



**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Thursday 4 August 2022, 2pm
Meeting 12(22)
Location: Zoom**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/87454112591?pwd=OTYyS3NUcEJuNmRkMk9UYnZVQINZUT09>

Password: 685915

Meeting opened at 2pm

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	VACANT	N/A
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)	VACANT	N/A
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	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nate Hollis	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ngairie 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	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	RESIGNED
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	In Apology
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	On Leave
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	No
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Yes
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	Yes
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	Yes
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	In Apology
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	No
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	No
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	In Apology
Queer Officer	Rose Power	Yes
Welfare Officer	Shuyan (Lynne) Bian	RESIGNED
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	Yes
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	On Leave
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Yes
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Alex Birch	No
	Nina Mountford	RESIGNED
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	No
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	Yes

Other: Phoebe Churches (Interim CEO), Ciara Griffiths (minute-taker), James Gallagher (proxy for Shirley Killen), Patrick Bunney (proxy for Scarlett Padden), Maeve Russack Riches (observer).

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Joanna Guelas, Rook Davis, and Marcie Di Bartolomeo

1.5. Leave of Absence Requests

Office Bearers: Ruby Craven from 1 Aug – 5 Aug, Kraanti Agarwal & Prerna Aggarwal for Council 12(22)

Motion 2: To accept the leave requests.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.6. Proxies

Shirley Killen would like to proxy to James Gallagher.

Scarlett Padden would like to proxy Patrick Bunney.

Georgia Bourke to Ngaire Bogemann from 2.45pm

Motion 3: to accept the proxies.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.7. Membership

1.7.1. Nina Mountford has resigned from her position as Southbank Office Bearer.

1.7.2. Benito Di Basta has resigned from his position as C&S Office Bearer.

1.7.3. Lynne Bian has resigned from her position as Welfare Office Bearer.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1. Addition of motion without notice from Mohamed Hadi and Hiba Adam, "*UMSU stands in solidarity with Monash Student Association and university of Monash Islamic society*", added as item 12.1 to the agenda.

2.2. Addition of the Semester 2 Council Schedule, added to Operational Business.

Motion 4: To adopt the Agenda as presented, with amendments.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3.1. Minutes 10(22)

Motion 5: To accept Minutes 10(22) as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

3.2. Minutes 11(22)

Motion 6: To ratify and accept Minutes 11(22) as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

4. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6. Correspondence

6.1. Appeal of Clubs disaffiliation from IYSSE. Please see agenda item 8.2 in C&S Minutes 9(22) and Motion 15 in C&S Minutes 10(22).

Chair opened to floor for discussion on the appeal.

No representative from IYSSE was present to speak to the appeal.

C&S Officer, Eleanor Cooney-Hunt, spoke to the reasons for the disaffiliation. Club was disaffiliated on the grounds of no membership reporting. Multiple correspondence sent with no communication in response. Petition to disaffiliate was made, with over two weeks opportunity to address the petition with no response. Club responded with disaffiliation appeal over 2 weeks after the disaffiliation with evidence of 31 members.

James Gallagher expressed opinion that they would like the club to remain affiliated.

Eleanor, in response, noted that the department also does not want to disaffiliate any club, unfortunately if the club is not operating C&S cannot do anything further.

Motion 7: To uphold the C&S Committee's disaffiliation of IYSSE.

Moved: Eleanor Cooney-Hunt

Seconded: Zachary Kaplan

CARRIED

7. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Sophie Nguyen	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Millie Macwhirter	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	<i>RESIGNED</i>

Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	<i>On Leave</i>
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	<i>Not Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Rose Power	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Shuyan (Lynne) Bian	<i>Resigned</i>
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Alex Birch	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	<i>Not Submitted</i>

Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi asked of the Activities Office, the Winterfest BT3 had limited tickets and many students missed out, why are there not further events planned for students to engage in?

Activities Officer and President responded, venue capacity for COVID safety is why the ticket cap was where it was. Any additional tickets generated from no-shows were re-distributed to people who were on the waiting list. Reason for fewer events in Sem 2 is due to energies from the whole union focussing on the move to a new building.

Zach Matthews noted in addition to their Enviro report, helped with the restocking of Union Mart. Ethan Georgeou in addition noted that they, Rook Davis, Moira Negline, and Sophie Nguyen also assisted with the restocking. Welfare was asked why the OBs, now OB, were not present for this – especially within their advertised hours. Students seeking food relief were turned away.

Welfare Officer, Disha Zutshi, responded, struggling with the workload due to not having volunteers onboarded for this yet.

Sophie spoke to the attention from the University on this program, that it is important that it runs well, effectively, and correctly, as we campaigned hard for this program.

Council discussed at length the current issues surrounding the Union Mart with lack of volunteers, limited hours, restocking issues, keen interest from students and the University.

Was identified that the program will greatly benefit once a volunteer program is formalised and put into place, which is contingent on the ongoing volunteer review. Until such a time, the program is dependent on the Welfare Officer's availability and energies.

Procedural Motion: To close the speaking list regarding the Welfare Report.

Moved: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

In addition to Southbank reports, Annalyce Wiebenga noted that the Southbank Ball is being held on 28th September at 7pm.

Motion 8: To accept the OB Reports

Moved: CHAIR

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move in camera.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 2.47PM

8. CEO Report

Procedural Motion: To adjourn Council for a 5-minute accessibility break.

Moved: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

Council adjourned from 3.05-3.10PM

Motion 9: To accept the CEO's report

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move out of camera.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved out of camera at 3.17PM

9. Other Reports

9.1. CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee

No major developments apart from President and General Secretary meeting – outlined in OB reports.

9.2. Operations Sub-Committee

We held Operations Sub-Committee on Thursday the 28th of July. We passed a motion to move \$500 from the special events and projects line allocated to Blak Ball so that the Melbourne Fringe Common Room space could be reserved.

10. Operational Business

10.1. Additions to President's Report

Procedural Motion: To move in camera to discuss additional report from the President.

Moved: Sophie Nguyen

CARRIED

Council was in camera from 3.22PM-3.24PM

10.2. Proposed Semester 2 Schedule

Proposed Schedule:

Week 2: Thursday 4 August, 2pm

Week 4: Monday 15 August, 11am

Week 6: Friday 2 September, 12pm

Week 8: Monday 12 September, 11am

Mid-Semester Break: Thursday 29 September, 12pm

Week 11: Wednesday 12 October, 2pm

Motion 10: to accept the proposed Semester 2 Students' Council Meeting Schedule.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

11. Motions on Notice

11.1. Burnley Yin Yoga

Preamble:

Since the ski trip fell through the goal is to reallocate these funds to provide 2 yoga classes per week for the rest of the year.

Motion 11: To pass up to \$10,200 from the Burnley Activities and Events budget line for Yin Yoga on campus.

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

11.2. Burnley R Workshops

Motion 12: To pass up to \$2200 from the Burnley workshops and incursions budget line to pay presenters for the semester 2 R workshop series

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

11.3. Burnley Yoga Mats

Motion 13: To pass up to \$500 from the Burnley activities and events budget line for additional yoga mats

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

11.4. SAB Groceries and Supplies

Motion 14: To pass up to \$1000 from the Burnley general operations budget line for groceries and supplies for the SAB for semester 2

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

11.5. Solidarity Motion

Preamble:

In March this year student activists involved in the campaign against the Robert Menzies Institute - a \$7.5 million think tank run by Peta Credlin - protested an event being attended by many Liberal Party high-ups.

Since then, student activists have been targeted for attending this protest. Victoria Police have issued fines for 'riotous behaviour' totalling \$3,700. It seems likely they received these students' details from university management.

This represents an alarming crackdown on the right to protest and sets a dangerous precedent of university management and the police criminalising student activism. Students should be free to protest powerful bigoted Liberals without fear of discipline or fines, as this is one of the only ways to express political opposition to a right-wing institute over whose founding students and staff had no say.

This crackdown by the University and Victoria Police fits into the broader crackdown on civil liberties across the country.

Earlier this year in New South Wales the Perrottet government passed new anti-protest laws that allows the government to pursue two-year prison sentences and \$22,000 fines against protestors.

These new authoritarian powers are currently being unleashed on environmental activists from Blockade Australia. Activists have been subjected to punitive bail conditions or refused bail altogether, being held for weeks in prison in solitary confinement.

At the time of the protest in question, UMSU repeated slanderous accusations from the University and the Liberal Party, with the UMSU President saying to The Age: "We don't endorse violent ways of expressing opinions and I think the line was crossed". UMSU now has an opportunity to assert its support for the right to protest by condemning the behaviour of university management and Victoria Police and standing in solidarity with the persecuted students.

Motion: That UMSU adopts the following platform and actions:

Platform:

UMSU Students' Council recognises and opposes the current crackdown on civil liberties, reaffirms its support for the right to protest, and expresses its solidarity with Blockade Australia activists facing state repression.

UMSU Students' Council recognises the UMSU President's statements to The Age regarding the March protest were incorrect and regrettable.

UMSU expresses its support for student activists facing discipline and fines and opposes the University's and Victoria Police's crackdown on activists protesting the bigoted Liberals behind the Menzies Institute.

Actions:

UMSU will commit \$500 from the whole of union budget as a contribution towards the students' fines and as an expression of solidarity UMSU will promote the Go Fund Me account on its social media platforms to assist the targeted students in fundraising their fines.

www.gofundme.com/f/studentsagainstRMI/

Moved: Raphael Duffy

Seconded: Maeve Russack Riches

Raphael Duffy spoke to their moving rights. Spoke to the repression that student activists experience at protests. Ceded moving rights to James Gallagher.

Procedural Motion: to suspend the Standing Orders and accept a proxy from Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi to Mohamed Hadi.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Chaitanya proxies to Mohamed Hadi.

Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi leaves at 3.30

Procedural Motion: to resume the Standing Orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Moira Negline shared a 'TikTok' of the student activists breaking into the Menzies Institute to the Students' Council. Together with other Education Officers, expressed frustration that the Education Office was not appropriately or sufficiently engaged with to assist in organising a protest. As such, reaffirmed that UMSU was not affiliated with the protest in question, or connected to the break-in.

Sophie Nguyen raised that many students don't have the privilege to participate in this form of activism. Stood by commentary made to The Age, considering that they had no knowledge of the protests or actions made, when requested for comment the media.

Council debated at length the risks and rewards inherent in student activism, where protests engage in risky activities – what UMSU is and is not positioned to support.

Procedural Motion: To suspend the Standing Orders and accept a proxy from Zodie Bolic to Imogen Senior.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Zodie Bolic proxies to Imogen Senior.

Zodie Bolic leaves at 3.57PM

Harley Lewis proposed an amendment:

Platform:

UMSU Students' Council recognises and opposes the current crackdown on civil liberties, reaffirms its support for the right to protest, and expresses its solidarity with Blockade Australia activists facing state repression.

UMSU expresses its support for student activists facing fines and opposes Victoria Police's crackdown on activists protesting the bigoted Liberals behind the Menzies Institute.

Actions:

UMSU will commit \$500 from the whole of union budget as a contribution towards the students' fines and as an expression of solidarity

Chair asked if this was amenable to the movers. Movers accepted.

Motion 15: To accept the proposed motion with amendments.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Maeve Russak Riches

CARRIED

Phoebe Churches raised to Council relevant regulation to consider, in regard to making an informed vote on this motion – particularly the Financial Regulations and requirements around expenditure requests from the Whole of Union Fund. Is Council satisfied that the requirements under R13.5 are fulfilled?

Procedural Motion: To have a new vote on Motion 11 with consideration of Financial Regulations

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 15 was struck.

Maeve spoke to seconding rights the motion

Annalyce Wiebenga proposed amendment to remove the action of paying the \$500, and the Mover and Seconder can bring the \$500 to OpSub with a clearer application for use of Whole of Union funds under 13.5 of Financial Regs.

This was not agreeable to the Mover, Council determined to vote on the original motion with Harley Lewis' amendments.

Motion 16: To accept the proposed motion with amendments.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Maeve Russak Riches

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To adjourn for a 5-minute accessibility break.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council adjourned from 4.33-4.38PM

Procedural Motion: To suspend the Standing Orders and accept a proxy from Wen Hao Yong to Jaryd Clifford.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Wen Hao Yong proxies to Jaryd Clifford.

Wen Hao Yong leaves at 4.40PM.

Procedural Motion: While Standing Orders are suspended, to vote to 11.6 and 11.7 en bloc.

Moved: Harley Lewis

CARRIED

11.6. Indigenous Welcome Back Event

Harley and Brittney spoke to their motions. They have lost their committee again, and Indigenous rep on Council, would appreciate the funds being passed for their events.

11.7. Blak Ball

Noted that the expense of the Blak Ball also comes to Indigenous students not being charged ticket costs.

Motion 17: To accept motions 11.6 and 11.7 en bloc.

Moved: Harley Lewis

Seconded: Brittney Henderson

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: to resume the Standing Orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

12. Motions without Notice

12.1. UMSU stands in solidarity with Monash Student Association and university of Monash Islamic society

Preamble:

Recently the Islamic society of Monash University held protests outside their vice chancellors office in response to the university's abrupt decision to take back an offer of adequate prayer facilities for Muslim students on campus. MUIS has been lobbying the university since 2018 for the establishment of these spaces because currently the prayer facilities accommodate for 8 men and 8 women even though there are over 200 students who use the spaces weekly. The conditions of the rooms are terrible as well with reports of water leaking from the ceiling and improper maintenance, and poor disability access, forcing students to take care of the space themselves. This is highly concerning as other universities such as our own has proper facilities to accommodate a large number of students. Students at MSA have organized pray-in protests that will continue daily until their demands are met.

Read more:

MSA Statement

<https://www.facebook.com/MSA.Clayton/posts/pfbid0PzzW4otdh2konarhALBNPxnME9WzKyRFKff6Y6RxgRuaUGzWPsZSLvW9LH8c1vbQl>

Article in the Age

Monash University students hold pray-in amid requests for upgrades to Muslim prayer rooms - ABC News

Stance:

UMSU stands with MSA and the Monash Islamic society in their fight for adequate prayer spaces for Muslim students

UMSU supports the ongoing pray-in protests held by Muslim students at Monash until a solution is met.

UMSU condemns Monash University management actions and their failure to meet Muslim student needs.

UMSU calls on Monash university to work proactively with MSA and Monash University Islamic society to establish new and suitable prayer facilities as required.

Actions:

Direct the President and POC officers to release a statement on UMSU social media and mailing list standing in solidarity with Monash Student association and Monash Islamic society, and calling on Monash university management to deliver for students of faith.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi

Seconder: Hiba Adam

Motion 18: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED

13. Other Business

14. Next Meeting

Monday 15 August, 11am

15. Close

Meeting closed at 4.51PM