



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

Friday 11 September, 1:00pm

Meeting 19(20)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/96772820008?pwd=UTRpUzVOK05Oc3dqWkJTNmk3aUIQUOT09>

Password: 018051

Meeting opened at 1:11pm by Hannah Buchan

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Hannah Buchan be elected Chair

Mover: Hannah Buchan

Seconder: Jack Buksh

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged

1.3. Apologies

Office Bearers: Tharidi Walimunige, Sophie Kerrigan, Emily White, Aria Sunga

Councillors: Hayley Kebbell, Joshua Bruni, Matt Harper, Nick Reich

Leave of Absence Requests:

Tharidi Walimunige – Council 19(20)

Sophie Kerrigan – Council 19(20)

Aria Sunga – Council 19(20)

Proxies

Hayley Kebbell to Camden Hopkins

Joshua Bruni to Zac Kaplan

Matt Harper to Felix Sharkey

Nick Reich to Brianna Symonds-Maree

1.4. Membership

No change

1.5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: To adopt the agenda as presented

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 18(20)

Motion 3: To confirm the minutes of 18(20) as a true and accurate record

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Nil

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. Office Bearer Reports

President	Hannah Buchan	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities	India Pinkney	<i>Submitted</i>
	Hayley Stanford	<i>Not submitted</i>
Clubs and Societies	Jordan Di Natale	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts	Emily White	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Bell	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities	Hue Man Dang	<i>Submitted</i>
	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Not submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs)	Georgia Walton Briggs	<i>Submitted</i>
	Joshua Munro	<i>Not submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs)	Charlie Joyce	<i>Not Submitted</i>
	Noni Bridger	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Sophie Kerrigan	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Hope Kuchel	<i>Submitted</i>
	Shanysa McConville	<i>Submitted, with recommendations</i>
Media	Bethany Cherry	<i>Submitted, with recommendations</i>
	Amber Meyer	<i>Submitted</i>
	Sarah Peters	<i>Submitted</i>
	Tharidi Walimunige	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour	Gurpreet Singh	<i>Submitted</i>
	Nicole Nabbout	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer	Ciara O'Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
	A'Bidah Zaid Shirbeeni	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare	Natasha Guglielmino	<i>Submitted</i>

Women's	Naomi Smith	<i>Submitted</i>
	Aria Sunga	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank	Verity Crane	<i>Submitted</i>
	Hayden Williams	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Not Submitted</i>

Jack Buksh spoke to his report – he's received a motion of censure from 2 Council members against another Council member. He asked that everyone not continually ask for details – the process needs to go through the Tribunal first, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the Constitution.

Georgia Walton Briggs gave a verbal update on Academic Board.

Hannah Buchan indicated a proxy was left off the Agenda but sent with appropriate time – from Emma to James. This was noted by Council.

Hannah Buchan asked those present to not put notes in the chat – it makes Speaking lists really difficult.

Josh Munroe said that he didn't do a written report, but has been really busy with SRN applications and TALQAC meetings. Additionally the department will be launching their campaign to do subject reviews.

Charlie Joyce also apologised about not getting in a written report – it's been a crazy few weeks – the bill attacking higher ed has passed and that was a real shame. All this does is allow Uni's to raise fees themselves, so we have to now fight for this at a Uni Level. On top of that, we've had the No Cuts Rally – where we passed a no confidence in the VC and Senior Management. They're also planning socially distant stunts regarding taking back the Uni. Education is also doing a film screening next week about the Brazilian Education System, as well as SWOTVAC events.

Hue Man indicated that the Disabilities department supported a student getting a submission in to the Royal Commission on the Department's behalf. They have also been working on having a document about having accessible events online.

Tree asked Jack about the question about notice for Srishti – regarding Advocacy.

It hasn't yet been answered.

Brianna asked Hannah about the meeting with the Uni – and if UMSU had put demands to Uni Management about a lack of fee hikes. Hannah indicated that the meeting they'd already had was very rushed so didn't get the chance to get through everything.

Chris Melenhorst asked Activities if they're planning another Comedy Night given the success of the last.

Hayley indicated they didn't have time but will recommend to next year's OBs

Tree Smith asked if they'd also consider another Escape Room Session

Hayley indicated that it's something to recommend for next year.

Ciara Sullivan asked how Clubs voting at Clubs Council will run?

Jordan indicated that it was all being finalised between Stephen and Fiona.

James XXX asked Education Academic if the could get some of the cuts details in writing. Georgia indicated that as the meetings are confidential this won't be able to.

Tejas asked Disabilities about the AUSLAN classes and if they're going well.

Hue Man said no one had started the courses yet.

Brianna asked about the information coming out from Academic Board and that we should get all information we have out there, because transparency is important.

Georgia said it was very important to not compromise UMSUs position on Academic Board and agreed that transparency was important.

Andie thanked Georgia for her in depth report. They asked if the staff who had their motion thrown out are being supported and if they need support? They also asked for predicted job loss figures.

Georgia indicated that the Uni hasn't done those recalculations yet so for now they're sticking with the 450.

Motion 4: To accept the OBs report with recommendations

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move in camera for the CEOs report

Mover: Hannah Buchan

CARRIED

The meeting moved in camera at 36 mins into the meeting

The meeting moved to include strangers at 53 minutes in to the meeting

7. Other Reports

Nil

8. Operational Business

Nil

9. Motions on Notice

Nil

10. Motions Without Notice

10.1. UMSU condemns the NSW Police and Mark Latham's Education Bill

CW: Homophobia, transphobia, police brutality

Preamble:

Mark Latham, leader of One Nation in New South Wales, has introduced yet another piece of legislation that directly harms queer people. The Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 harms trans and gender diverse students by denying their existence and preventing teachers and counsellors from supporting them. It allows parents to withdraw their child from a class or program which tells them LGBTIQ+ people are just like everyone else, and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect.

This Bill:

- prohibits schools from teaching that trans and gender diverse people exist and should be treated with respect;
- prohibits school counsellors from affirming a trans or gender diverse student or providing them with any support or referrals to gender affirming support;

- puts teachers at risk of losing their job when they support a trans or gender diverse student in affirming their identity;
- enshrines biological fallacies, describing intersex people as disordered;
- allows parents to deny their children access to lessons in public schools which may contradict their political, social or personal values, including their views about LGBTIQ+ people;
- requires schools to present discredited counter narratives when teaching classes like science or history. *For example, discussing creationism when teaching evolution, raising anti-vaccination theories when teaching about immunisation, or raising racist ideologies to explain the over representation of First Nations people in prison.*

In short, it is an extremely dangerous precedent for any state in Australia to set. Despite this, it has attained support from across the religious right in New South Wales.

In response, students and various LGBTI activist groups initiated (socially distanced) protests against the bill. The NSW Supreme Court has banned these protests citing breaches of coronavirus health orders, despite activists ensuring the protests would be conducted safely. Not only does this bill represent yet another attack on queer young people, particularly trans people, but it has become part of a broader move by Australian State Governments to unreasonably crack down on protests in the name of 'health and safety'. Many participants have been issued \$1,000 fines, and police have been incredibly violent despite the peaceful spirit of the protests. Protestors were hit, thrown against walls and pushed onto the ground, while police used sound cannons to intimidate. This is something we have seen before in Victoria (IMARC blockade) comes to mind, and represents a worrying trend where the most vulnerable groups in society are subject to police and state violence when exercising their democratic right to protest.

ACTIONS:

1. UMSU condemns the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 introduced by Mark Latham in its entirety
2. UMSU condemns the NSW police for their brutality and crackdown on peaceful protests
3. Directs the UMSU President to share this motion, as well as the Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) Fighting Fund (basically, a gofundme to help protestors pay fines) through the Presidents News. (https://www.gofundme.com/f/73xau-community-action-for-rainbow-rights-fighting-fund?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lco+share-sheet) and donate \$500 from Whole of Union to this
4. Asks all members of Students Council to sign the CARR petition against the Bill <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/support-lgbtq-kids-stop-mark-latham-s-bill>

Moved: Ciara O'Sullivan

Seconded: Thonya Deverall

Ciara spoke to their speaking rights, and asked if it was appropriate to donate to the Go Fund Me in the motion.

Jack said it would be ok if it was non SSAF expenditure.

Ciara indicated they would like to move \$500 from non-SSAF expenditure.

Thonya spoke to their speaking rights, commending the motion.

Many Councillors spoke in favour of the motion.

Motion 6:

1. UMSU condemns the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 introduced by Mark Latham in its entirety
2. UMSU condemns the NSW police for their brutality and crackdown on peaceful protests
3. Directs the UMSU President to share this motion, as well as the Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) Fighting Fund (basically, a gofundme to help protestors pay fines) through the Presidents News. (https://www.gofundme.com/f/73xau-community-action-for-rainbow-rights-fighting-fund?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet) and donate \$500 from Whole of Union to this
4. Asks all members of Students Council to sign the CARR petition against the Bill <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/support-lgbtq-kids-stop-mark-latham-s-bill>

Moved: Ciara O'Sullivan
CARRIED

Seconded: Thonya Deverall

10.2. Motion of No Confidence in Vice Chancellor Duncan Maskell and the University of Melbourne Senior Management

Preamble:

Students and staff at the University of Melbourne declare that neither Vice Chancellor Duncan Maskell, Provost Mark Considine nor the rest of the Senior Management are working in our interests.

Throughout this year, we have seen this Senior Management prioritise profit-margins over our education. Hundreds of casual and permanent staff members have lost their jobs, with hundreds more announced to come. This means fewer tutors and lecturers, bigger class sizes, less feedback, fewer subject choices and worse services.

Though Duncan Maskell claims that he does not see international students as cash cows, the University under his leadership has refused to grant fee relief to help the thousands of international students that are now facing unemployment and food insecurity.

The Senior Management claim to be working on behalf of us, but they refuse to take reductions in their annual salaries of often more than a million dollars.

As the Federal Government moved to pass the *Job-Ready Bill* that will dramatically increase fees, reduce funding and implement punitive changes to the HECS/HELP system, Duncan Maskell and the rest of the Senior Management were silent. Instead, he took to The Age to contradict public health advice and argue for a loosening of the Pandemic lockdown. This confirmed for students and staff that the Vice Chancellor and the Senior Management are acting in their own interests, not ours.

Platform:

I. The following demands of the No Cuts at Unimelb campaign be also demands of UMSU:

1. An immediate end to layoffs, a reinstatement of all previously dismissed staff and a transition of all casual workers to full-time employment.

2. An end to subject cuts and the reinstatement of all cut subjects.
3. Transparency of the University's true financial situation.
4. Significant pay reductions for Senior Management and a reinvestment of that money to fund fee relief.
5. A public condemnation of the Federal Government's university reforms, and a commitment to working towards their reversal.
6. The resignation of the Vice Chancellor and Senior Management should they refuse to act on the previous demands.

II. UMSU commits to organising with staff to win these demands, engaging in confrontational activism in order to win a university which works for us, not just the Senior Management.

Actions:

1. UMSU will continue to support and actively promote the No Cuts at Unimelb campaign.
2. UMSU office bearers are encouraged to support campaign with promotion and resources.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Briana Symonds-Maree

Charlie spoke to his moving rights, highlighting the lack of Uni response to Education Cuts. This motion has already gotten the attention of the Uni Executive – on Monday night there was a drama in the reporting of this motion where UMSU's official position was called into question. This motion is in line with UMSU's perspective and previous motions this year, and he urged all councillors to vote for the motion.

Brianna spoke about the increasing attacks on students and the increase in neo-liberalism in society. She encouraged support of the motion

Motion 7:

Platform:

The following demands of the No Cuts at Unimelb campaign be also demands of UMSU:

An immediate end to layoffs, a reinstatement of all previously dismissed staff and a transition of all casual workers to full-time employment.

An end to subject cuts and the reinstatement of all cut subjects.

Transparency of the University's true financial situation.

Significant pay reductions for Senior Management and a reinvestment of that money to fund fee relief.

A public condemnation of the Federal Government's university reforms, and a commitment to working towards their reversal.

The resignation of the Vice Chancellor and Senior Management should they refuse to act on the previous demands.

II. UMSU commits to organising with staff to win these demands, engaging in confrontational activism in order to win a university which works for us, not just the Senior Management.

Actions:

UMSU will continue to support and actively promote the No Cuts at Unimelb campaign.

UMSU office bearers are encouraged to support campaign with promotion and resources.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Briana Symonds-Maree

CARRIED

11. Other Business

Nil

12. Next Meeting

Monday 26th October 12:00pm

13. Close

Meeting closed at 2:06pm