



**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Monday 15 August 2022, 11am
Meeting 13(22)
Location: Zoom**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/89726385929?pwd=M0VWS3V1WTFUbmVOa3BYV0ZxWWtDZz09>

Password: 842967

Meeting opened at 11.07am

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Sophie Nguyen be elected as Chair

Mover: Sophie Nguyen

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	Yes
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	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	Approved Leave
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	Yes
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Yes
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	No
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	No
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	Yes
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	Yes
Queer Officer	Rose Power	Yes
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	Yes
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	Yes
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	No
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Alex Birch	No
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	Yes
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	No

Other: Phoebe Churches (interim CEO), Martina Smythe (P&C Manager), Tim Lippis (P&C Coordinator), Ciara Griffiths (minute-taker), Noa Abrahams, Maeve Russack Riches, Ashleigh Harris, Rebecca Wein, Frankie, Thomas Knowles, Julian Petito, Lorel Thomas, Sam Karabogias, Samuel Eggleston, Ken Blackman, Alec Ferguson, Natalie Gun, Holly Feldman, Chaya Herszberg, Oskar Martin, Ahmed Ali, Julien, Jan Julian, Raphael Duffy, Mark Bradbeer, Stella Fischbein, Greg Giannis, Jonah Roseby.

1.4. Apologies

None received.

1.5. Leave of Absence Requests

Betty Zhang is requesting leave for this Council.

Motion 2: To accept the leave request.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.6. Proxies

Scarlett Padden to Rebekah Kelly

Zodie Bolic to Imogen Senior from 11.30am

1.7. Membership

Joanna Guelas has resigned, effective 19th of August

2. Adoption of Agenda

Chair proposed to move Items 9.1 and 10.2 to the top of the agenda respectively for discussion, following Item 6 Correspondence.

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented, with Items 9.1 & 11.2 to be moved to the top of the Agenda.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3.1. Minutes 12(22)

N/A, deferred.

4. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6. Correspondence

9.1. Letter from Moores's

Procedural Motion: To move in camera.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council was in camera from 11.10AM-11.40AM

Rook Davis and Rose Power leave at 11.41AM

Council moved to discussion of 10.2

11.2 UMSU Stand with Palestine – BDS & Solidary Policy

Preamble:

The state of Israel was established in 1948 and brought about the ethnic cleansing of more than 350+ Palestinian villages and towns, forcefully displacing over 750,000 Palestinians from their homes. Those Palestinians and their descendants are still illegally prevented from returning to their homes. Today, Palestinians live under an apartheid colonial state that has fragmented Palestinians throughout historical Palestine.

Palestinians live on less than 16% of their historical land, with the West Bank being divided by illegal Israeli settlements and the besieged Gaza Strip being the most densely populated open-air prison in the world. Currently, over 7 million Palestinian refugees form one of the largest groups of refugees in the world.

The Israel colonial project is fundamental to the state of Israel. The growth of the Israeli economy and land is built on the exploitation and colonization of Palestinians. The Palestinian narrative continues to be dominated by Israel, with the depiction of the oppressed Palestinians as terrorists, backward, uneducated, and determined to kill the Israeli people. Israel, with this narrative, legitimizes continuous military operations and harsh blockades of Palestinians. The legitimization of the Israeli state is the legitimization of Palestinian oppression.

The blockade of Gaza and the occupation of the West Bank is built on the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, intending to forcefully expel Palestinians and massacre those who remain, in order to grow the state of Israel. Israel is a colonial settler state built on apartheid. The state of Israel denies Palestinians their right to self-determination, freedom, dignity, and equality.

Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement urges action to pressure Israel into complying with international law and relieve the oppression of Palestinians.

Israel is one of the world's major military powers with its large military industry funded in part by the United States of America. Over the last weekend, the state of Israel has used advanced drones and artillery, backed by invasive surveillance, to carry out an offensive military operation against the civilians of Gaza, killing more than 47 Palestinians including 16 children as young as 5 years old. Students have been key participants in the fight against the illegal colonization and occupation of Palestine by protesting, organizing, and educating fellow students. Student unions and associations across the world continue to formally endorse BDS. As one of the biggest universities in Australia, the University of Melbourne's monetary and academic connections to the State of Israel have helped legitimize the narrative created by the state of Israel.

Thus, the University of Melbourne's Student Union must take a clear and firm stance to communicate both to the university and the world that the apartheid and oppression of Palestinians will not be ignored, upheld, or accepted by the university's student body.

Motion:

That UMSU takes the following stances and actions:

General Stances:

- UMSU stands against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and condemns the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians
- UMSU supports the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right to engage in self-defence against their occupiers
- UMSU deems the use of Zionism to justify the illegal occupation of Palestine as racist and colonial
- UMSU recognizes that Israel is an apartheid state in accordance with prominent human rights organizations like Amnesty International, B'Tselem, and Humans Rights Watch.
- UMSU condemns the Australian government's support for Israel and its ongoing crimes including occupation, settlement, expansion, and ethnic cleansing.
- UMSU condemns any and all forms of antisemitism
- UMSU recognizes that Israel's actions are not representative of the Jewish community. Similarly, Israel's crimes are its responsibility alone and not that of Jewish people worldwide.

Actions:

Academic Boycott:

- UMSU supports the academic boycott movement of Israeli institutions in accordance with the PACBI guidelines: [PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel | BDS Movement](#)
- UMSU calls on the university to participate in an academic boycott and cut ties with Israeli institutions, researchers, and academics to be in harmony with the Palestinian call for boycott, as a contribution towards upholding international law and furthering the struggle for freedom, justice and equality

Divestment Actions and support:

- UMSU calls on the university to divest from corporations complicit in and profit from the Israel apartheid and that operate on illegally occupied Palestinian land.
- Direct the CEO to update the UMSU ethical register and boycott companies that support and profit from the Israeli apartheid in line with the global BDS guidelines.
- To direct the President and POC Officers to write and publish a joint statement announcing UMSU's decision to adopt BDS and its support for Palestinian rights to be published on all UMSU socials.
- To direct the General Secretary to update the UMSU stance booklet to reflect this policy and subsequent vote on it.
- To direct the President and POC officers to send a joint letter of support to the Australian centre for international justice affirming UMSU's support for Palestine on behalf of UMSU.

We encourage officers and council to sign the following petition and show solidarity with Palestinians. <https://acij.org.au/australian-human-rights-community-solidarity-statement-with-palestinian-human-rights-organisations-defenders/>

Mover: Dana Alshaer

Seconded: Ahmed Ali

Procedural Motion: To move into formal debate.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Rules of formal debate outlined. Speaking rights of students, UoM and Union staff, and non-students or staff outlined. Chair determined priority to students for speaking rights.

Dana spoke to her moving rights. Was born and raised in Palestine, which has been suffering under the Israeli regime and occupation for over 75 years.

When first hearing about the UMSU motion to support Palestine, Dana felt joy that she and her people were finally being heard and supported by her student union. Was disappointed and confused when the motion was rescinded when threatened by someone who has never experienced or suffered as the Palestinians have.

Expressed that the motion must be passed, for what it represents for supporting Palestinian rights and human rights. Palestinians deserve basic human rights.

Raised that to read this motion as an effort towards antisemitism is to misconstrue and misrepresent its intent. Palestinians deserve every right to fight back against injustice and stand for their rights and freedom.

Ahmed spoke to his seconding rights, reiterated and affirmed Dana's words.

Formal debate commenced, with students invited to speak once, alternating in favour or against. Debate lasted from 11:45AM-12:51PM. Key points:

For:

- Increasing numbers of human rights organisations across the world labelling the actions of Israel and Palestinians a form of apartheid. Likewise, increasing numbers of universities and student unions internationally passing similar motions .
- The University must divest from corporations that profit from Israel's actions.
- UMSU must support Palestinian rights to self-determination.
- Importance of acknowledging this debate is taking place on stolen Indigenous land, must pay that respect and keep that consideration in mind towards the Palestinian people, when debating topics surrounding the stolen Palestinian land.
- Multiple Councillors, including Jaryd Clifford, Annalyce Wiebenga, Ngaire Bogemann, and Mohamed Hadi, raised the consultation report that took place, with all UMSU members invited to contribute. MUJSS was also directly consulted for the report. Results showed a majority support for a BDS motion of some kind. These Councillors

felt confident that UMSU has done all it could in engaging with students in the consultation process.

- Above Councillors noted that the results of the report have been circulated and considered carefully by Students' Council, so to best inform their decision making and better represent the stances and concerns of students. Likewise acknowledged this process of engaging in debate and hearing the students discuss the motion itself is also integral to making an informed vote, is part of the democratic purposes of UMSU and platform that this Council serves to provide.
- Separation of Judaism and Zionism was also raised as a key factor, those in favour of the motion stressed the importance of condemning antisemitism in all forms, that UMSU should provide support for Jewish students facing threat or feeling unsafe on campus.

Against:

- Multiple speakers expressed the view that Jewish students should have been consulted in the drafting of this motion, and to see further collaboration on both Jewish and Palestinian voices.
- The risk to safety of Jewish students on campus was raised by many speakers. Incidents of antisemitic behaviours and threats that had taken place on other campuses where similar motions had passed, as well as at Unimelb were shared. Every Jewish student has a right to feel safe, the debate around this motion does not sufficiently protect these students.
- The tabled motion frames the narrative of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on a binary, is not nuanced in its approach or representative of all sides.
- Was noted by speakers against that Zionism is being misrepresented; the motion denies that Zionism is the Jewish right to self-determination.
- Frustrations were raised that Jewish historical and current struggles were being disregarded by the motion, with a risk of promoting the denial of Jewish suppression and antisemitism if the motion is passed.
- Representatives from MUJSS and the Australasian Union of Jewish Students spoke against the motion, noting need for further collaboration and consultation with Jewish students.

After the speaking list for debate was exhausted, Chair invited the mover to speak to their right of reply.

In reply to the closed debate, Dana expressed her view that the motion does not present a denial of Jewish suppression throughout history. The purpose of this motion is the acknowledgement and support for the current Palestinian struggle.

Procedural Motion: To suspend the Standing Orders at 11.56AM to accept a proxy from Chai Rhaguvanshi to Mohamed Hadi.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Chai Rhaguvanshi proxies to Mohamed Hadi at 11.56AM.

Chai Rhaguvanshi leaves at 11.56AM.

Procedural Motion: To resume the Standing Orders at 11.57AM,
 Moved: Chair
 CARRIED

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

Council adjourned at 12.37PM
Council re-adjourned at 12.42PM

Procedural Motion: For the motion to be a named vote.
 Moved: Jaryd Clifford
 CARRIED

Motion 4: To accept the motion as presented.
 Moved: Mover: Dana Alshaer Second: Ahmed Ali
 CARRIED

For: Aakash Chandak, Annalyce Wiebenga, Allen Xiao, Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi (via Mohamed Hadi), Georgia Burke, Ishita Ganeriwala, Jaryd Clifford, Mohamed Hadi, Ngaire Bogemann, Rebekah Kelly, Scarlett Padden (via Rebekah Kelly), Shirley Killen, Toby Glover, Wen Hao Yong, Zodie Bolic (via Imogen Senior). (16)

Against: Benjamin Cronshaw, Nate Hollis, Zachary Kaplan (3)

Abstentions: Terry Wang (1)

Procedural Motion: To adjourn for a 5-minute break.
 Moved: Chair
 CARRIED

Council adjourned at 1PM
Council re-adjourned at 1.05PM

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>Not Submitted</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>Submitted</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>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	<i>Late</i>
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	<i>Not Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	<i>Not Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Rose Power	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	<i>Not 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>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	<i>Not Submitted</i>

Councillor Annalyce Wiebenga asked of the Media OBs if they wished to speak to how they would be reporting on the elections.

Media Officer, Jo Guelas, in response. Candidate statements that were sent to RO have been passed along to the Media Department. Will be compiled into a digital election guide to be included in the voting link email to students. Will also be a presidential debate, more details to come but the project has been submitted to CME.

Councillor Mohamed Hadi asked of the President and POC Department, what are the plans regarding a joint POC/Presidential statement regarding the student prayer rooms at Monash University? Has there been any progress?

POC Officer, Hiba Adam, in response. Will be in touch with the President, last week has been busy. Hoping to have a statement out this week. Sophie Nguyen in agreement.

General Secretary, Millie Macwhirter raised she has not received many OB reports, asked OBs to please submit in time or let her know if they won't be able to.

Creative Arts Officer, Marcie Di Bartolomeo, asked if there have been any updates regarding the Student Campus Experience Programming Committee, if there is room for a Creative Arts Officer to be involved.

President, Sophie Nguyen, in response. Have responded to Marcie's email. There may be another meeting before own end of term, will liaise with Creative Arts regarding any agenda items

Education Academic Officer, Moira Negline, provided an update to co-OBs report. Regarding deadnaming in graduation ceremony – correspondence has been sent, with a response received, so there is progress.

Queer Officer, Rook Davis, delivered a verbal report.

- Working on CAMP
- Running collectives
- Undertaking advocacy work worth EdAc regarding diversity and inclusion
- Have been working on Queer Ball.

Marcie Di Bartolomeo in addition to their report, have been corresponding with Burnley regarding reviving the botanical artwork collective, hoping to be underway by the end of year.

Annalyce Wiebenga requested that all Officers present with unsubmitted reports, to please deliver a verbal report.

POC Officer, Hiba Adam, delivered verbal report.

- Been working on Afro Ball, collaborating with other universities on this. Will be running on Friday.
- Been working on Myriad recruitment

Creative Arts Officer, Perna Aggarwal, delivered verbal report.

- Been working on Tastings

Motion 5: To accept the OB Reports

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move in camera.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 1.18pm

During this time, the CEO Report was discussed and accepted by Council. The Half Year Budget Summary for 2022 was briefly discussed, to be addressed further at Council 14(22). The CME Monthly Report was noted by Council. The Letter from Moore's was previously discussed after Item 6 – Correspondence.

Ruby Craven left at 1.30PM

Zodie Bolic arrived at 1.47PM

8. CEO Report

8.1. Half Year Budget Summary 2022 – Final

8.2. CME Monthly Report July

9. Other Reports

9.1. Letter from Moore's

Council moved out of camera at 1.56PM

9.2. CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee

Members of the Sub-Committee commented that the recruitment is now underway with applications open and closing on 22 September 2022.

9.3. Operations Sub-Committee

10. Operational Business

11. Motions on Notice

11.1. UMSU condemns the Victorian Government for its continual push to criminalise peaceful protests.

Preamble:

In another chilling crackdown on peaceful environmental protestors, the Victorian Labor Government has passed new laws significantly increasing maximum jail sentences (12 months) and fines (\$21,000) for protest activity in timber harvesting zones. Despite opposition from unions and human rights lawyers, these laws have now passed both houses of parliament.

The Victorian Labor Government has failed to provide any example of logging protestors threatening the safety of workers. Unions have also observed that these laws wrongly identify workplace risk in the democratic right to protest. Under the guise of safety, this government has opted to criminalise peaceful protests because it serves as an inconvenience to an outdated industry. Inconvenience should never equate to criminalisation.

This not only creates a dangerous precedent for the democratic right to protest in Victoria but continues a trend of state governments curbing protestor rights throughout Australia. In a world where money can buy you a voice and lobbying power, we must prevent the silencing of those voices that do not have the privilege of wealth. With the climate crisis in full force, we must focus on mitigating its impact rather than imprisoning those that have voluntarily dedicated their lives to advocating for our planet.

And lastly, the most inaccessible form of protesting arises when the government defines peaceful protestors as criminals. As a union that represents thousands of

young people, we should strongly condemn the actions taken by the Victorian Labor Government.

Motion:

To adopt the following platform and actions:

Platform Points:

UMSU condemns the Victorian Labor Government for passing legislation that criminalises peaceful protests.

UMSU deems these laws – Sustainable Forests Timber Amendment (Timber Harvesting Safety Zones) Bill 2022 – as an an-democratic law.

UMSU condemns the trend of Australian state governments curbing the right to peacefully protest in this country.

UMSU recognises that these laws further endanger those already vulnerable when protesting including First Nations people, people with a disability, people of colour, and non-citizens.

Actions:

Direct the UMSU President and Environment Office Bearers to release a statement that includes the platform points referred to in this motion.

Moved: Zach Matthews

Seconded: Jaryd Clifford

Zach Matthews spoke to moving rights. Jaryd spoke to seconding rights. Both spoke to need for the student union to stand against the erosion of rights to protest and increasing inaccessibility of protests.

Motion 6: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Zach Matthews

Seconded: Jaryd Clifford

CARRIED

11.2. UMSU Stands with Palestine - BDS and Solidarity Policy

See discussion following Item 6 – Correspondence.

12. Motions without Notice

13. Other Business

14. Next Meeting

Friday 2 September, 10am.

15. Close

Meeting closed at 2PM