

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Friday 21 April 2023, 2:30pm
Meeting 8(23)
Location:

Meeting opened at 2:30pm

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Disha Zutshi be elected as Chair.

Mover: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Divyanshi Sati

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	No
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	Yes
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)	N/A	N/A
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	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Isioma Ogwu	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Mohan Kwatra	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raphael Duffy	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Senaya (Sam) Rathnaweera	Terminated, Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Watey Diep	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	N/A	N/A
Students' Council (General Representative)	Kunal Dewani	Yes

Office Bearers

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

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Phoebe Churches (Divisional Manager, Advocacy & Legal), Priyanka Pandey (Divisional Manager, People & Community), Ciara Griffiths (Coordinator, Student Representation), Tim Lippis (Coordinator, Project Administration), Maya Catic (Manager, HR), Leon Paratz (C&S Committee), Aurora Carli, Jessica Fanwong, Lucinda Chapman-Kelly, Maeve Russack, Remy, Rahul Mittal, Joel Duggan (Farrago Reporter).

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

1.6.1. For Council 8(23): Rhys Browning, Josh Davis, Annalyce Wiebenga, Carmen Chin, Jack Doughty, Hiba Adam

1.6.2. Attendance Waiver for Semester 1: Zodie Bolic, Arya Kushwaha

Motion 2: to accept the leave of absence requests.
 Moved: Chair
 CWD

1.7. Membership

1.7.1. Sam Rathnaweera has been terminated from Council.

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.
 Mover: Chair
 CARRIED
Procedural Motion: to move the CEO welcome to the top of the agenda.
 Moved: Luv Golecha
 CARRIED

7. CEO Welcome

Hiba Adam welcomed the new CEO, Sara Pheasant, to UMSU. Hiba thanked Phoebe for her time and service in the time she has been Interim CEO.

Sara introduced herself to Council, looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know all members of Council.

Hiba Adam left at 2:47pm

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 7(23) unavailable

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Marcie Di Bartolomeo declared a potential conflict of interest with Item 10.4.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Hiba Adam	<i>Not Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Disha Zutshi	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Tvisha Purswani	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Arya Kushwaha	<i>Not 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	Jaryd Clifford	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Taj Takahashi	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Mary Kin Chan	<i>Submitted</i>

Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Carlos Lagos Martin	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Emma Dynes	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	James Gallagher	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	<i>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>Not Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Mehul Gopalakrishnan	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Sum To Leslie Ho	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Ishita Ganeriwala	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Yashica Mishra	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Ngaire 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>Submitted</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Helen Shen	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Zodie Bolic	<i>Submitted</i>

Carlos Lagos Martin raised concern with the lack of reporting from the Activities Department.

Chair noted that Tvisha Purswani submitted her report, but it was submitted to the wrong platform and therefore not included in papers.

Rose Power invited OBs who did not submit a report to provide a verbal update to their activities.

Savier D'Arsie-Marquez spoke to the Creative Arts department. They're doing Creative Arts things (applause followed). Mudfest preparation well underway, EOIs are open for artists – highly recommend departments to get involved! The Creative Arts Market will be running on May 3rd, EOIs for stalls are open.

Procedural Motion: To suspend the Standing Orders to accept an apology.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Harley Lewis submitted their apology for not being in attendance

Procedural Motion: To resume the Standing Orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 4: To accept the OB Reports.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

8. Other Reports

8.1. VCESS Report

VCESS directors gave an update on the activities of VCESS, and where the annual directors report is at.

Mohamed Hadi arrived at 2:55pm, with a slushie for Disha.

9. Operational Business

9.1. SIG Applications

- 9.1.1. FAME's Cinema Nova Networking Night – *FAME LSA*
- 9.1.2. The Wilde Kind – *JD Productions*
- 9.1.3. This is Where We Live – *Eleven Eleven Theatre*
- 9.1.4. Iftar at Unimelb – *Human Rights Watch*
- 9.1.5. Valedictory dinner for final year medical students – *Northern Clinical School*
- 9.1.6. Student Welfare Outreach Team (SWOT) Week - *Student Welfare Outreach Team (SWOT)*
- 9.1.7. First Nations Workshop: Bush Animals Weaving - *MDSC - Doctor of Medicine Student Conference*
- 9.1.8. Artwork for the Body Donor Program Commemorative Thanksgiving Service - *Jennifer Huang*

Divyanshi Sati raised concern regarding Iftar at Unimelb – this is a duplication of the Iftar program run by POC and Welfare.

Marcie Di Bartolomeo noted that applications 9.1.1-9.1.4 are regarding programs that have already occurred, asked if Council able to fund past programs.

Disha noted that she hadn't received the SIG applications until late, as there was an issue with the notification settings of the form on the website. However, conceded that events in the past may not have advertised that the events were funded by UMSU. Will reach out to these applicants.

Questions also raised by councillors regarding the SWOT grant, and if this duplicates existing UMSU programs.

Motion 5: To accept the FAME and Iftar at Unimelb Student Initiative Grants.

Moved: Divyanshi Sati

Seconded: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

FAILED

Motion 6: To accept the Northern Clinical School, MDSC, and Jennifer Huang's Student Initiative Grants.

Moved: Luv Golecha

Seconded: Divyanshi Sati

CARRIED

Motion 7: To defer the JD Productions, Eleven Eleven Theatre, and SWOT Student Initiative Grants to Council 9(23).

Moved: Kevin Li

Seconded: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

CARRIED

9.2. ToR SASH Working Group

CW: mention of sexual assault and harassment with no explicit detail.

Ngairé Bogemann spoke to the actions of the SA/SH Working Group. The terms of reference have been rewritten this year due to being unable to run due to lack of quorum. The terms of reference have changed the composition to ensure it can continue to reach quorum annually, shifting it to an opt-in process. The meeting schedule was also adjusted to every three weeks, from every two weeks, to provide adequate time for members to process heavy content.

Alessandra Soliven added that the changes allow for further input and intersectional discussion from other representative departments, bringing more nuanced insights to complaints and grievances.

Motion 8: To accept the changes made to the SASH WG ToRs and to open nominations for at least one but not more than three Students Council voting members of the WG. Nominations are to be directed to umsu-shrc@union.unimelb.edu.au and will remain open until maximum membership has been met.

Moved: Ngairé Bogemann

Seconded: Evelyn Thompson

CARRIED

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. UMSU AGM 2023

Motion 9: To direct the UMSU General Secretary to hold an AGM on 2nd May.

Moved: Kevin Li

Seconded: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

CARRIED

10.2. Media Motions

Motion 10: To pass \$300 from Period 7 of the Programs > Collectives budget line of the Media Department's budget to pay for Queer x Media Collectives.

Moved: Luv Golecha

Seconded: Divyanshi Sati

CARRIED

10.3. UMSU Contingent at the May 3rd NTEU Rally at Trades Hall

Preamble:

Recognizing the importance of solidarity between students and staff in higher education and acknowledging the crucial role that the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) plays in advocating for better working conditions for academic and

professional staff, the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) seeks to actively support the NTEU in its endeavours.

Action:

1. The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) will formally endorse the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) rally, scheduled to take place on May 3rd at Trades Hall.
2. UMSU will organize and mobilize a contingent of students to attend and participate in the May 3rd NTEU rally at Trades Hall, showing solidarity with university staff and advocating for improved working conditions.
3. UMSU will actively promote the May 3rd NTEU rally through various channels, including but not limited to UMSU social media platforms, email newsletters, and on-campus advertising, in order to raise awareness and encourage maximum student participation.
4. UMSU will allocate funds to provide necessary materials and resources (such as banners, signs, and transportation) to support the UMSU contingent at the rally.
5. UMSU will collaborate with the NTEU and other relevant stakeholders in coordinating the UMSU contingent's participation in the May 3rd rally, ensuring a unified and effective presence at the event.
6. Following the rally, UMSU will continue to maintain open communication with the NTEU and other relevant organizations, fostering a strong relationship between students and staff in advocating for the rights and well-being of all those involved in higher education.

Mover: Carlos Lagos Martin

Seconder: Ngaire Bogemann

Carlos spoke to his moving rights and current actions to support the NTEU industrial actions. Have been flyer and encouraging as many students to sign the pledge of support as possible. After Council, Carlos will be sending a Councillor and OB pledge of support to the NTEU, encouraged members of council to sign the pledge.

Ngaire spoke to her seconding rights. Hoped to see everyone at the rally. Had a proposed amendment.

Proposed amendment: To amend motion 10.3 to include '...and any other strike action undertaken by the NTEU between May 1st and May 5th' after 'at Trades Hall' in Action Point 1.

Moved: Ngaire Bogemann

This was amenable to the mover.

Conor Barnes arrived at 3:19pm

Sam Rath spoke in support, loves strikes.

Kevin Li also expressed support, UMSU should show solidarity with the NTEU.

Alessandra Soliven wished everyone a very happy Stonemason's Day.

Mohamed Hadi proposed additional amendments for UMSU to also stand in solidarity with Deakin's industrial action.

Proposed amendment: To amend motion 10.3 to include 'UMSU stands in solidarity with striking staff at Deakin University and supports all demands by the NTEU.'

Proposed amendment: To amend motion 10.3 to include 'UMSU supports the involvement of student unions and study body in fights for staff conditions at universities.'

This was amenable.

Motion 11: To accept the motion with all proposed amendments.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

10.4. Reopening of Club Reaffiliation for Semester 2

Preamble:

Student Council has an obligation to reopen student club affiliations in Semester 2 of 2023. Student club affiliations have been closed since the beginning of 2022. This is detrimental to student life on campus, clubs themselves, and the democratic principles underlying this organisation. The closure of club affiliations directly contradicts the purpose and responsibilities of UMSU outlined in the UMSU Constitution under Article 1.3 paragraphs a); c) and f); Article 6.1e); Article 2.7; and the aims stated on p. 74. I understand that C & S grant caps are on the increase, and greater resourcing has been allotted to UMSU through new redivisioning and the positive addition of new management support. Therefore, I submit that C & S is now better equipped to deal with the funding and resourcing issues compared to January 2022 which was the reason given for pausing student club affiliations. I see no reason why student club affiliations should remain closed in Semester 2 of 2023.

In my opinion, denying students the opportunity to experience the richness of campus through the existence of varied clubs and societies, demonstrates a failure of UMSU's Constitutional commitments.

Article 1.3f) of the Constitution states that UMSU's purpose includes:

...develop[ing], maintain[ing] and support[ing] student clubs, societies and associational life generally.

Page 74 of the Constitution reiterates that UMSU must aim:

d) to liaise with Student organisations and bodies in order to expand, develop and co-ordinate the range of cultural events and social activities for Students; and

More explicitly, one of UMSU's objectives is to affiliate clubs. This is a perpetual requirement that is delineated within the Constitution:

b) to oversee the registration and affiliation of clubs and societies to enable Students to access facilities, funding, grants and subsidies

If no affiliation is available to help new student clubs develop, why does C & S operate? If new student clubs cannot, via affiliation, receive entitlement to student initiative grants like the SSAF grant - for which UMSU affiliation is consistently a requirement - how can UMSU safely say that they are fulfilling their Constitutional purpose? Moreover, how are new students, with new ingenuity and new potential, expected to bankroll clubs exclusively out of their own back pocket, with no financial or administrative support from UMSU? How are they expected to foot the significant financial outlay for starting a club, such as publicity, as well as the ongoing costs - publicity, venue hire, trivia prizes, catering; speaker fees; ticket prices - if there is no structure in place that will help them succeed? This is exactly the challenge I am facing now. I cannot afford the \$2000 deposit on venue hire that is necessary for a student Ball; nor can I afford the venue hire at UHT, or to even host a pub night. This is a problem I have faced since 2022.

If club affiliations remain shut through 2023 and into 2024, then a student who enrolled at Unimelb in 2022 would have missed out on the opportunity of managing their own club altogether. Most students do not have the privilege to partake in these initiatives at high school; UMSU should pride themselves in the fact that they offer such a diverse range of opportunities to students.

Opening club affiliations is a matter of equity and fairness. But it is also a matter of transparency and responsible governance. It is stated in Article 1.3c) that UMSU must deign to

To provide a democratic and transparent forum in which Students' affairs and interest can be governed in an effective and accountable manner.

It is important that this principle is adhered to when negotiating the matter of club affiliation. Meeting minutes indicate that on January 23, 2023, Student Council unilaterally decided to host a meeting where closure of affiliations was on the agenda. This was well before the commencement of the academic year, when students would have had the opportunity to be on campus. This was also before club affiliations for semester 1 had even opened, which tends to be in about week 5 or 6. No information regarding exact times and locations was posted to the UMSU website about when the meeting would be held, or what was on the agenda, so that interested parties could attend and express their grievances. As of April, those details are still unavailable. In my view, the timing of the meeting may show a lack of due process on the part of UMSU in this particular instance.

Students also have the right to represent their interests at UMSU. Article 1.3a) sets out that UMSU is obliged.

To advance the welfare and interests of Students;

Instead, it seems here that by passing a motion to close affiliations in a premature and an arguably opaque way, students who have an interest in clubs and societies matters have been denied the right to express their opinions on and represent their interests regarding club affiliations. Article 6.1e) redoubles this stance, stating that Students' Council is responsible for:

Representing Students, and petitioning on behalf of Students, to the University and in the community

As stated earlier, new student clubs currently do not have the advantage of the support structures they need to operate and flourish. But it is during this crucial process of incipience, when a club is first starting out, that it needs funding and support more than ever. The decision to explicitly prioritise funding and services for affiliated members of UMSU over unaffiliated members directly contradicts Article 2.7, which states that UMSU may not discriminate in the provision of services to non-UMSU affiliates.

Now is a good time to reopen applications. The welcomed addition of new management support for UMSU teams this year may help ease the staffing issues that C & S has been experiencing. To my understanding, additional increases in grant caps for C & S may take less financial pressure off C & S to prioritise funding allocations and conduct triage.

It is widely understood that UMSU has been under pressure recently. I acknowledge this. The same can also be said of many clubs and student initiatives, many of which have suffered high attrition rates and a general attitude of apathy amongst returning students after COVID. These clubs need UMSU's support.

The supporting and development of new clubs and societies is a perpetual requirement under the Constitution. It is the cornerstone of the Constitution and a noble goal for UMSU to aspire to. It's important that UMSU does not lose sight of this in the face of administrative challenges.

Motion: To direct C&S to reopen club affiliations for Semester 2, 2023

Mover: Aurora Carli

Seconded: Divyanshi Sati

Aurora Carli spoke to the motion. Proposed that the new Divisional Manager, People & Community works with the Clubs Coordinator on a plan for additional casual staffing to manage new club affiliations and IGMs in semester 2 and draft a permanent plan with the department to provide ongoing additional resources.

Aurora spoke to their own experience of running a currently un-affiliated society, and her view of UMSU's obligations to its constitution to continue to affiliate new societies.

Kimmy Ng, C&S OB spoke to the motion. Thanked Aurora for raising this discussion, and bringing club affiliations back to UMSU attention as it is an important matter, and the department loves clubs, and wants to support more club applications. Invited Phoebe to speak to the operational side to the discussion.

Phoebe set out the efforts to address the workload issues leading to suspension of new affiliations for two semesters. These include a casual staff member engaged in semester 2 2022, and a workforce planning recommendation to increase ongoing staff in the department subject to funding and budgetary considerations. Phoebe pointed out that, due to SSAF shortfalls and changes to revenue opportunities since moving, UMSU is operating on a net loss of around \$3 million since the Pandemic impacted enrolments. Additionally, in 2022 there had been two critical reviews with a range of recommendations – one into risk and compliance, and the other into supporting the wellbeing of club members in C&S which also required extra

resourcing to implement, and the roll out of the new UMSU website had also created significant extra workload during that time, which should resolve now.

Procedural Motion: To suspend the Standing Orders to cede the Chair to Mohamed Hadi.

Moved: Disha Zutshi

CARRIED

Disha Zutshi cedes Chair to Mohamed Hadi. Mohamed Hadi is now Chair.

Procedural motion: To resume Standing Orders,

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Disha Zutshi left at 3:36pm

Mary Chan raised that with the current climate of casualisation of the workforce on campus, UMSU should not be encouraging a casual workforce also.

Council discussed the pros and cons of opening club affiliations, given the impact the closure has had on students wishing to form a new club. Clubs Officers and staff noted to Council that the formation of the new division only occurred recently, and the Clubs Coordinator is currently on leave, so there has been a very small window of time so far to examine the department's resourcing for club affiliations.

Renee Thierry proposed a foreshadowed motion.

Foreshadowed Motion: That the CEO be directed to work with the Division, in collaboration with the C&S Department, a written report to Council 10(23) regarding the status of C&S resourcing in light of new staffing structures of the People & Community Division, including the welcoming of the new CEO and Divisional Manager. This should address and assess the ability of C&S to take new affiliations in Semester 2, 2023.

Ciara Griffiths reminded that Council moved to close applications for Semester 1 and reopen applications in Semester 2 pending appropriate administrative support in the department. Ciara clarifies that Council made the decision that applications will reopen in Semester 2 provided the resources are made available.

Leon Paratz posed to Phoebe Churches and Sara Pheasant why the resources of the department have been diminishing through the years, and the plan for change.

Phoebe responded; the resources have not been reduced to the department. There was an exponential growth in the department, and number of clubs, before the pandemic, several critical reviews, and a new website and now the department is needing to adapt its processes.

Kimmy Ng spoke in favour of Renee's foreshadowed motion – as the matter involves staff, Council should consider allowing the time and action considered in Renee's motion, in fairness to the fact that Aurora's motion was raised while the C&S Staff are on planned and unplanned leave.

Marcie Di Bartolomeo asked about budgets if the department needs more funding.

Renee Thierry responded; staffing does not come from the department budget.

Watey Diep asked how much time is required to identify the resources needed open applications.

Renee responded, her countermotion proposes that a complete report in collaboration with the CEO, P&C manager, and CEO, would be presented at Council 10(23).

Motion 12: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Chair

FAILED

Council moves to the foreshadowed motion.

Motion 13: That the CEO be directed to work with the Division, in collaboration with the C&S Department, a written report to Council 10(23) regarding the status of C&S resourcing in light of new staffing structures of the People & Community Division, including the welcoming of the new CEO and Divisional Manager. This should address and assess the ability of C&S to take new affiliations in Semester 2, 2023.

Moved: Renee Thierry

Seconded: Kimmy Ng

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move to a five-minute break.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

**Council adjourned at 4:01pm
Council re-adjourned at 4:06pm**

Aurora Carli and Leon Paratz left at 4:06pm

10.5. Condemn the Andrews government's proposed public service sackings.

Preamble:

Dan Andrews' Labor government has announced their intention to cut public service jobs (mainly in community health) by as much as 10% in some sector, which could exceed 5000 job losses in absolute terms.

This is an attack on thousands of public sector workers, who are directly employed by the Andrews government, along with the poorest and most vulnerable sections of Victoria who rely on the limited services still provided by the state.

Andrews tried to justify the cuts as 'basically double ups', a claim which was flatly rejected by community health officials. In reality, the Victorian health system is already criminally underfunded, receiving the last funding per capita in 2019-20. The deterioration of Victoria's hospitals is a long gestating process, which has then been further compounded by the Coronavirus. Andrews' claim is a spit in the face to every

health worker who has had to endure the last few years and expected at least some respite post-covid.

The cuts are serious - industry professionals predict cutting preventative health measures mean hospitals and their emergency departments will be further strained.

Last year during the state election, Labor criticised the Liberals precisely for their anti-worker and job cutting agenda, with treasurer Tim Pallas saying "Make no mistake – Victorian jobs are on the ballot. The Liberals' plans to audit every major project would mean cuts and closures that would hurt Victorian families". Now Labor and Pallas are doing precisely what they campaigned against, showing themselves to be no alternative for workers.

This is a disgraceful anti-worker turn from the notionally left-wing Andrews government. It's likely the first act of an austerity budget. In an increasingly tight economic period, it's imperative that the left stands against the growing tide of attacks on the working class, the poor, and the public services that the state is meant to provide.

Platform:

1. UMSU stands against all cuts to Victoria's public services.
2. UMSU condemns the Victorian Labor government for placing the interests of business ahead of the working class.

Moved: Maeve Russack

Seconded: Raphael Duffy

Maeve and Raphael spoke to their moving rights.

Members of Council debated the statistics contained within the motion.

Leslie Ho left at 4:15pm

Motion 14: To accept then motion as presented.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

10.6. UMSU endorses the May Day 'People vs the Rich' protest.

Preamble:

National Union of Students Education Office has called for immediate action to combat the cost-of-living crisis that students and workers are facing across Australia.

In Melbourne just last year, rent increased by 20% - for the median worker, this equates to an \$80 a week increase.

Meanwhile, real wages have gone down, with inflation at 7.8%, while wage growth is increasing at a rate of only 3.3% across Australia.

While it's recommended that individuals pay no more than 30% of their income on rent, workers in the hospitality and aged care industries are having to pay upwards of 70%. This is impacting students, who are more likely to work at minimum wage jobs, which leave some with just \$20 a day after paying rent.

We are not all feeling the burden of this crisis. Corporate profits have never looked better. The top 5 oil companies made a record \$219 billion last year while increasing petrol prices. The Coles Group profits were up by 17.1 per cent to \$643 million. Qantas claimed a \$1 billion profit with a revenue of \$10 billion.

However, the priorities of the Labor government, both federally and in the state of Victoria, is not to help students and workers impacted by this crisis. While Australians are increasingly living in poverty, the federal Labor government is handing out tax cuts of \$356 billion to the rich and wealthy over the next decade. These cuts will only increase the 'profit-profit' spiral that is fuelling current inflation.

Students need to act now to fight against the Labor government and the corporations that they serve. The NUS May Day rally, 'The People Versus The Rich' calls for safe and affordable housing, wage and welfare increases, and demands that the rich should have to pay for this crisis that they have caused.

Platform:

1. UMSU endorses the National Union of Students May Day 'The People Versus The Rich' campaign.
2. UMSU condemns the state and federal Labor governments for their abandoning of students and workers during this current cost of living crisis.
3. UMSU condemns the federal Labor government's tax handouts to the wealthiest Australians, in the form of the stage 3 tax cuts and negative gearing offsets.

Moved: Lucy Kelly

Seconded: Bella Beiraghi

Lucy Kelly ceded speaking rights to Remy. Remy spoke to the cost-of-living crisis.

Carlos Lagos Martin spoke in favour of the rally, noted there was a communication failure from the NUS Education office. Encouraged to Council to consider the messaging fatigue students may experience however, in promotion of this rally on top of the NTEU solidarity rally.

Students and Councillors spoke at length about the cost-of-living crisis.

Motion 15: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

11. Other Business (Motions without Notice)

12. Next Meeting

5th May at 2:30 pm.

13. Close

Meeting closed at 4:27pm