

**University of Melbourne Student Union
 Meeting of the Students' Council
 Minutes**

**Friday 19 May 2023, 2:30pm
 Meeting 10(23)**

Location: Level 4 Lecture Theatre, Building 168

Meeting opened at 2:38pm

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Disha Zutshi be elected as Chair.

Mover: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Councillors

Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Reham Elzeiny	Yes
Students' Council Indigenous Representative	N/A	N/A
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Sameeksha Mudigere Keshav	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Edison Wei Long Ngu	No
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Luv Pravin Golecha	Yes
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Nan Jiang	Yes
Southbank Student Representative on Students' Council	N/A	N/A
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rose Power	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Divyanshi Sati	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rahul Mittal	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Enzhe (Kevin) Li	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Evelyn Thompson	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Inderpreet Singh	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Isabella Beiraghi	Leave Request
Students' Council (General Representative)	Isioma Ogwu	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Mohan Kwatra	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raphael Duffy	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	N/A	N/A
Students' Council (General Representative)	Watey Diep	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Stefan Gavrilov	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Kunal Dewani	No

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Hiba Adam	Yes
General Secretary	Disha Zutshi	Yes
Activities Officer	Tvisha Purswani	No
Activities Officer	Arya Kushwaha	On Leave
Creative Arts Officer	Abbey Crowley	Leave Request
Creative Arts Officer	Savier D'Arsie-Marquez	No
Clubs & Societies Officer	Renee Thierry	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kimmy Ng	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Adam Whitehead	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Alice Zhao	N/A
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Carlos Lagos Martin	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Mary Kin Chan	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Taj Takahashi	Yes
Environment Officer	Emma Dynes	Leave Request
Environment Officer	James Gallagher	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Yes
Media Officer	Weiting Chin	Yes
Media Officer	Xiaole Zhan	Yes
Media Officer	Josh Davis	Yes
Media Officer	Carmen Chin	Leave Request
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	Yes
Queer Officer	Mehul Gopalakrishnan	Yes
Queer Officer	Sum To Leslie Ho	Yes
Welfare Officer	Ishita Ganeriwala	Leave Request
Welfare Officer	Yashica Mishra	Leave Request
Women's Officer	Ngairé Bogemann	Yes
Women's Officer	Alessandra Soliven	Yes
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Rhys Browning	In Apology
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Annalyce Wiebenga	Yes
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Jack Doughty	No
Southbank Activities Officer	Helen Shen	In Apology
Southbank Education Officer	Zodie Bolic	On Leave

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Ciara Griffiths (Coordinator, Student Representation), Fiona Sanders (Coordinator, Clubs & Societies), Pagnarasmey Pit (Club Representative), Kimse Ping (Club Representative), Caitlin Kane (VCESS Director), Lola Bowers, Sam Rath, Celia Harvey (Observers).

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Helen Shen, Rhys Browning

1.5. Proxies**1.6. Leave of Absence Requests**

1.6.1. For this Council: Emma Dynes, Abbey Crowley, Ishita Ganeriwala, Yashica Mishra, Carmen Chin, Bella Beiraghi

1.6.2. Retrospective Leave: For Xiaole at Council 9(23)

Motion 2: to accept the leave requests.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.7. Membership

1.7.1. Adam Whitehead and Alice Zhao have been appointed as Disabilities OBs

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion: to move items 8.3 to the top of the agenda.

Moved: Chair

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

8.3. Melbourne University Cambodian Student Society Appeal to Petition to Disaffiliate

President of the Cambodian student society spoke to the club's petition. Appeal is on the grounds that they had met the membership requirements of the C&S Department.

C&S Officers spoke to the grounds of disaffiliation. The membership reporting of the club was incorrect – the executives of the committee did not count towards the membership of the club. This could have been amended, if the club had communicated better with the Department, and responded to C&S Committee direction. However, the disaffiliation came about due to lack of action from the club.

President advised that the club executive in charge of the inbox did not report to the rest of the club that there were directions coming from C&S to the club, until after the C&S Committee had convened to carry out the disaffiliation petition.

Issues with the transition to the new UMSU website, causing some of the membership reporting issues, were raised.

Marcie asked the club if they have enough committee members and enough involved students involved in the club to satisfy membership requirements.

President responded yes.

Councillors discussed why the executives were not signed on as members of the club. C&S Officers noted the technical issues with the website, and ways executives had to renew their memberships, muddled the issue.

Motion 4: To uphold the appeal of the Melbourne University Cambodian Student Society.

Moved: Rahul Mittal

Seconded: Inderpreet Singh

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 8(23)

Carmen noted as absent when leave was requested.

2.2. Minutes 9(23)

Motion 5: To accept Minutes 8(23) and 9(23) as a true and accurate record, with noted amendments.

Moved: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

Seconded: Rahul Mittal

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Marcie Di Bartolomeo for 8.3 and 8.4

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Hiba Adam	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Disha Zutshi	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Tvisha Purswani	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Arya Kushwaha	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Abbey Crowley	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Savier D'Arsie-Marquez	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Renee Thierry	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kimmy Ng	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Adam Whitehead	<i>N/A</i>
Disabilities Officer	Alice Zhao	<i>N/A</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Carlos Lagos Martin	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Mary Kin Chan	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Taj Takahashi	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Emma Dynes	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	James Gallagher	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Weiting Chin	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Xiaole Zhan	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Josh Davis	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Carmen Chin	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Mehul Gopalakrishnan	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Sum To Leslie Ho	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Ishita Ganeriwala	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Yashica Mishra	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Ngairé Bogemann	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Alessandra Soliven	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Rhys Browning	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Annalyce Wiebenga	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Jack Doughty	<i>Late</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Helen Shen	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Zodie Bolic	<i>Submitted</i>

Harley delivered a verbal report. Apologised for the lack of reports, struggling as the sole representative of the Indigenous Department as well as personal matters.

Motion 6: To accept the OB Reports

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

7. CEO Report

Spoke to the anti-racism policy working group, which met just before Council. Has selected a supplier for a consultant.

Seeking endorsement from the Students' Council regarding the Clubs Report (item 8.4). Invited for questions regarding this report – key recommendations are to increase the department by 0.4FTE, and re-open club affiliations.

Motion 7: To accept the CEO's report and its recommendations.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 8: to accept the Clubs Report and its recommendations.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 9: That club applications be open to clubs who have Expressed Interest before the start of Students' Council 10(23) via web form, open from Monday May 22nd close 9am Monday June 5th. Constitutions to be completed by COB July 11th. IGM training Friday 14th. IGM to be held by Friday August 18th and documents due within two weeks of IGM.

Moved: Renee Thierry

Seconded: Kimmy Ng

8. Other Reports

8.1. VCESS Reports

Caitlin Kane spoke to the VCESS Annual Report. Spoke to the size and scope of the program in 2023, with over 200 volunteer tutors. Director Applications for 2024 are now open. Work has begun for VCESS 2024.

VCESS Annual Report is noted.

8.2. FMAA Report

Renee spoke to the report. As a recap, Council upheld the FMAA disaffiliation appeal and directed the club to deliver monthly financial reports to the C&S Department. The Department has found the reports to be very lacklustre, with mingling of funds between different campuses, and a lack of delineation on how Unimelb student membership fees and UMSU resources are distributed to Unimelb students, and not other universities.

Harley Lewis raised a petition for the club to be disaffiliated.

Representative of the club urged Council to not consider disaffiliation of FMAA, noted that the issue is due to ambiguity between requirements of the club from C&S and the administration of FMAA.

In reply, Renee reminded Council that the Department has collectively spent several hours dealing with this club, meeting with them, and attempting to resolve the issues.

Petition: That Council petitions to disaffiliate the Financial Management Association Australia Club under regulation 6.1 for failing to comply with requests by staff and committee to produce documents.

Petitioners: Harley Lewis, Annalyce Wiebenga, Rose Power, Kevin Li, Isi Ogwu

8.3. Melbourne University Cambodian Student Society Appeal to Petition to Disaffiliate

Spoken to following Item 1.8.

8.4. Clubs Report

Considered in Item 7.

9. Operational Business

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. Media Motions

Motion 10: To pass \$500 from Postage, Freight and Cartage to cover postage, freight and cartage of Media Department publications to regional contributors, along with other postage-related costs that arise in the Department's operations.

Moved: Josh Davis

Seconded: Xiaole Zhan

CARRIED

10.2. Media Motion

Preamble:

This money was originally intended to cover the cost of travel and accommodation to Canberra for reporting on the Federal Budget in the media lockup. As we didn't get into the lockup, it was not spent, and can now be redirected to fund other reporting opportunities.

This motion is intended as a preliminary approval to use the funds in this manner, without limiting the specific events it will be used to assist in covering. This is because UMSU's Travel and Conferences Policy requires any money paid out for these purposes (if it takes the form of a direct subsidy or payment to a student via a grant) be approved by an 'authorising body,' which in our case is Council or OpSub, so if we want to use the money for a given event, Council will still get an opportunity to review and scrutinise that usage.

Basically, this is just me reserving this money for this purpose, subject to Council's future approval for specific expenditure in specific instances.

Motion 11: To pass \$1200 from Grants > General to partially cover the costs of Farrago Reporters' attendance to the NUS Education Conference (this will be in addition to any other grants received from the Ed Dept for this purpose), and further travel or accommodation costs incurred through attendance to other conferences or reporting opportunities throughout the year in line with the UMSU Travel and Conferences Policy and the UMSU Financial Regulations.

Moved: Josh Davis

Seconded: Xiaole Zhan

CARRIED

10.3. UMSU endorses the Student Support Staff Strikes Campaign

Preamble:

The University of Melbourne Student Union acknowledges the current challenges faced by university staff members. Considering the crucial role staff play throughout student's time at university, UMSU aims to stand in solidarity with staff by endorsing the Student Support Staff Strikes Campaign - a campaign group set up recently to bring together student and staff activists and involve as many people as possible in building solidarity with the NTEU campaign.

By doing so, UMSU seeks to advocate for fair and just working conditions, acknowledging that a healthy and supportive working environment for staff members ultimately benefits the entire student body. UMSU officially endorses the Student Support Staff Strikes Campaign as a means to express support for staff members who are advocating for fair working conditions like 80% continuous employment, 15% salary increase, paid parental leave and many more.

Platform:

- UMSU endorses the Students Support Staff Strikes campaign, which aims to bring together as many students as possible to build support for the staff strikes campaign.

Action:

- UMSU will actively raise awareness about the Student Support Staff Strikes Campaign among the student body. This will include disseminating information through various channels, such as social media platforms, public forums, sending emails before every strike action, printing posters and leaflets, and other measures to ensure that students are informed about the objectives of the campaign and how they can support it.
- UMSU will organize and participate in solidarity actions to demonstrate support for the staff Student Support Staff Strikes Campaign. UMSU will place particular focus on mobilising students on the days of staff strikes.

Motion 12: To accept the proposed platform and actions as presented.

Moved: Carlos Lagos

Seconded: James Gallagher

CARRIED

**Council adjourned at 3:35pm
Council re-adjourned 3:40pm**

10.4. UMSU condemns Monash Council for cancelling Drag Story Time

Preamble:

Over the past 6 months over 10 LGBT youth events in Melbourne have been called off, under threats and aggressive lobbying from far-right protesters and politicians.

The most recent example was a drag story time event planned by Monash City Council.

The National Union of Students and Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, along with other anti-fascists, had organised a protest in defence of the event and the LGBT community more broadly. It's clear we have community support, with 500 people ready to come out and defend the rights of LGBT people within two days of the event being announced.

In fact, the Australian Services Union, which covers council librarians, endorsed the event, and union delegates had started organising support for the event and tactics to fight against harassment they had faced from these far-right bigots. Most of the far-right groups protesting the drag storytime against the event had cancelled their own protest in fear of confrontation by anti-fascist and LGBT activists, leaving only a hard core of neo-nazis exposing the true nature of this movement.

Despite all this, Monash City Council still cancelled the story time, capitulating to the far right.

One Greens councillor, Josh Fergeus, even went so far as to condemn the anti-fascist and LGBT activists for organising the counter-protest, saying he was "disappointed that some groups and individuals saw fit to continue to promote counter-protests in support of the event". He also claimed the problem was that the counter protest had gotten too big!

This is the exact wrong attitude - cancelling LGBT events only caves to the far right's explicit demands. A chance to show community solidarity was turned into a defeat for the left.

We cannot let the far right intimidate us back onto the fringes of society, terrified to even walk down the street as a gay man or trans woman or butch lesbian.

The culture wars over queer people we've seen in the US and UK are slowly seeping over to Australia. If we don't mobilise to fight against these bigots when they come after LGBT events, they will gain confidence and their attacks will be deadlier.

Platform:

1. UMSU condemns the cancellation of queer youth events and recognises the importance of anti-fascist and queer activists counter-protesting far right bigots.

Moved: Rhoda Lewis Miller

Seconded: Lola Bowers

Rhoda and Lola spoke to the motion, and the importance of counter-protesting the far right.

Rose Power spoke to own experience as a queer and trans person, and drag performer, has commonly experienced performances been cancelled at the last minute – this is not just a solidarity issue, but a work security issue.

Rose proposed an amendment:

Proposed Amendment: Over the past 6 months over 10 LGBTQIA+ youth events in Melbourne have been called off, under threats and aggressive lobbying from far-right protesters and politicians.

A free 5-week event titled The Art of Drag set to begin on April 5th was cancelled by the city of Casey following a barrage of threats and violence from alt-right and self-proclaimed Christian groups. There are reports that those contracted were initially denied pay, despite the rigorous prep work that goes into costume making, choreography and presentation making as well as the insecure nature of work in the drag industry. Furthermore, the council called for a formal meeting with drag performers in order to reflect on this cancellation, though performers were not compensated for this additional labour.

On May 4th, a Drag Storytime event was cancelled by Monash City Council. The National Union of Students and Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, along with other anti-fascists, had organised a protest in defence of the event and the LGBTQIA+ community more broadly. It's clear we have community support, with 500 people ready to come out and defend the rights of LGBTQIA+ people within two days of the event being announced. In fact, the Australian Services Union, which covers council librarians, endorsed the event, and union delegates had started organising support for the event and tactics to fight against harassment they had faced from these far-right transphobic bigots. Most of the far-right groups protesting the Drag Storytime against the event had cancelled their own protest in fear of confrontation by anti-fascist and LGBTQIA+ activists, leaving only a hard core of Neo-Nazis exposing the true nature of this movement. Despite all this, Monash City Council still cancelled the story time, capitulating to the far right. One Greens councillor, Josh Fergeus, even went so far as to condemn the anti-fascist and LGBTQIA+ activists for organising the counter-protest, saying he was "disappointed that some groups and individuals saw fit to continue to promote counter-protests in support of the event". He also claimed the problem was that the counter protest had gotten too big! This is the exact wrong attitude - cancelling LGBTQIA+ events only caves to the far right's explicit demands. A chance to show community solidarity was turned into a defeat for the left. We cannot let the far right intimidate us back onto the fringes of society, terrified to even walk down the street as a trans and/or queer person. The culture wars over queer and trans people we've seen in the US and UK are slowly seeping over to Australia. If we don't mobilise to fight against these bigots when they come after LGBTQIA+ events, they will gain confidence and their attacks will be deadlier.

Platforms:

1. UMSU calls upon local and state councils to develop more rigorous safety protocols for LGBTQIA+ workshops.
2. UMSU condemns the cancellation of queer events, including but not limited to those cancelled by Monash City Council and the City of Casey Council, as it gives into the demands of alt-right bigots.
3. UMSU Stands in solidarity with drag performers and demands that they be paid in full despite cancellation of these events.

4. UMSU recognises the importance of anti-fascist and queer activists counter protesting far right bigots.

This was amenable to the mover.

Motion 13: to accept the proposed platforms with amendments.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

10.5. **There's no lifeboat for you! - Labor's 2023 budget.**

Preamble:

Jim Chalmers told workers and students last October before the mini budget "don't expect cheques in the mail." He has certainly stayed true to his word in unveiling Labor's federal budget last Tuesday.

Labor is overseeing a historic transfer of wealth from the working class in Australia to the rich. Real wages are falling at the fastest rate since the Great Depression. The overall proportion of national income going to wages has hit a record low of just 45 percent. As the cost-of-living crisis worsens, workers and students across Australia are left spluttering for air.

Meanwhile, Australia's richest are smelling the roses. Corporate profits have soared by 43.6 percent since 2019 and are now hogging 29 percent of all national income (the greatest share on record). The combined wealth of Australia's 50 richest people has ballooned by 70 percent in the same time, to \$219 billion.

In the context of soaring inequality, Labor is doing the boss's bidding. This looks like \$189 billion in stage three tax cuts for Australia's richest, \$368 billion for nuclear submarines and \$57.1 billion in hand outs to fossil fuel giants. Labor's \$14.6 billion "cost of living relief" package is peanuts compared to the buckets of gold given to big business.

One can't help but liken Labor's budget to the scene in Titanic where a crowd of boat workers plead to management for safe passage as the ship starts to sink. "Open the gates!" they scream. "Go back down the main stairwell like I told you!" management replies.

Jim Chalmers claims that the budget walks a fine line between tackling inflation and balancing the books while making sure ordinary people don't drown in this cost-of-living crisis. But the pitiful raise to JobSeeker by just \$40 dollars a fortnight, or \$2.85 per day (for people under 55) does not even offer a lifeboat to those trying to keep their heads above water.

When criticised for their refusal to lift JobSeeker above the poverty level, Chalmers argued that Labor "can't fund every good idea." Yet they have dedicated more than half a trillion dollars to fund Australia's military and the drive to war with China - a very terrible idea indeed.

It's the same story with Labor's housing package. Chalmers' squealed about the government's decision to increase rent assistance by 15%. Yet in capital cities alone,

the price to rent a unit has skyrocketed by 22 percent over the last year. Tenants' pockets are being bled dry by money hungry landlords, almost half of low-income households are currently paying more than 30 percent of their income in rent.

Labor's promise to construct just 30,000 new housing units over the next five years is a drop in the ocean compared to the scale of the housing crisis. In 2021 there were an estimated 122,494 homeless people in Australia and in the same year 163,500 households were on the public housing waiting list.

In an address to the National Press Club before last year's federal election, Chalmers made it clear that Labor is a "pro-business, pro-employer Labor Party." To their credit, they've stuck to their guns. Corporate profits are booming and the coal barons are cashing in big - that's one cheque Chalmers guaranteed.

The starting point to tackling inequality today is to dispel any wishful thinking that Labor will deliver for workers from on high, without a bitter fight back from below.

Platform:

UMSU condemns the budget as inadequate to solving the cost-of-living crisis facing workers and students.

Motion 14: To accept the proposed platform as presented.

Moved: Julien Macandili

Seconded: Sam Rathnaweera

CARRIED

Julian and Sam spoke to the motion.

Hiba noted that she made a statement about this on Presidents News, asked everyone to please read it.

Procedural Motion: to move directly to a vote on the motion.

Moved: Hiba Adam

CARRIED

11. Other Business (Motions without Notice)

Preamble:

Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an important meeting for UMSU where we make sure that the student body is still the most representative body. AGM is a platform of strong transparency and students get the chance to have their voices heard. AGM is a legal and constitutional requirement that UMSU is supposed to conduct every year.

Motion 15: That Students' Council pass \$700 for AGM decoration, food and drinks. That the recipients (Gen Sec) warrant they will only use the grant of funds in the manner specified in this motion.

Moved: Harley Lewis

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED

12. Next Meeting

Tuesday 27 June, 12pm.

13. Close

Meeting closed at 4:05pm