

# University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Students 'Council Minutes Friday 27th June 2022, 2pm Meeting 10(22)

https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/84023512488?pwd=ZWw4Yjd4SXExSFFNNXJyaFoyQXJwdz09

**Location: Zoom** 

**Password**: 451968

# Meeting opened at 2.05PM

### 1. Procedural Matters

# 1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Millie Macwhirter be elected as Chair

Mover: Millie Macwhirter Seconded: Annalyce Wiebenga

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	Mohamed Hadi	Yes
Students' Council Indigenous Representative	Jessica Alderton	Yes
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Jaryd Clifford	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi	Yes
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Aakash Chandak	Yes
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Haotian (Allen) Xiao	Yes
Southbank Student Representative on Students' Council	Zodie Bolic	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Imogen Senior	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nishank Ji-Sung Jain	Yes

Students' Council (General Representative)	Ishita Ganeriwala	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rebekah Kelly	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Scarlett Padden	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Terry Zhu-Xin Wang	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Yong Wen Hao	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Annalyce Wiebenga	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Benjamin Cronshaw	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Shirley Killen	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Georgia Burke	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Toby Glover	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nate Hollis	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ngaire Bogemann	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Zachary Kaplan	Yes

# Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Sophie Nguyen	Yes
General Secretary	Millie Macwhirter	Yes
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	No
Activities Officer	Sami Zehir	No
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	No
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	No
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	Yes
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	No
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	No
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	Yes

Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Yes
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	Yes
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	Yes
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	Yes
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	No
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	Yes
Queer Officer	Rose Power	Yes
Welfare Officer	Shuyan (Lynne) Bian	Yes
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	Yes
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	Yes
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	No
Southbank Campus Coordinator	Alex Birch	Yes
	Nina Mountford	Yes
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	Yes
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	No

Other: Phoebe Churches (Interim CEO), Tim Lippis (minute-taker).

# 1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers:

Councillors:

# 1.5. Leave of Absence Requests

# **1.6.** Proxies

Scarlett Padden to Patrick Bunney.

Shirley Killen to Monica Sestito.

Motion 2: To accept the proxies.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

# 1.7. Membership

- 1.7.1.We have had a casual vacancy in the Queer Committee, this will be filled by standard ticket replacement procedure.
- 1.7.2. Joshua Davis has resigned from his position on Students' Council.

# 1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair CARRIED

### 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### 2.1. Minutes 9(22)

Motion 4: To defer the acceptance of the minutes as a true and accurate record until next Students' Council as they are currently unavailable.

Moved: Chair CARRIED

### 3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

It was raised that Annalyce Wiebenga could have a conflict of interest in motion 10.2 relating to club matters.

# 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

# 5. Correspondence

# 6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Sophie Nguyen	Submitted
General Secretary	Millie Macwhirter	Submitted
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	Late
Activities Officer	Sami Zehir	Not submitted
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	Late
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	Submitted
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Late
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	Late
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	Not submitted
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	Submitted

Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	Submitted
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	Submitted
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	Not submitted
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	Submitted
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Not submitted
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	Submitted
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	Submitted
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	Submitted
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	Submitted
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	Late
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	Not submitted
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	Submitted
Queer Officer	Rose Power	Not submitted
Welfare Officer	Shuyan (Lynne) Bian	Not submitted
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	Submitted
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	Submitted
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Not submitted
Southbank Campus Coordinator	Alex Birch	Not submitted
	Nina Mountford	Not submitted
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	Not submitted
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	Not submitted

Education Academic Officer, Moira Negline, spoke briefly regarding academic appeals and updated council there is a slight delay in organizing a meeting regarding the feminist subject review.

Moira asked a question of the Welfare Officers regarding financial motions recently passed by the Welfare committee, and questioned the authority exercised when passing the motion. Noted that the money passed in the motion was meant to be used progressively over the course over the year, and that no further money will be passed by motion this year.

Queer Officer, Rose Power, asked a question of the Media Department on behalf of Non Binary (NB) students, expressing concerns regarding a recent farrago article. Was there informed consent of the interviewees BPD or NB communities. Nishtha Banavalikar responded that the appropriate consultation was undertaken.

Councillor Mohamed Hadi raised that there has been substantial correspondence received in regard to BDS motion last meeting.

Monica Sestito notes that the lack of correspondence registered in this agenda is concerning being that the motion, and request clarification if the correspondence will be included in the future. Chair clarified that the correspondence was genuinely forgotten and sincerely apologies for the oversight and commits that the correspondence will be compiled and presented to councilors and subscribers at the next Council Meeting.

President, Sophie Nguyen, clarifies that the correspondence section of the agenda is intended for letters directly concerning, and addressed to, the Council. There were letters concerning the BDS motion that were received and should have been included in the agenda, however not all emails received by the General Secretary can be considered as correspondence.

Councillor Georgia Bourke asked if the Welfare Officers if they are keeping track of the items being procured for the Union Mart.

Welfare Officer, Disha Zutshi, responded with saying that all items are being tracked consistently. Lynne Bian further clarified the procedures for procuring items for the Union Mart.

Georgia Burke asked whether the stock being taken from Union Mart are being kept track of and asked if those reports can be shared with the Council. Lynne Bian is happy to attach such a report for the next Council Meeting.

Interim CEO, Phoebe Churches, further advised Council that requests to use the UMSU credit card are appropriate for procurement of goods for Union Mart. There appears to have been an over-reliance on the use of personal reimbursements for purchases, which should be used only in situations where the credit card and invoicing is not possible. Reimbursements are discretionary, and therefore should be used cautiously. The CEO referred Council to the information on procurement on the UMSU Intranet, and flagged the new Procurement policy which will be brought to Council 13(22) for endorsement. The CEO additionally noted the critical importance of recording use of Union Mart and the disbursement of items to needy students. Failure to keep account of who receives Union Mart goods and ensuring only students receive assistance would be a breach of the SSAF legislation.

Moira Negline requested clarification of stocktaking procedures.

Councillor Annalyce Wiebenga asked of Council if Councillors have any ideas for a system to track stocks at Union Mart, to which Lynne Bian replied that these processes are underway with the intention to have a system in place soon.

Queer Officer, Rose Power, requested clarification around the procedures for when to use reimbursements or the company credit card. Noted that the credit cards can be difficult to obtain. Phoebe churches notes that under financial regulations state reimbursements are not guaranteed, and clarifies that there is an inherent risk, as they are not pre-approved. Notes that there is a credit card policy coming back to Council for final ratification, and two more credit cards are on their way. Expresses a desire that the process is much smoother.

Disabilities Officer, Betty Zhang, thanked Phoebe Churches for working on making the payment system smoother, but also noted that previous advice was that reimbursements were the preferable to using the credit card. Phoebe recommends that they hold a meeting to clarify misunderstandings and establish a clear set of advice. Reinforces that invoice is the most preferable form of payment, followed by the credit card.

Annalyce Wiebenga asked a question of the Creative Arts Department and noted a lack of key selection criteria, and requests some clarify regarding the process behind structuring the application process, with reference to tastings and the 'call outs'. Felt that there was a disparity between the detail between tasting and the above water call outs, where the latter had more detail.

Creative Arts Officer, Marcie Di Bartolomeo, spoke to the question and noted that the application process has been updated to make it more accessible to students. However, offered that if there are any outstanding uncertainties to please contact them so they can be rectified.

Annalyce Wiebenga noted that there is possibly a lack of detail in the role descriptions and what qualifications would be required for each role and recommended that the callout be amended.

Media Officer, Jasmine Pierce, requested that reports from all OB's be sent to Joanna Guelas for Farrago edition 4.

Annalyce Wiebenga noted that Rose Power's report was not included in the agenda. Chair noted that Rose's report was received after the deadline for submission.

Rose noted that the report was submitted on time but was stuck in their outbox. They delivered a verbal report to the council.

Marcie Di Bartolomeo noted that due to Prerna Aggarwal's absence, Marcie will be coordinating the move to the new Creative Arts office.

Annalyce Wiebenga noted that the Women's Officer report was cut off and asked if they would like to deliver the remainder of their report vocally.

Women's Officer, Kraanti Aggarwal, spoke to Council regarding the cut off section of their report.

Betty Zhang asks a question of the President, relating to the Mental Health and Wellbeing workshop run by the University in relation to the framework that she spoke to in her OB report. Betty asks about UMSU's involvement in relation to this framework and whether a lack of involvement reflects a lack of an effective whole of organisational handover.

Sophie Nguyen responded, said she is not responsible for individual handovers, sometimes people get great handovers and other times they are less comprehensive. Sometimes Office Bearers are more involved in campaigns than others. The previous Green Paper, relevant to UMSUs involvement in the framework, was raised by the

previous President and General Secretary in 2019 with the help of UMSU Advocacy staff. A lot of it comes from handovers, if specific OBs are less involved, and this may be something to work on in the future for induction, but it is ultimately up to Office Bearers to pursue campaigns they are interested in.

Phoebe spoke to the White Paper saying the submission simply reiterated the concerns previously raised in respect of the Green Paper, as none of them had been addressed. Added that it is not generally possible for UMSU to raise our concerns with University position or strategy papers more than once during a specific consultation period.

Lynne Bian clarified that she was unsure Welfare was able to contribute and, in the future, would like improved communication around important workshops such as this.

Marcie asked if we could look at comprehensive handovers and induction in the future.

Chair highlighted that this is something to look at and is being explored within the Constitutional, Regulations and Policy Working Group.

Motion 5: To accept the OB Reports

Moved: Chair CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To take a 5-minute accessibility break.

Mover: Annalyce Wiebenga

**CARRIED** 

Council adjourned until 3:10pm

Procedural Motion: To move in camera.

Mover: Chair CARRIED

# 7. Council moved in camera at 3.12 CEO Report

Motion 6: To accept the CEO's report

Moved: Chair CARRIED

**Procedural Motion:** To suspend the standing orders

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

**Procedural Motion:** To Accept the proxy of Nishank Jain to Zachary Kaplan

Moved: Chair

**CARRIED** 

**Procedural Motion:** To resume the standing orders

Moved: Chair

**CARRIED** 

Motion 7: That Council instructs the CEO to instruct Moores based on Students' Council endorsement of the recommended legal strategy.

Moved: Sophie Nguyen Seconded: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

**Procedural Motion:** To move out of camera at 4.21

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

### Council moved out of camera at 4.21

**Procedural Motion:** To take a 5-minute accessibility break.

Mover: Chair

**CARRIED** 

Council adjourned until 4.26pm

# 8. Other Reports

### 8.1. CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee

Millie Macwhirter reiterated that a meeting was held on Tuesday the 14th of June where the subcommittee went through the received EOI's and its next steps.

Mohamed Hadi gave a brief overview of the current processes and next steps.

### 8.2. Operations Sub-Committee

Millie said the Operations Sub-Committee met on Friday the 3rd and passed \$623 from the Burnley Activities and Events budget line for additional yoga supplies. She also highlighted the two vacancies on the Operations Sub-Committee.

### 9. Operational Business

### 9.1. Operations Sub-Committee

Motion 8: To open nominations to fill the two vacancies on the Operations Sub-Committee with nominations to be sent to the General Secretary and closed on 5pm Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mover: Chair CARRIED

### 10. Motions on Notice

### 10.1.

Motion 9: To move \$548.85 from Media's Subscriptions budget line to Printing.

Mover: Nishtha Banavalikar Seconder: Joanna Guelas

**CARRIED** 

### 10.2.

**Preamble:** We'd like to start by saying that protecting the interests of student clubs are at the center of every decision that we make as Clubs & Societies Office Bearers. This motion should not be viewed as a drastic measure taken by the Students' Council, but rather, a necessity for the department to continue functioning at the most basic standard. Anyone who is involved in a student club at present knows that there are severe resourcing issues in the department. The trajectory of expansion of our student clubs is entirely unsustainable without a proportionate upscaling of resources. At present, we cannot respond to emails from clubs, give grant payouts, approve COVID-safe events or carry out the basic administrative duties of the office while also processing 20+ applications for new clubs.

If new club applications go ahead next semester, we are sacrificing the safe operation of our existing clubs and setting ourselves up to collapse as a department. It is in the best interest of the Union as a whole to suspend new club applications until we are in a position as a department where we can support them. By all means, we, as the C&S Office Bearers, would love to be able to reopen these applications as it is an integral part of the offerings of our department, so we do recommend that the review of departmental resources and staffing takes place as soon as possible.

Proposed Motion: To suspend the acceptance of any new club applications to affiliate with UMSU until the C&S Department has undergone staffing and resource review and is determined to be properly resourced to accommodate the intake of new clubs.

C&S Officer, Benito Di Battista, spoke briefly to the motion and provided an overview of the situation, and the reasoning behind it. Noted that the current caseload allocates only 10 minutes per club every week to respond to emails and grants. The motion is to allow the department to catch up on the workload.

Councillor Jaryd Clifford questioned whether the motion is contrary to the constitution and club regulations, and whether Council has the authority to pause accepting affiliation applications.

Phoebe clarified that the section in question (4.1.2) is in regard to rejecting an application which has already been made, not in regard to pausing new applications. Pausing the acceptance of new applications and rejecting a submitted application is not the same.

It was determined that Students' Council does have the power to make such a decision.

Benito noted that the motion has been discussed at committee and the committee is in support as they are aware of the strain on the department. The minutes from the relevant meeting will be posted publicly soon.

Councillor Imogen Senior recommended placing a specific timeframe on the length of the pause of one semester, at which point the pause will be reviewed. An amendment to the motion will be drafted for presentation.

Mohamed recommended rather than suspending club affiliation, the review is undertaken quickly. Argued pausing new affiliations will likely have a significant effect on the student experience.

Annalyce raised that there are clear capacity issues in the Clubs department, and that impacts many parts of Student Life.

Phoebe notes that a review into the C&S Department is already underway, and questions the capacity of the department to keep supporting new affiliations during the review. Also notes that the review will take a reasonable amount of time and will not be complete by next meeting.

**Procedural motion:** To end the debate and move to a vote on the motion.

**Mover:** Moira Negline.

**CARRIED** 

Phoebe notes that it is unlikely that there is a conflict of interest for Councillors to abstain if they are a club executive but accepts Councillors may abstain if they feel uncomfortable. Advice in this case that there is no conflict of interest because there is no personal benefit to Councillors in voting for this motion.

**Preamble:** We'd like to start by saying that protecting the interests of student clubs are at the center of every decision that we make as Clubs & Societies Office Bearers. This motion should not be viewed as a drastic measure taken by the Students' Council, but rather, a necessity for the department to continue functioning at the most basic standard. Anyone who is involved in a student club at present knows that there are severe resourcing issues in the department. The trajectory of expansion of our student clubs is entirely unsustainable without a proportionate upscaling of resources. At present, we cannot respond to emails from clubs, give grant payouts,

approve COVID-safe events or carry out the basic administrative duties of the office while also processing 20+ applications for new clubs.

If new club applications go ahead next semester, we are sacrificing the safe operation of our existing clubs and setting ourselves up to collapse as a department. It is in the best interest of the Union as a whole to suspend new club applications until we are in a position as a department where we can support them. By all means, we, as the C&S Office Bearers, would love to be able to reopen these applications as it is an integral part of the offerings of our department, so we do recommend that the review of departmental resources and staffing takes place as soon as possible.

**Motion 11:** To suspend the acceptance of any new club applications to affiliate with UMSU for one semester, to allow the C&S Department to undergo staffing and resource review and is determined to be properly resourced to accommodate the intake of new clubs.

Mover: Harley Lewis Seconder: Benito Di Battista

CARRIED

# 11. Motions without Notice

- 12. Other Business
- 13. Next Meeting

A When2Meet will be sent out for July.

14. Close

Meeting closed at 5.10pm