



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Minutes

Friday 11 December 2:00pm

Meeting 1(21)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/87485620586?pwd=b0xCSzVPWFpjT1ltd3o4bnBsT0htZz09>

Password: 763528

Council opened at 2:03pm.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Ciara O'Sullivan be elected Chair.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

Carried

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Kevin Mao	Y	1
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Clea Porteus Borthwick	Y	1
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Georgia McCourt	Y	1
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Janise Sam Qian Yee	N	0
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Shreya Bhutani	N	0
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raymond Wu	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Andoni Fischer	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Devindee Nugawela	Y	1

Students' Council (General Representative)	Jennifer Lui	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Xinling Lu	N	0
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rubina Smith	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joanna Guelas	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Catriona Smith	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Xavier Dupe	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Alex Wood	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Charlotte Macpherson	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Lachlan Hinds	N	0
Students' Council (General Representative)	Sian Tjia Hennessy	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ethan Alex Georgeou	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Zill-e Rahim	N	0
Students' Council (Indigenous Representative)	Brittney Henderson	Y	1

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
President	Jack Buksh	Y	1
General Secretary	Ciara O'Sullivan	Y	1
Activities Officer	Christos Prevolos	Y	1
Activities Officer	Phoebe Chen	Y	1
Clubs & Societies Officer	Muskaan Hakhu	Y	1
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kalyana Vania	Y	1
Disabilities Officer	Brigit Doyle	N	0
Disabilities Officer	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	Y	1
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Tejas Gandhi	Y	1
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Hannah Krasovec	Y	1
Environment Officer	James Park	Y	1
Environment Officer	Ann Nguyen	Y	1
Media Officer	Lauren Berry	Y	1
Media Officer	Pavani Ambagahawattha	Y	1
Media Officer	Ailish Hallinan	Y	1
People of Colour Officer	Emily AlRamadhan	Y	1
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	Y	1
Queer Officer	Amy Bright	Y	1
Queer Officer	Laura Ehrensperger	Y	1

Welfare Officer	Allen Xiao	Y	1
Welfare Officer	Hue Man Dang	Y	1
Women's Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	N	0
Women's Officer	Mickhaella Ermita	Y	1
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Planning Jay Vyn Saw	Y	1
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Jennisha Arnanta	Y	1
Creative Arts Officer	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	Y	1
Creative Arts Officer	Merryn Hughes	Y	1
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Y	1
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	William Hall	N	0
Indigenous Officer	Shanysa Jayde McConville	N	0
Indigenous Officer	Hope Kuchel	N	0

Other: Justin Baré, UMSU CEO

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Brigit Doyle, Srishti Chatterjee, William Hall

Councillors: Shreya Bhutani, Xinling Lu, Zill-e Rahim, Janise Qian Sam Yee

Leave of Absence Requests

Merryn Hughes January 15th - 22nd 2021

Motion 2: To accept the leave of absence request from Merryn Hughes.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

1.5. Proxies

Xinling Lu to Tejasvi Madan, Janise Qian Sam Yee to Archit Agrawal, Zill-e Rahim to Anson So, Shreya Bhutani to Shreyans Shah, Lachlan Hinds to Charlotte Macpherson

1.6. Membership

Elmira Cheung has resigned as Media Office Bearer

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Xavier has an amendment to move to item 10 after item 5 and then return to item 6. But there was no seconder and motion could not pass.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 21(20)

Motion 4: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of Council 21(20) with the amendment of changing the spelling of Sheik to Sikh.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

None declared

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Office Bearer Reports

Motion 5: To treat OB Reports and Gurpreet's Report separately.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

President	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Ciara O'Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities	Christos Preovolos	<i>Submitted</i>
	Phoebe Chen	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Clubs and Societies	Kalyana Vania	<i>Submitted</i>
	Muskaan Hakhu	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	<i>Submitted</i>
	Merryn Hughes	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	<i>Submitted</i>
	Brigit Doyle	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs)	Jennisha Arnanta	<i>Submitted</i>
	Planning Jay Vynn Saw	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs)	Hannah Krasovec	<i>Submitted</i>
	Tejas Gandhi	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Ann Nguyen	<i>Submitted</i>
	James Park	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Hope Kuchel	<i>Submitted</i>
	Shanysa McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media	Lauren Berry	<i>Submitted</i>
	Ailish Hallinan	<i>Submitted</i>
	Pavani Ambagahawattha	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour	Mohamed Hadi	<i>Submitted</i>
	Emily AlRamadhan	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer	Amy Bright	<i>Submitted</i>
	Laura Ehrensperger	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare	Hue Man Dang	<i>Submitted</i>

	Allen Xiao	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Submitted</i>
	Mickhaella Ermita	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank	William Hall	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>

Ciara O'Sullivan explained that there was no "When Is Good" sent for the training as only one time was on offer and that all future Councils will have a "When Is Good".

Catriona Smith asked if students will be asked to volunteer for translating the C&S Guide and that this is labour. Kaylana Vania answered that C&S are looking to Clubs in regard to this.

Muskaan Hakhu advised that translators will be looked at in terms of being affiliated with the Union.

Catriona Smith to Disabilities: It'd be more appropriate to refer certain students' questions to Advocacy.

Catriona Smith about Education (Academic Affairs): Most of the things outlined in the report are not accurate, in particular regarding the handover.

Procedural motion: To remove the Education (Academic Affairs) report from the bloc.

Mover: Catriona Smith

Seconder: XXX

Failed

Education (Academic Affairs) Office Bearers defended their report.

Motion 6: To close speaking list.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair).

Carried

Archit Agrawal spoke in support of the Education (Academic Affairs) report.

Jack Buksh defended himself sitting on the ACCC board and being UMSU's President at the same time.

Tejasvi Madan proposed a motion to direct the UMSU President to resign from the Student Representative Network.

Thonya Deverall provided strongly worded dissatisfaction with this motion and said that it's blatantly political, reprimanded Archit Agrawal and expressed concern about the future of the Union.

Archit Agrawal responded that Students' Council marginalised International voices last year and moved procedurals to silence them. He said he cares for the Union and is moving procedurals in the Union's interest.

Procedural to move directly to a vote on this issue.

Mover: Archit Agrawal

Carried

Motion 7: To direct the UMSU President to resign from the Student Representative Network and allow other students to get the opportunity to connect with UMSU Advocacy and to direct the Education (Academic Affairs) OBs to reopen the SRN applications for ACCC and any other vacant committees and appoint a suitable person to the committee in line with SRN policy.

Mover: Tejasvi Madan

Seconder: Raymond

Carried

Tejas Gandhi spoke to the Education (Public) report.

Motion 8: To accept the OB report en bloc.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Catriona Smith voted against.

Carried

Ciara now moved to Gurpreet Singh's resubmitted annual report.

Gurpreet Singh spoke briefly to his report.

Tejasvi said the report is offensive, in bad faith and breaches Council Charter

Archit to Gurpreet: How did you get the information that there were more rats in the Union now?

Gurpreet: It's not my fault you don't have an office in the Union. Going to my office, I noticed a lot of rat droppings.

Archit: I did have an office at the Union and it was a bigger office than you had.

Rubina: A lot in the report was about items outside the scope and responsibilities of being an OB. It seems that a lot of why it was rejected at last council is still in this report. Thinly veiled metaphor about rat droppings. Putting personal grievances into OB report.

Procedural to move to a vote.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Motion 9: To accept Gurpreet Singh's OB report.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Failed

7. CEO Report

Procedural to move in camera.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Council moved in camera at 3:19pm.

Procedural to move out of camera.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Motion 10: To accept the CEO's report.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Council moved out of camera at 3:29pm

7.1. November Financial Reports

7.2. UMSU Balance Sheet

8. Other Reports

None

9. Operational Business

9.1. 2019 Activities Invoice

Ciara O'Sullivan briefly outlined the invoice and put it on the screen so that everyone could see it.

Motion 11: To accept to pay the Activities invoice from 2019.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

9.2. SRN Policy

Catriona Smith to Justin Baré: The idea of Council being able to overrule the Education committee by simple majority goes against the purpose of the Constitution and the framework that exists within UMSU, do you think this would open up a conversation that might be destructive toward UMSU?

Justin Baré: If we look at the processes whereby Council can overrule the decisions of a Committee or vary the decision, the rules are provided in the Constitution, in Regulations and normally this wouldn't be something that sits in Policy. There's generally a hierarchy of these instruments, the Constitution at the top, the Regulations below and the Policies below that. So if you are empowered to make a decision under one of those instruments, you can't grant a power to vary that under a subordinate instrument. It has to sit on the same level of authority.

Procedural to defer this motion so that Justin Baré can provide more information.

Mover: Catriona Smith

Carried

9.3. Creative Arts Film Equipment

Motion 12: To move \$700 from the 2020 Creative Arts department budget to cover the purchase of filming equipment (pull-up green screen, ring light kit, directional on-camera microphone, extension cable, smartphone adapter cable) and product shipping costs.

Mover: Merryn Hughes

Seconder: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna

Carried

Procedural to take a 15 minute break until 4:05pm

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Council paused at 3:50pm.

Council resumed at 4:06pm.

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. UMSU endorses the inclusion of pronouns in email signatures.

Including pronouns in a personal introduction, such as an email signature:

- Reaffirms that one's pronouns cannot be assumed from just their name or appearance;
- Provides space for trans, intersex, and gender diverse (TIGD) people to share their pronouns without fear of judgement;

- Produces a non-cisnormative and binary-normative environment where they/them pronouns and neopronouns are normalised; and
- Reaffirms that everyone has pronouns, not just TIGD people.

Actions

1. UMSU reaffirms the position that all people, regardless of gender identity, have pronouns.
2. UMSU will make it the policy that all email signatures will include the pronouns of the person/s signing the email alongside their name.
3. UMSU OBs and Councillors are encouraged to apply these principles to other forms of personal introduction, such as names displayed on Zoom and other online meeting platforms.

Amendment: 2. UMSU will make it the policy that all email signature templates provided by the university will include the pronouns of the person/s signing the email alongside their names. The person/s signing the email may have the discretion to change or remove these.

Moved: Amy Bright

Seconded: Laura Ehrensperger

Amy Bright and Laura Ehrensperger spoke to the motion.

Xavier expressed that this is a good idea but questioned whether making it a requirement as it may out some people. Proposed an amendment to make it a recommendation rather than a requirement.

Amy said that pronouns are not equivalent to gender identity and that this doesn't police pronouns, just refers to whatever pronouns the person feels comfortable sharing.

Discussion around making this a requirement.

Motion 13: To approve the motion with the amendment.
Mover: Amy Bright Seconder: Laura Ehrensperger
Carried

10.2. UMSU declares a Climate Emergency

Preamble:

One of the foremost existential threats to human animals, non-human animals and our habitat in the modern age is climate change, as continued greenhouse gas emissions and ecological collapse of the same trajectory as today's will lead to the failure of our planet within the next decade.

We are running out of time to reduce our emissions and protect our future.

In 2020 alone, we experienced a bushfire crisis, atmospheric CO2 reached its record-high, and the Great Barrier Reef saw its most widespread bleaching event. While Traditional Owners of the land work to protect and preserve their land, corporations and world leaders continue to put profit over people, with (so-called) Australia's government recently announcing a 'gas-fired recovery' for our economy, which involves the mining and fracking of five new gas basins on Indigenous lands.

Climate change consists of many overlapping oppressive systems, all of which disproportionately affects people of colour, Indigenous communities and poorer populations. Last September's Climate Strike, the largest ever in world history, has shown that our generation is well-aware of the damage that climate change causes, and that we are willing to take action against the powerful, oppressive systems that intensify this destruction.

In a world of worsening climate and reinforced oppression, led by ignorant corporations and institutions, **we ask that UMSU uses its platform to acknowledge the urgency and severity of the climate crisis by declaring a Climate Emergency and taking immediate steps to further its commitments to sustainability.**

What will a Climate Emergency declaration do?

- Increase union-wide awareness of the climate crisis and support students' participation in climate action:

By making the urgency of the climate crisis clear, the declaration would help mobilise the students to take increasingly meaningful contributions towards the preservation of our planet. While it is unreasonable to expect everyone to instantly transform into an enthusiastic activist, declaring a climate emergency would define UMSU's role in transforming the zeitgeist of the student population to that of environmental responsibility.

Oftentimes, the threat that climate change poses to individuals, families and communities is intangible. Climate change's abstract nature makes it difficult to mobilise long-term support outside of dedicated circles of activists. An official declaration of climate emergency from UMSU would build a union-wide awareness that immediate action is required, and create a space where climate action is normalised and therefore more accessible.

- Act as a call for action to the University, from its students:

The current "business-as-usual" mindset among government leaders and executives of the University, now accompanied by greenwashed sustainability plans is detrimental to our fight against climate change. A declaration of climate emergency by UMSU would serve as a call to action for the University to see that the business practices of its partners are woefully unsustainable. Raising awareness of this issue to the student populace would be key in distancing the university from destructive, unethical corporations.

Students from all backgrounds come to UMSU to build a foundation to better represent the wishes of the student body. It is this fundamental belief that we can positively impact our peers that serves as the basis for every action that we take as a union.

Actions:

- UMSU acknowledges the urgency of the climate crisis by declaring a Climate Emergency.
- UMSU demands full divestment from fossil fuel industries, more transparency and more climate action from the University of Melbourne.
- UMSU re-evaluates the sustainability of UMSU events and forms a union-wide strategy to lessen climate impact through reducing single-use waste and carbon footprint.
- UMSU and the Enviro Department work with all departments to provide resources to support them in the transition towards having more sustainable operations.

Motion: For the above actions to be moved.

UMSU will respond to the climate emergency by supporting environmental activism and organising students to build a climate movement that stands in opposition to the "corporations, states, and other institutions destroying the planet.

First Nations voices should be centred in environmental activism. UMSU agrees to consult First Nations people where applicable in actioning climate activism

Mover: James Park

Second: Ann Nguyen

James Park and Ann Nguyen spoke to their motion.

Xavier expressed agreement and that this is an unprecedented threat to humanity. He said that we should also focus on large corporations, particularly fossil fuel companies. He spoke about people mobilising during the bushfire crisis.

Motion 14: To approve the motion.

Mover: James Park

Second: Ann Nguyen

Carried

10.3. Destination Melbourne

Destination Melbourne first ran in 2009, as part of Transition & Orientation in the University's Student Services Department, supported as part of the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP). Since 2014, the University of Melbourne Student Union has taken over the administration of this program with the help of dedicated student volunteers. There has been a brief hiatus, but we believe that Destination Melbourne is crucial for students who have struggled throughout 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

Destination Melbourne (DM) is a three day / two night residential pre-orientation program for undergraduate students who have been accepted into the University of Melbourne, principally from rural, regional and interstate areas, or schools that are under-represented at a tertiary level. Destination Melbourne allows students who are entering the University to develop a community and friendships even before their classes have started!

Students are supported by a team of enthusiastic volunteer hosts, who are current University of Melbourne students with an extensive knowledge of the University, and are keen to pass on their experience to incoming undergraduate students. Attendees of the program also have the opportunity to meet students from not just their own faculty, but from different faculties as well. We believe that the social networks developed during the transition to university can greatly ease what is often a daunting and difficult process.

For students who enter the University of Melbourne, transitioning in the new environment can be difficult and isolating. In order to help students build their community and friendships the activities run during the program include an Amazing Race around the Melbourne CBD, Scavenger hunts, a Gelato crawl and Trivia night. The program also includes talks and panels on the services available from the University and the Student Union, as well as a variety of activities around campus and the city of Melbourne. This helps familiarise students with the social, academic and extracurricular

features of university life. For students from rural, regional or isolated areas, this program also helps students learn to navigate the Parkville campus and areas around Melbourne.

We believe it is imperative for student life that Destination Melbourne returns.

- Motion: To direct the General Secretary to create a position description for 3 Destination Melbourne Directors and oversee the process of advertisement, recruitment and induction of the DM Directors.

Mover: Hue Man Dang

Second: Muskaan Hakhu

Amendment: To direct the CEO of UMSU to create a position description for Destination Melbourne directors and oversee the process of advertisement, recruitment and induction of the DM directors in consultation with staff and the general secretary and the president.

Amendment: Include Indigenous students in destination Melbourne.

Hue Man Dang and Muskaan Hakhu spoke to the motion.

Discussion about amendments:

Catriona Smith spoke in favour of Destination Melbourne but did not think it's appropriate for the general Secretary to oversee the PD and recruitment. Asked to change it to "direct Justin".

Archit Agrawal proposed an amendment for the General Secretary to work with staff about overseeing the recruitment.

Catriona Smith reiterated that she doesn't believe the General Secretary should be doing this due to students not having enough experience in matters of recruitment.

Jack Busch agreed that this is not in the scope for the General Secretary and that Justin Baré would be directing Goldie Pergl. He mentioned that the interview panel would be the President, Goldie and the HR Manager.

Procedural to move to a vote.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

Carried

Motion 15: To approve the motion with the proposed amendments.

Mover: Hue Man Dang

Second: Muskaan Hakhu

Carried

10.4. Defend Climate Activists and the IMARC 25

Preamble:

Climate justice is an urgent issue. Climate change is the number one issue on students' minds according to the Student Values Survey conducted by the National Union of Students in 2019. Students face a terrifying future and the disastrous bushfires at the start of 2020 have only made it more clear what is in store if immediate action is not taken to end the use of fossil fuels.

Students have been at the forefront of fighting for climate justice and making it an issue that is impossible to ignore, from school and uni strikes to challenging climate criminals. Last year, hundreds gathered outside of the International Mining and Resources Conference to protest some of the worst climate criminals on the planet. Dozens of protesters were brutalised by police and at least 25 have faced charges that, if upheld, represent a massive attack on the right to protest.

It is crucial that UMSU stands with climate justice activists and supports the right to protest by endorsing and signing onto the Defend the IMARC 25 statement as written below:

“We the undersigned call for the dismissal of all charges against activists who protested at the 2019 International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC). 25 activists are facing charges for being part of a civil disobedience protest for Indigenous rights, the environment, and demanding that the world's worst climate criminals be held to account.

Charges include “Unlawful Assembly”, “Besetting premises” and “Incitement” which, if upheld, will amount to a criminalisation of the right to protest.

IMARC is an annual gathering of notorious climate criminals like BHP, Glencore, Anglo American, RioTinto, Chinese state coal and many more. If IMARC were a country it would be the second biggest emitter in the world: the companies represented at the 2019 conference account for almost 20% of global emissions.

These corporations have blood on their hands. Many have been involved with violent campaigns of land theft and terror against indigenous populations all over the world, including in Australia. BHP has established the world's second biggest uranium mine, Olympic dam, despite the objections of the local Kokatha and Arabunna Aboriginal people. And just this year Rio Tinto have blasted through the Juukan Gorge Caves, an ancient cultural site in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Many of these corporations are also notorious union busters. Glencore, one of the companies responsible for reintroducing black lung disease to Australia, recently organised a 230 day lock out against workers in Queensland demanding better rights.

Activists protested at IMARC 2019 to demand climate justice and that these corporations be held to account. The Victorian police, at direction from the government, responded by violently breaking up our protest and arresting dozens.

These charges are an open attack on our basic civil liberties. We are not alone in facing such an attack. In Sydney, in Brisbane and all around the world climate activists, Indigenous and labour activists are facing similar repression.

As the climate crisis worsens by the day we need to fight for our right to protest more than ever. Join us in demanding that all charges against the IMARC activists be dropped.

The fight for climate justice continues.”

Platform:

- Stopping the climate crisis necessitates opposing the corporations that profit from extracting fossil fuels and other resources

- Civil disobedience and other forms of mass protest are essential to stopping the climate crisis. UMSU condemns the repression of the IMARC blockade
- All charges against the IMARC 25 and other climate activists should be dropped. The real criminals are the capitalists that steal indigenous land and are destroying the environment
- UMSU opposes any restriction on the right to protest, whether in the form of civil disobedience, demonstrations, or labour strikes

Action:

- Students Council signs onto the above statement and makes a public statement in support of the campaign.
- Students Council directs Office Bearers to sign the statement

Moved: Xavier Dupe

Seconded: Hue Man Dang

Xavier Dupe spoke to his motion.

Archit Agrawal proposed an amendment – instead of “Students Council directs Office Bearers to sign the statement”, to read “Students Council directs the President and the General Secretary to sign the statement”.

Xavier responded with “how about the president, Secretary and the Environmental Officers?”

This was amenable to the Environment Officer and Archit Agrawal.

Motion 16: To approve the motion with the proposed amendments.

Mover: James Park

Secunder: Ann Nguyen

Carried

10.5. Support for the campaign to restore the right to protest in Victoria

Preamble:

As of 9 December, when this motion was submitted, demonstrations are severely restricted in Victoria. The Andrews government achieved this by inserting a clause into the public health orders banning a gathering of more than 10 people “for a common purpose”. Though this has now been lifted to 50, our ability to safely exercise our right to protest has been unjustly curtailed. It is obvious from how this has been implemented that it has nothing to do with public health. 300 people going to the park or beach in small groups are not considered to be meeting “for a common purpose”, while a physically distanced protest planned by Uni Students for Climate Justice was threatened with fines. Protestors on Djab Wurrung land, trying to defend sacred trees from the Andrews government, were fined and dragged off the site. Bars and cafes can seat 150 people inside or 300 outside (without masks), yet protests of this size with physical distancing and masks are banned.

While stringent public health measures are required to suppress or eliminate the spread of COVID-19, the repressive measures currently directed at protests are anti-democratic and hypocritical. The Black Lives Matter protests earlier in the year did not result in any transmissions, unlike now-permitted activities such as dining in restaurants. While the right-wing anti-lockdown protests were reactionary and unsupportable, the increased repressive powers of the police must be staunchly opposed, as it is primarily the left and the oppressed who suffer from increased policing.

In NSW, similar anti-protest laws were defeated by mass demonstrations in defiance of the laws. This will be necessary in Victoria as well. A campaign to Restore the Right to Protest has been established to fight for this fundamental democratic right.

Platform:

1. UMSU affirms that protest is a fundamental democratic right and opposes laws restricting the right to protest, while supporting health measures such as restrictions on businesses, requirements to wear masks etc.
2. UMSU endorses the campaign “ Restore the right to protest” in Victoria and a strategy of mass defiant protest as the best way to achieve this
3. UMSU calls for the removal of the ban on outdoor gatherings “for a common purpose”
4. UMSU condemns the repressive measures used against protesters on the spurious grounds of controlling COVID-19, while opposing the reactionary anti-lockdown protests held earlier this year
5. UMSU calls for the cancellation of all fines and charges against protestors, including Warriors of Aboriginal Resistance, the Djab Wurrung Embassy, Refugee Action Collective as well as individuals targeted at protests

Action:

6. UMSU Office Bearers will sign the statement supporting the campaign at:
http://restoretherighttoprotest.org/?fbclid=IwAR0llBnCz9UK-qRJ7EwLNkQJfzirG0PrvJCXMN8_9naYuJaaXMlsxVIfU
7. UMSU will publicise the campaign through all available channels (emails, Facebook pages, etc.)
8. UMSU will call for NUS to sign the statement

Moved: Xavier Dupe

Seconded:

Procedural to defer this motion to next Council.

Mover: Ciara O’Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

10.6. UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group

Ciara O’Sullivan issued a trigger warning about this motion.

CW: mentions of sexual assault, no explicit detail.

The UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group (SAWG) was established last year - by the endeavour of the UMSU Women's Department, and ratified by Students Council 2020 - "to give UMSU Student Representative Departments a forum to discuss and address issues of sexual assault and harassment at the University and within UMSU.

Representatives of the Women's Department, namely the Women's Office-Bearers, sit on the University's committees on Sexual Assault and Harassment - namely Respect Taskforce and Community in Practice. It is the University's understanding that these endless bureaucratic circles actually work to commit to making the University safer for its students. We understand that Safety on Campus is not solely a "Women's issue". The SAWG meets once every month off semester, and once a fortnight during semester, to discuss and form policy that focus on prevention education programs, support systems for survivors and disciplinary practices that focus on restorative justice.

For more details on the SAWG, please go through the Terms of Reference that will be attached to this set of documents.

The membership, as listed on the Terms of Reference, will be formed this year by the 2021 office-bearers and Student Councillors. We must have a meeting before the University closes for holidays on the 23rd of December, therefore, we need you to send the names of the voting representatives of the departments in the committee, and the members of Students Council that will be on the SAWG, by next Wednesday, 15th of December.

We also believe that one voting representative from the Creative Arts and Media departments should be added to the present membership of the Working Group - owing to the specific gender-based violence and discrimination in the fields of arts and culture, and the problems of reporting them. UMSU and the University have quite a large theatre and arts community, and 2020 Southbank OB Verity Crane and Creative Arts OB Liv Bell wrote a recommendation to 2020 SAWG to include and represent artists through the group's discussion and policy.

Action 1

To approve a change in membership of the UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group to include one voting member each from the Creative Arts and Media departments.

Action 2

To direct UMSU Departments in membership of the UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group, and the Students Council, to submit their nominated voting representatives to the Women's Department by Friday, the 18th of December.

Moved by: Srishti Chatterjee

Seconded by: Mickhaella Ermita

Mickhaella Ermita took over as mover in Srishti's absence, spoke to the motion.

Procedural to suspend Standing Orders Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair) Carried

Dony's proxy to Rubina.

Motion 17: To approve the motion. Mover: Mickhaella Ermita Carried	Seconder: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna
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10.7. UMSU Solidarity with Indian Students

On January 22 2020, UMSU Student Council discussed recent violence in India and issues around Hindu Supremacy and Islamophobia in India. There were two motions raised in the Council. The first one asked for the following action:

"I would greatly appreciate UMSU publishing a statement, online or in whichever medium is most appropriate, expressing the sentiments of solidarity with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia and Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi and with the JNU Students' Union I outlined in the platform section; and offering support to international students from India who may have friends or relatives affected in these attacks."

This motion was passed with a small amendment by Srishti Chatterjee, who was in India at the time and was making their point through another Councillor.

The second motion stated the following:

*"UMSU recognises that the modern day state of India is a state built on apartheid and genocide
UMSU recognises that the struggle for Indian independence was led by minorities*

UMSU recognises that minorities in India are oppressed to this day and oppression will not stop unless there is self-determination for all oppressed peoples across the world

UMSU pledges to boycott institutions that promote the state of India or Hindutva ideology

The UMSU President is directed to publish a statement of solidarity with students currently protesting anti-Muslim laws as well as a statement condemning India's existence as an oppressive state on UMSU Facebook."

Archit Agrawal and Srishti Chatterjee spoke against some of the terms used in the motion, but were silenced by a council that was mostly white and had no reasonable understanding of Indian history. The following amendments were proposed, mostly by Srishti Chatterjee, and were amenable:

- 1. UMSU stands against all forms of Islamophobia*
- 2. UMSU stands in solidarity with the Dalit community, previously unmentioned, that have been treated as inferior citizens and humans.*

3. *UMSU stands in solidarity with the women leading the struggle in Shaheen Bagh, and subsequently, Park Circus Maidan, lest they be forgotten.*
4. *UMSU condemns the internet and communications ban, and Human Rights Violation in Kashmir.*

The following motion was not amenable:

UMSU clearly defines the State of India to be the ruling party and its Hindutva ideology, and not any other representation of our nation such as flags and anthems, and events with a cultural connection to the people of India. When we extend solidarity to the dissent of the people against the government, we cannot at the same time, boycott the whole state. In a democracy, the ruling party is not the whole nation. Indian students, who are often on the receiving end of intense racism in University, need to be kept safe, because a lot of their families are affected by this, and it is important to clarify and word it carefully to not vilify every association with the Indian state.

Later in the year, UMSU INTL passed a motion in response to UMSU's motions. They stated:

"UMSU INTL stands in solidarity with all students in India who are protesting for Indian Constitutional values.

UMSU INTL condemns UMSU's xenophobic stand on India.

UMSU INTL extends support to all Indian students at the University of Melbourne who have felt discriminated against by the actions of UMSU's Student Council."

UMSU INTL also called "upon UMSU to refrain from expressing opinions on matters that are extremely complicated results of colonialism and of which UMSU Student Council Members have little or no understanding of. UMSU INTL also requests UMSU to consider avoiding such actions towards any other countries as Student Council Members may not be a diverse enough group of people to express opinions on these matters."

The person who moved the motion continued to refer to India as a "colonial state" throughout the year, as the People of Colour Office Bearer. The OB clearly does not understand what a colonial state means and anything about the Indian history. Said OB was also asked to give context to their condemnation of the Indian state, to acknowledge the nuance in political conditions, and to not presume knowledge, especially amongst white students that directly benefit from continuing racism and colonisation.

Motion

UMSU stands in solidarity with Indians across the world who are continuing protesting the tyrannical and bigoted Government of India.

UMSU extends solidarity to the present general strikes and marches across the country by Sikh and Dalit farmers, protesting against the corporatisation of land and crop revenue.

UMSU retracts the motion calling the state of India oppressive and claiming that it is built on apartheid and genocide. UMSU recognises that the Union of India has a rich and diverse history, and is built by hundreds of communities who worked together to achieve independence.

UMSU recognises the xenophobic nature of its earlier stance and apologises to all Indian students who were made to feel unsafe because of an ignorant decision made by the members of that student council.

UMSU recognises that the present government of India is in no way equivalent to the Indian state, and denounces all individuals who attempt to conflate the two.

UMSU condemns the actions of Bhartiya Janata Party, Prime minister Modi and Home minister Amit Shah for their oppressive views. The recently passed law of Citizen's amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of citizens act (NRC) are dangerous, offensive and is based on xenophobic and Islamophobic attitudes and is a divisive and blatant attack on the minorities of India. India's current political standing and ruling party BJP is based on social oppression and racial injustice.

UMSU condemns Hindutva and all other form of Hindu Indian nationalism

Mover: Archit Agrawal

Secunder: Srishti Chatterjee

Archit Agrawal spoke to the motion. Muskaan Hakhu seconded the motion in Srishti's absence.

Thonya Deverall requested that anyone who votes up this motion is minuted.

Thonya: there is nothing wrong with saying that a State is colonialist when it is. That isn't saying that everyone in that State is Colonialist and that Australia is also a Colonialist State. If UMSU is serious about supporting Indigenous rights, we have to support it outside of Australian borders as well.

Procedural to suspend Standing Orders

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Proxy change: Shan proxies to Thonya. XXX proxies to Sonya.

Proxies approved by Council.

Disagreement between Tejas Gandhi and Archit Agrawal regarding the motion.

Procedural to suspend Standing Orders

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

Carried

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

Carried

11.4. Activities Summer Packs

11.5. Activities Pill Testing/Entertainment Resources

Christos Prevolos clarified that the prize packs are for 150 people.

Catriona Smith asked whether the University's position on distribution pill testing kits have changed. Christos Prevolos said that this will be off campus. Ciara O'Sullivan said that the University hasn't changed its position on distribution of pill testing kits.

Motion 20: To move motions 11.4-11.5 en bloc.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

Carried

11.6. Clubs Training Courses

Motion 21: To move the motion.

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

Carried

12. Other Business

Archit Agrawal asked the Environment OBs to work with him to draft a motion for future council.

13. Next Meeting

TBD

14. Close

Council closed at 5:38pm

9.1 2019 Activities Invoice

To move \$853.60 from the 2020 Activities Budget to pay for an outstanding invoice for Spinach Ricotta Burgers from a 2019 Activities BBQ.

Mover: Christos Prevolos

Seconder: Phoebe Chen

Motions Without Notice

11.1. Environment Menstrual Products

Motion: To move \$10000 from the 2020 Environment Department Budget to cover the purchase of sustainable menstrual products (including various sized reusable pads and menstrual cups). These products will be included in an end-of-year giveaway.

Mover: Ann Nguyen

Secunder: James Park

11.2. Environment Shaving Products

Motion: To move \$8000 from the 2020 Environment Department Budget to cover the purchase of environmentally friendly shaving products (i.e. safety razors, organic shaving soap and shaving cream). These products will be included in an end-of-year giveaway.

Mover: James Park

Secunder: Ann Nguyen

11.3. Environment Stickers

Motion: To move \$140 from the 2020 Enviro department budget to cover the purchase of biodegradable stickers as part of the aforementioned giveaways.

Mover: Ann Nguyen

Secunder: James Park

11.4. Activities Summer Packs

Preamble: Running online events has proven to be challenging, and is even more so as things begin to reopen in the state. To facilitate student engagement with the department in a way that does not restrict people to staying at home, while also providing support to students after a difficult year, the Activities department plans to run a showcase of student talent - called the 'Letter to 2020' - in which every participant receives an entry prize (consisting of a 'Summer Party Package'). Those who submit exceptional pieces will receive major prizes, consisting of Spotify/Netflix/Dymocks vouchers depending on the type of media submitted.

Motion: To move \$16,400.00 from the 2020 Activities Budget to cover the purchase of environmentally friendly sunscreen, lip balm, deodorant, Instax Photos camera, keep cups, playing cards, beach towels, gift vouchers (for Dymocks, Netflix and Spotify) and extra-large pre-paid parcel post bags to build the 'Summer Packs' for an end of year social activities and giveaway for students which will all be mailed to them.

Mover: Christos Preovolos

Secunder: Phoebe Chen

11.5. Activities Pill Testing/Entertainment Resources

Preamble: The Activities Department is committed to ensuring students who may choose to use recreational drugs (or know someone who may use recreational drugs) can do so safely. It is long-standing practice at UMSU to offer pill testing kits to students, which can be sent out via mail upon request. Furthermore, the Department is committed to inclusive activities for all students, and as such wishes to purchase board games that can be reused at in-person

events. The aim is to create a Games and Entertainment Resources Hub that can be expanded over the year, with the aim of improving the safety and accessibility of UMSU events.

Motion: To move \$9000 from the 2020 Activities Budget to cover the purchase of resources for the UMSU Activities 'Games and Entertainment Resources Hub'. This will include Pill Testing Kits (including mailers for the kits), stationery, and board games.

Mover: Christos Preovolos

Secunder: Phoebe Chen

11.6. Clubs Training Courses

Preamble: Clubs and societies strive to extend services that will be useful for club members (both executive and non-executive members) and equip them with the necessary knowledge on food safety handling and responsibility service of alcohol. Given the rough year of 2020, a lot of clubs are at risk of disaffiliation for not being able to hold events or activities. We aim to provide these programs free of access to any club members, so that they may be equipped with the necessary knowledge they may need throughout their term. Doing so, we hope to reach all clubs regardless of where their members are located as of right now, hence these courses will be delivered online to increase accessibility. We also believe doing so clubs will be better prepared and plan their activities throughout next year.

Motion: To move \$8,200 from the 2020 Clubs and Societies Budget, to cover the payment of 4 responsible service of alcohol courses which will totals to \$4,800, and 4 safe food handling course which is \$3,400 to be delivered online within the period of (depending on the availabilities of interested/willing club members, which we will attain through a Typeform Survey)

Mover: Muskaan Hakhu

Secunder: Kalyana Vania