Working Group**  
**Minutes**  
**Meeting 1(16), 12PM, 16.06.2016**  
**Location: OB Space, Union House**



This working group has been established by the General Secretary to review and formulate amendments to UMSU's suite of policies and regulations.

**Meeting opened at 12:20 PM by James Bashford**

In attendance: Caleb Triscari (Media Officer), Adriana Mells (Women's Officer), James Bashford (General Secretary), Dominic Cernaz (Education Public Officer), Wunambi Connor (Indigenous Officer).

This meeting was called to focus on changes to the UMSU Standing Orders, last updated in December 2013, which are regulations of Students' Council.

James outlined a range of basic changes he had drafted and distributed to those attending. These included removing anachronistic noticeboard requirements removed from the constitution and other updates to reflect the current constitution, replacing gendered references with gender neutral pronouns, and other grammatical/minor changes.

Examples of other organisations standing orders were also distributed for consideration including those of the Monash Student Association and Swinburne Student Union.

James raised a point of discussion on the use of technology at meetings, currently there are no provisions relating to this in the standing orders.

Adriana noted the inconsistency that committee members are in practice allowed to call in to committee meetings and count towards quorum, however this has not been permitted for Council.

Dom raised the difficulty and burden this placed on non-Parkville campus representatives.

James raised a lack of technological capacity for UMSU to facilitate councillors to remotely attend other than calling someone's phone and being on speaker.

Caleb opposed the notion of allowing Councillors to phone in as it would be too difficult, especially if more than 1 person was to call in to the same meeting. It was raised generally that it would be difficult for those phoning in to participate or get onto speaking lists, to get a true understanding of the dynamics and progress of the meeting, or to authenticate who is calling in.

Adriana agreed that phone link ups would be impractical, suggested video links as a possibility if UMSU had the technology.

James suggested that there should be something in the SOs to either explicitly allow or prohibit the practice.

Adriana raised the importance of considering accessibility in this discussion, but agreed calling in to a meeting should not count towards attendance. General agreement emerged that remotely

participating in a council meeting using technology should not count towards attendance requirements.

James asked if there were any further general points to discuss.

Caleb suggested a potential need for compassionate leave provisions, however this would likely need to be a constitutional reform as the constitution currently sets out leave provisions.

James said he did not see any glaring issues in the SOs and that the SOs were reasonably flexible at the moment but conventions are currently working well.

James raised the practice of “Starring” discussion items in the style of many University committees. Under this practice, only “starred” items were discussed at meetings while unstarred items were taken to be carried without dissent and not discussed, allowing for more efficient meetings. It was uncertain who would decide what would be starred or not starred and generally felt that this was not necessary as Council agendas were not generally overly long.

James asked if the Acknowledgement of Country should be included in the SOs, as in the SOs of some other organisations, to ensure it is carried out. Wunambi agreed that it should be included in the regulations and would discuss this with Emily (Indigenous Officer).

**Meeting closed at 1:00 PM**