

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Constitution, Regulation and Policy Working Group.

Agenda

11:00am, Monday the 29th March 2021

Meeting 3(21)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/81981193602?pwd=WC8vYmJpNkU5RXBTcnpmdy9RaWlyQT09>

Password: 086927

Meeting opened at 11:15am

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

MOTION 1: To elect Ciara O’Sullivan as Chair

Mover: Ciara O’Sullivan

Sec: Jack Buksh

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

William Hall, Leyla Moxham, Andoni Fischer, Jack Buksh, Thonya Deverall, Justin Bare

1.4 Membership

Membership is open to all students.

1.5 Adoption of Agenda

MOTION 2: To adopt the Agenda as presented

Mover: Ciara O’Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOTION 3: To confirm the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting

Mover: Ciara O’Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Correspondence

None.

5. Business on Notice

A) Quote from Moores

Ciara presented the three price options given by Moores, with the most expensive being the most detailed one.

Justin recommended that Option A (the most expensive) be taken.

MOTION 4: To recommend that Students' Council accept Option A of the price proposal

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

B) RO Election Report Summary

Andoni Fischer presented a summary of all the previous RO Election Reports, and noted that his findings were disappointing, and that the RO recommendations of ten are at odds with what UMSU wants, compared to what makes an election easier.

There was some discussion about reducing the size of council

Thonya indicated that she was against having restricted constituencies for council, and stated that OBs could represent minorities, rather than having restricted constituencies being able to vote on council. She suggested introducing broader affirmative action instead

Will noted that sometimes people get put off voting because of how complicated the ballot is, asked if there's a way to introduce just voting for the party to simplify the ballot.

Ciara said that because we are going online anyway, we should preserve the ballot as it is to see if that makes it easier, because there are problems with simplifying the ballot in terms of democratic representation, and noted we should be making changes not to make things easier for the RO, but to make UMSU better.

Andoni raised the problem of feeder tickets, for example SMOKE METH HAIL SATAN, and making things really opaque and undemocratic. He noted that adding more affirmative action to council instead of restricted constituencies will actually over-complicate things and not simplify it. He advocated for AA to say 'non-men' not just women.

There was discussion about having autonomous departments choose the council rep instead of it being directly voted. Ciara noted that there is a tension in the constitution where students' council can't override the will of autonomous departments without consultation, and that's the gap that restricted reps are supposed to represent. But because they have an untethered relationship to their department, it doesn't really work.

Jack noted that it might be a legal problem of not directly electing board members. Ciara noted there would be definitely be caveats, but said there's precedent for it happening in semi-similar scenarios.

Andoni noted that it might be an idea to have restricted constituencies reps go to committee meetings

C) Research into other Student Union Governance Structures

Ciara: "would anyone like to help me do this"

Ciara offered to take RUSU and MSA, Jack elected to look into USYD, Andoni volunteered to look at DUSA.

D) UMSU INTL

Ciara noted that she was still waiting on UMSU Intl changes to come to the working group

6. Other Business

7. Next Meeting

12th April 2021 at 11am

8. Close

Meeting closed at 11:52am