

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Clubs & Societies Committee**

**CONFIRMED Minutes**

**9:30 am, Thursday December 23, 2021**

**Special Meeting 1/22**

**Location: Zoom**

**Petition for special meeting received from Rachel Kirby, Jack Finlay, Edward Biggs, Bella Henry**

**Meeting opened at 9:32 am**

1. **Procedural Matters**
   1. Election of Chair

**Motion 1: To elect Eleanor Cooney Hunt as chair.**

Mover: Eleanor Cooney Hunt Seconder: Kimberley Ng

**Carried without Dissent**

* 1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

* 1. Attendance

Committee: Imke Panesgrouw, Bella Henry, Jack Finlay, Eddie Biggs, Kimberley

Ng, Rachel Kirby

Clubs & Societies Office Bearers: Eleanor Cooney Hunt & Benito di Battista

Staff: Fiona Sanders

Commerce Students Society Committee Members: Madeleine Ouvrier, Matt Dean

* 1. Grant speaking rights to Coordinator (Standing Order 21.2)

**Motion 2: To grant speaking rights to the Clubs Coordinator, Fiona Sanders.**

Mover: Chair

**Carried without Dissent**

* 1. Proxies

Nil; no apologies from Clubs Committee members.

* 1. Adoption of Agenda

**Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.**

Mover: Chair

**Carried without Dissent**

1. **Conflict of interests**

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| **Name** | **Conflicts of Interest declared** |
| Benito Di Battista | Pirates, Mechanical Engineering Students Society, Cider Appreciation Society |
| Eleanor Cooney Hunt | Student Exchange Society, Women in Commerce and Politics, Cider Appreciation Society, Genetics Society |
| Rachel Kirby | Ring of Choir, Fantasy and Science Fiction Appreciation Society |
| Imke Pansegrouw | Student Exchange Society |
| Edward Biggs | Arts Students Society |
| Jack Finlay | Science Students Society, Australian Music Appreciation Society |
| Kimberley Ng | Eurovision Social Club, Engineering Music Society |
| Bella Henry | Transit Riders Alliance for Melbourne Students, Women in Commerce and Politics, Genetics Society |

**Rachel Kirby at 9:36 am**

1. **Commerce Students Society Ball COVID Case**

The meeting was called to discuss improper treatment of positive COVID cases at the Commerce Students Society (CSS) Ball on the 14th of December, 2021.

Matt asked about the nature of the petitions. Petitions are just to call a meeting.

Matt gave a chronology:

There was a party on Friday, December 10 - a 21st held by an ex-committee member that was attended by several current committee members.

Current committee member tested positive on Saturday evening on a PCR, and another current committee member tested positive on a RAT.

Case at Ball took a rapid on Saturday, probably unrelated to 21st.

Attendee of the 21st took PCR test and received their results on Monday morning, positive; call from DHS Monday evening. There was no formal requirement for others who attended this event to get PCR tests. No one got a text message from DHS.

One ex-committee had 2 rapid antigens before the ball (Saturday and Tuesday)

On Monday/Tuesday, all current committee got a PCR; negative attended, no result or symptoms did not attend.

At 1:22 pm on Thursday, positive test on rapid test. Had a text from DHS about an exposure on Monday night.

The person then took a PCR on Friday and discovered they were positive on Saturday following confirmation from DHS.

The DHS notified everyone on Saturday at 2 pm to check-in attendees.

At 2:55 pm Saturday, the CSS made a post on Facebook, and there was a confirmation of 3 additional positive tests that the committee is aware of.

The Committee emailed members on Sunday afternoon; noting their opinion that quantity and accuracy of emails considered less than Facebook.

Commerce Students Society did not notify Clubs & Societies Department.

All current Committee members had PCRs and only those with negative results came to Ball. A few who were close/did not have results did not attend.

(Redacted) is not a current committee member. Committee knew that (Redacted) had been at the 21st. CSS do not condone his actions; and it was noted that he was not legally required to get a PCR or RAT test as there was no DHS text.

Committee did seek approval for September 2 event, however, there was no approval sought to host the ball on December 14.

Checklist highlights pre-event communication, and we could have supported post-event communication, and post event notifications.

It is noted that there is a legal liability risk in situations such as this which falls on UMSU rather than the Society in question.

CSS Executive apologetic about not notifying C&S, says it will not happen again.

COVID Case is not the issue, the lack of notifications and communication from the club must be discussed to prevent further incidents and minimize COVID risk.

**Procedural Motion 1: To go *in camera* with Fiona.**

Mover: Chair

**Carried**

**Meeting went *in camera* 10:25 am**

Discussion on failure of the Commerce Students Society to inform Clubs and Societies of the positive COVID case, and follow appropriate procedures. The serious consequences for the failure of appropriate action (notifying members of the exposure) were noted.

**Imke Pansegrouw left at 10:40 am**

**Rachel Kirby left at 10:50 am**

Probation 12 months Reg 6.1.s.

Suspend grants 6 months Reg 6.1.s

Direct to make apology on behalf of club for failure to communicate with members. Submit to C&S before sending.

Directive regarding improper communication by Commerce Students’ Society to other students. Recommendation to resolve situation with this student as CSS sees fit and direct to report to C&S how they have dealt with it. No further communication by this person with the person who reported the incident.

**Procedural Motion 2: To include members of Commerce Students Society in discussion.**

Mover: Benito di Battista Seconder: Kimberley Ng

**Carried without Dissent**

**Madeleine Ouvrier and Matt Dean re-joined at 11:06 am**

**Petition to place the Commerce Students Society on probation 12 months under Regulation 6.1.s.**

**Petitioned by: Bella Henry and Kimberley Ng**

**Petition to suspend Commerce Students Society grants for 6 months under Regulation 6.1.s.**

**Petitioned by: Eddie Biggs and Jack Finlay**

Noting that COVID approval will be more accountable without access to Grants

**Motion 4: To direct CSS executive to make apology to the club members for failure to communicate properly with the members, with approval sought from C&S before distribution to members.**

Mover: Benito di Battista Seconded: Kimberley Ng

**Carried without Dissent**

**ACTION: Fiona Sanders to send email addresses of Eleanor Cooney Hunt and Benito di Battista to Commerce Students Society.**

Recommendation to resolve issue with aggressive communication from Commerce Students Society to other students as the executive body sees fit and directly report to C&S how they have dealt with it. No further communication by Nat with the person who reported.

**ACTION: Fiona to send a censored version of communications directly to CSS.**

**Motion 5: To direct the CSS Executive to deal with Nat how they see fit and then report to C&S what is done**

Mover: Benito di Battista Seconder: Bella Henry

**Carried without Dissent**

**Kimberly left 11:18 am, meeting to continue under standing order 7.5.**

Probation explained. Matt apologised once more.

1. **Next Meeting (January 2022)**

End of January. TBC

1. **Close**

**Eleanor Cooney Hunt closed the meeting at 11:21 am.**