



**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Friday 17th September 2021 1:00pm
Meeting 15(21)
Location: Zoom**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/88572029711?pwd=ZjdOVUtQOWNVUklvaHhMUlRINjBzUT09>
Password: 180836

Meeting opened at 1:07pm

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion: To suspend standing orders so Allen Xiao may be elected as Chair.

Mover: Allen Xiao

It was raised that according to R9.7 of the Standing Orders, *"at least every second Chair must be a woman, excepting if no woman is willing to chair the meeting."* As there were women present in Council willing to chair, Allen Xiao cannot be elected as Chair.

Motion 1: That Tree Smith be elected as Chair

Mover: Tree Smith

Seconded: Srishti Chatterjee

FAILED

Motion 2: That Clea Borthwick be elected as Chair

Mover: Clea Borthwick

Seconded: Lauren Scott

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	Kevin Mao	Yes
Students' Council (Indigenous Representative)	Brittney Henderson	Yes

Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Clea Porteous Borthwick	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Georgia McCourt	Yes
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Janise Qian Yee Sam	Resigned
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Shreya Bhutani	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raymond Wu	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Charlotte Macpherson	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Aashi Agarwal	On Leave
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ethan Alex Georgeou	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Jeremy Cameron	On Leave
Students' Council (General Representative)	Harry Black	No
Students' Council (General Representative)		
Students' Council (General Representative)	Sophie Nguyen	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Jennifer Lui	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Lauren Scott	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Xavier Dupe	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Scarlett Padden	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Catriona Smith	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joanna Guelas	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)		

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Jack Buksh	Yes
General Secretary	Allen Xiao	Yes
Activities Officer	Christos Preovolos	Resigned
Activities Officer	Phoebe Chen	On Leave
Clubs & Societies Officer	Muskaan Hakhu	No
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kalyana Vania	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Merryn Hughes	On Leave
Disabilities Officer	Brigit Doyle	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Planning Jay Vyn Saw	No
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Jennisha Arnanta	No
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Tejas Gandhi	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Hannah Krasovec	Yes
Environment Officer	Lynne Bian	Yes
Environment Officer	Disha Zutshi	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Shanysa Jayde McConville	Yes
Media Officer	Lauren Berry	Yes
Media Officer	Pavani Ambagahawattha	Yes
Media Officer	Ailish Hallinan	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Emily AlRamadhan	No
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	Yes
Queer Officer	Amy Bright	Yes

Queer Officer	Laura Ehrensperger	No
Welfare Officer	Hue Man Dang	No
Women's Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	Yes
Women's Officer	Mickhaella Ermita	No
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Yes
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Jamie Kim	On Leave
	Leyla Moxham	On Leave

Other: Nancy Ciara Griffiths (minute-taker), Justin Baré (CEO), Mohan Kwatra, Zac Kaplan, Alec Ferguson, Annalyce Wiebenga, Briana Symonds-Manne, Chinakila Makwaza, 'Claire', 'Emoly', Isabella Beiraghi, James Gallagher, Julian Petito, Juliette Mck, Julien Macandili, Maria L, 'Maryam', Moira Negline, Nishtha Banavalikar, Penelope S, Perna Aggarwal, Raphael Duffy, Sam Rath, Sophie Graley, Winnie Zheng, Benito Di Battista, Jordan Di Natali, Joshua Munro, Marcie Di Bartolomeo, Patrick Irwin, Sami Zehir, Bella Henry, 'ZB'

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers:

Mickhaella Ermita, Merryn Hughes, Jamie Kim

Councillors:

Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal and Jeremy Cameron

Leave Requests:

Addressed later in meeting (see 1.7)

1.5. Proxies

Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal to Perna Aggarwal

Jeremy Cameron to Lauren Scott

<p>Procedural Motion: To suspend standing orders to accept late proxies.</p> <p>Mover: Chair</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>Motion 3: To accept Harry Black's proxy to Scarlett Padden and Clea Borthwick's proxy to Georgia McCourt.</p> <p>Mover: Chair</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

Harry Black to Scarlett Padden

Clea Borthwick to Georgia McCourt

1.6. Membership

Jan Sam has resigned from Council

Christos Prevolos has resigned from Council

Procedural Motion: To resume standing orders.

Moved: Tree Smith

CARRIED

1.7. Leave Requests

Office Bearers:

Merryn Hughes from September 13-16

Leyla Moxham from September 20-27 & Council 15(21)

Jamie Kim for Council 15(21)

Motion 4: To accept the leave requests for Merryn Hughes, Leyla Moxham, and Jamie Kim.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Councillors:

Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal and Jeremy Cameron for Council 15(21)

Motion 5: To accept the leave requests for Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal and Jeremy Cameron

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 6: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 14(21)

Motion 7: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting 14(21).

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

None declared.

Benito Di Battista, 'Emoly', Joshua Munro, Jordan Di Natale, and Marcie Di Bartolomeo arrived around 1:29pm.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

A Welfare Check on Phoebe Chen was requested at Council 14(21). The CEO spoke to this, they have reached out several times to Phoebe, have yet to hear back from her.

Kalyana Vania raised that she has been in touch with Phoebe, stated she has been struggling with mental health and university. Regarding plans for the Activities department, Phoebe said she will be messaging Christos Preovolos. Concerns arose amongst Councillors over what happens here since Christos has resigned. Considering Phoebe's leave, and lack of reporting to Council before her leave started, question was raised whether the Activities Office was vacant. Kalyana offered to follow up again with Phoebe.

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submitted?
President	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Allen Xiao	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Christos Preovolos	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Phoebe Chen	<i>Leave</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Muskaan Hakhu	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kalyana Vania	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Merryn Hughes	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Brigit Doyle	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Planning Jay Vyn Saw	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Jennisha Arnanta	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Tejas Gandhi	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Hannah Krasovec	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Lynne Bian	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Disha Zutshi	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Shanysa Jayde McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Lauren Berry	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Pavani Ambagahawattha	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Ailish Hallinan	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Emily AlRamadhan	<i>Not Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Amy Bright	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Laura Ehrensperger	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Hue Man Dang	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Mickhaella Ermita	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Jamie Kim	<i>Submitted</i>
	Leyla Moxham	<i>Submitted</i>

Annalyce Wiebenga made a correction to Leyla Moxham's Southbank report regarding the Know Your Rights Workshop. Stated that the workshop will happen in week 11 or 12.

Srishti Chatterjee gave verbal Women's report. Discussed the National Student Survey release. Women's Office will be posting the link to the survey, to encourage more students to participate than the 10k randomly selected that will be sent the link by the university. Collaborating with other departments (e.g., Disabilities and Queer) for events.

Briana Symonds-Manne asked the Enviro about their motion without notice. Appreciated seeing the recognition of the National Day of Action, asked if they would support the COP26 protest. Disha Zutshi responded, said they were hoping to work with EdPub regarding this, as well as the GSA. Supporting of all forms of activism, so long as they have a safe outcome for all involved. Invited Briana to get in touch with Enviro to have further discussions. Briana asked if Enviro knows about the COP26 protest. Lynne Bian responded they are aware, keeping student safety in mind first before lending their support. Briana mentioned the GSA has voted to support, doesn't see why UMSU wouldn't. Disha highlighted that they are still new OBs and still getting all their access to platforms, happy to engage in further discussions outside of Council.

Chair was requested to moderate the speaking list.

Joshua Munro asked the General Secretary why the minutes for Council 14(21) haven't been sent out to all subscribers. Also raised that agendas and minutes haven't been updated on the UMSU website since March. Questioned transparency of this. Allen Xiao responded with an apology that the minutes were not sent out the mailing list for this Council, reminded that minutes are available upon request. Regarding uploading minutes to the website, Allen is still working through Wordpress and making minutes accessible. Joshua followed up, asked if there are temporary alternatives to making the minutes available to the public as requesting them from the General Secretary directly could seem intimidating. Allen responded that he would take another look at the uploading process.

Councillors noticed the Chair appeared to be absent.

Motion 8: to appoint Georgia McCourt as Chair.

Moved: Georgia McCourt

Seconded: Srishti Chatterjee

CARRIED

Sam Rath expressed support for EdPub's 'No Cuts' campaign.

Procedural Motion: to suspend standing orders to accept a proxy.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 9: to accept the proxy from Georgia McCourt to Raymond Wu.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Georgia McCourt proxied to Raymond Wu.

Procedural Motion: to resume standing orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Annalyce Wiebenga left around 2pm.

Bella Henry, Eleanor Cooney Hunt, Shreya Bhutani and 'ZB' arrived around 2pm.

Claire spoke to the Menzies Institute and No Cuts campaigns. Stated that the university is being difficult to work with in forums with students.

Srishti Chatterjee noted regarding the Climate Strike, that Council voted to only endorse the strike contingent on safety measures put in place to protect BIPOC students.

Srishti Chatterjee asked Enviro about the Mask Making workshops. Both Officers responded, noted they were hoping to do more in future and encourage more minority group involvements, would love to work with Women's on this.

James Gallagher spoke about the Menzies Forum and how that went, as mentioned in the EdPub reports.

Briana Symonds-Manne spoke the motion Srishti Chatterjee referenced, regarding the Climate Strike. Noted that this protest did not go ahead due to restrictions, however, there has been no precedent for safety plan requirements for protests like this one. No evidence to claims that their protests are unsafe for POC, requirements for pre-approved safety plans would be severely limiting to protests anti-activist.

Several Councillors expressed concern that the organisers of the Climate Strike rally were adamant on not providing a safety plan, appears reflective of their attitudes towards the safety of marginalised people. Has made some wary of supporting their rallies and contingents.

Motion 10: To accept the Office Bearer Reports en Bloc

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move in camera at 2.07pm.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 2.10pm

7. CEO Report

8. Other Reports

8.1. Wise Workplace Solutions Report

Council moved out of camera at 3.29pm.

Procedural Motion: to resume standing orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 14: to adjourn Council for a five-minute break.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council adjourned at 3.30pm

Council re-adjourned at 3.35pm

9. Operational Business

9.1. SIG Applications

9.1.1. MDHS Honours Student Conference and Three Minute Thesis Competition

9.1.2. Northern End of Year Graduation Dinner

9.1.3. Western Health Graduation Dinner

9.1.4. 2021 Melbourne Medical School Rural Clinical School Graduation Dinner

Procedural Motion: To vote on the motions en bloc.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 15: To accept all SIG Applications en bloc.

Moved: Raymond Wu

Seconded: Clea Borthwick

CARRIED

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. Indigenous Sovereignty and Bla(c)k Liberation Week

Chair invited the POC and Indigenous Office Bearers to speak to the motions.

Mohamed Hadi spoke to the motions. Brittney Henderson seconded all motions as Shanysa McConville was no longer present.

10.1.1. To pass \$2500 from whole of union funds for the speaker payment of the panellists of seminar "On the Quest to Bla(c)k Liberation".

10.1.2. To pass \$2,500 from whole of union funds for the performer payment of the Djirri Djirri dance performers for Indigenous sovereignty and Bla(c)k liberation week.

10.1.3. To pass \$1,250 from whole of Union funds for the payment of Mabu Mabu cook along class and the purchase and delivery of 50 damper kits for the class

Procedural Motion: To vote on the motions en bloc.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 16: To accept the Indigenous Sovereignty and Bla(c)k Liberation Week motions en bloc.

Moved: Mohamed Ali

Seconded: Brittney Henderson

CARRIED

10.2. Burnley Motions

Chair invited the Burnley Office Bearer to speak to her motions.

Kaitlyn Hammond spoke the motions and noted that they will need a seconder. Vaishnavi Ravikrishna seconded all motions.

10.2.1. To pass up to \$4000 from the workshops and incursions budget line to pay student contractors for work on an R manual.

Motion 17: To accept the proposed motion.

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna

CARRIED

10.2.2. To pass up to \$1700 from the activity and events budget line for the online painting workshop.

Motion 18: To accept the proposed motion.

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna

CARRIED

10.2.3. To pass up to \$500 from the activity and events budget line for a virtual escape room

Motion 19: To accept the proposed motion.

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna

CARRIED

11. Motions without Notice

11.1. Health Before Profits

Chair invited Xavier Dupe to speak to his moving rights.

Xavier Dupe passed moving rights to Julien Macandili. Julien spoke to their moving rights. Winnie Zheng seconded the motion, spoke to their moving rights.

Lauren Scott asked the movers more about the campaign. Xavier Dupe responded with an overview of the campaign, the recent forum, and those involved. Directed Council to their website for more information.

Amy Bright left at 3.52pm

Brigit Doyle asked the movers what they wanted Council to do, considering that the University already operates very conservatively in terms of reopening. Are they wanting reopening on campus to be set back even further? Movers responded that the motions were more regarding a general protest to the political climate of reckless reopening.

Discussion held on reckless reopening during COVID, and the importance in student unionism to oppose it. Some expressed concern for mental health in ongoing lockdowns, and subsequently for supporting lockdown-extensions. Others discussed how mental health is impacted across the population regardless, along with the additional risks caused by the spread of COVID.

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

Moved: Hannah Krasovec

CARRIED

Motion 20: To accept the proposed motion.

Moved: Julien Macandili

Seconded: Winnie Zhang

FOR: Xavier Dupe, Tree Smith, Brittney Henderson, Joanna Guelas, Sophie Nguyen, Raymond Wu with Georgia McCourt's proxy, Ethan Georgeou, Shreya Bhutani, Clea Borthwick, Jennifer Lui.

AGAINST: None.

CARRIED

11.2. SS4C National Day of Action

Chair invited the Enviro OBs to speak to the motion. Lynne Bian spoke to her seconding rights.

Enviro Office Bearers were encouraged to work with the Disabilities Office to ensure the campaign is accessible.

Procedural Motion: To move to a vote on the proposed motion

Moved: Ethan Georgeou

CARRIED

Motion 21: To accept the proposed motion.

Moved: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Lynne Bian

CARRIED

12. Other Business

Allen Xiao noted that there is a potential for the Strike to conflict with the Council meeting on October 15th. Rescheduling Council 17(21) was suggested.

Motion 22: To reschedule Council 17(21) to another day, and to direct the General Secretary to send out a WhenIsGood.

Moved: Lauren Scott

Seconded: Hannah Krasovec

CARRIED

Jack Buksh requested that for next Council meeting that meeting papers are circulated with appropriate notice.

13. Next Meeting

Thursday 30 September, 2pm.

14. Close

Meeting closed at 4.31pm

10.1 Bla(c)k Liberation Week

Preamble:

Due to lockdowns and the situation in Vic we're moving the week online and modifying it for an online audience, this includes having a cook along with Mabu Mabu with kits mailed to students who sign up and moving all seminars and workshops online, the Alumni night will now just be an autonomous seminar with a Q&A we haven't rally confirmed people for this yet so we don't have an idea of , the First Nations dance performance will happen right before the Bla(c)k liberation seminar its 15 minutes so performance + seminar it won't be too long for students. For the seminar we're looking at Neil Morris, Celeste Liddle and Franka Vaughn for the panel. While an online week is disappointing, we hope next year's OBs can take on this project and make it as big as we wanted it to be! The week will be happening from 12-14 October (week 11).

Motions:

10.1.1 To pass \$2500 from whole of union funds for the speaker payment of the panellists of seminar "On the Quest to Bla(c)k Liberation"

Mover: Mohamed Hadi Seconder: Shanysa McConville

10.1 2 To pass \$2,500 from whole of union funds for the performer payment of the Djirri Djirri dance performers for Indigenous sovereignty and Bla(c)k liberation week

Mover: Shanysa McConville Seconder: Mohamed Hadi

10.1.3 To pass \$1,250 from whole of Union funds for the payment of Mabu Mabu cook along class and the purchase and delivery of 50 damper kits for the class

Mover: Shanysa McConville

Seconder: Mohamed Hadi

11.1 Health Before Profits

Preamble:

Australia is at a critical juncture in the COVID-19 pandemic. The NSW COVID-19 outbreak that began in June has developed into a public health disaster, with cases spiralling out of control and spilling over into the rest of the country. Here in Victoria, community transmission is rising and Daniel Andrews has joined Berejiklian in abandoning the goal of eliminating COVID-19. Meanwhile, the Liberal federal government is striving to cohere all state governments behind its agenda of accelerating the pace of reopening across the country. They insist that we learn to 'live' with COVID-19.

[Modelling](#) by researchers from three major universities predicts that opening up with 80% of the *adult* population fully vaccinated could cause 25,000 deaths. The hospital system is already at breaking point, with the [Victorian branch of the ANMF](#) calling for new modelling to avoid the reckless deaths and strain on the system that reopening too early would bring.

In this context, individuals, communities and organisations face a stark choice: accept the reckless reopening plan of the federal government or fight for strong public health measures that will not only save lives, but protect the most vulnerable in our community, improve health and safety conditions at workplaces, and build the capacity of the public health system for the future. This choice is directly relevant to the University of Melbourne, where management has already taken steps to re-classify graduate researchers as essential workers and has made no commitment to investing in COVID-safe infrastructure and technology that will make the campus safe when staff and students are able to return. There is little reason to expect that management will prioritise the health of staff and students. Last year, Vice Chancellor Duncan Maskell campaigned against life-saving lockdowns in the name of young people's mental health. The fact that he ignores the mental health impact of the University's own inadequate COVID support policies on staff and students smacks of hypocrisy.

UMSU has the opportunity to take a strong stance in support of public health by endorsing the Health Before Profits campaign. In doing so, it will signal its commitment to the health and wellbeing of the most marginalised and exploited in our community, many of whom make up the diverse student body at the University of Melbourne. Moreover, it stands to take on an important role in concretely agitating for a safe place of study and work for all staff, students, and visitors at the University of Melbourne.

Platform:

1. UMSU endorses the Health Before Profits campaign and supports an elimination strategy that aims for zero COVID transmission in the community.
2. UMSU opposes the Morrison and Berejiklian campaign - supported by Daniel Andrews - to open up the economy according to the national four-phase plan and 'live' with the virus.
3. UMSU recognises that the University of Melbourne Chancellery has had counterproductive messaging and that the University of Melbourne has provided inconsistent and inadequate support for students and staff throughout the pandemic.

4. UMSU recognises that COVID circulation in the community is the key threat to the health, wellbeing and lives of marginalised and oppressed communities.
5. UMSU supports a lockdown in Victoria that closes non-essential businesses including construction and non-essential retail, and keeps schools and universities closed until it's safe.
6. UMSU demands an increase in the amount and accessibility of support payments, regardless of visa status. We need to pay people to stay at home.
7. UMSU demands a massive increase in health funding, hospital and ICU capacity, and staffing levels.
8. UMSU demands immediate measures to raise vaccination levels across Indigenous and migrant communities, and for children, which is necessary to bring the pandemic under control.
9. UMSU recognises that striving to eliminate COVID transmission in Australia puts us in the best position to fight the virus internationally, freeing up health resources for deployment in other countries and establishing a precedent of putting health over profits.
10. UMSU demands purpose-built, Delta-proof quarantine facilities, which can prevent the constant outbreaks caused by leakages, while allowing citizens, migrants, international students, and refugees to enter the country.

Action:

1. UMSU will [sign](#) on to the Health Before Profits open letter and encourage its members to sign this petition via social media, website, and fortnightly newsletters.
2. UMSU will publish this motion on its social media accounts and website.
3. UMSU will use its social media to promote Health Before Profits campaign events.

Mover: Xavier Dupe

11.2 SS4C National Day of Action

UMSU Environment welcomes the National Union of Students' support of the School Strike for Climate National Day of Action.

It is critical that students across the country are engaged in fighting the most pressing crisis of our time. We believe the university and the government have not done nearly enough to divest from ecocidal industries or care for the communities most affected by the climate crisis. We have a duty to act now.

Motion:

That Students' Council:

- endorses the NUS resolution on the SS4C National Day of Action.
- encourages UMSU to publicise its support on all social media platforms.
- Encourages all Office Bearers and Councillors to participate in the National Day of Action on October 15th.

Mover: Disha Zutshi

Seconder: Shuyan (Lynne) Bian