

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

Meeting of the Education Committee

Minutes

Monday 29 January 2024

Meeting 2(24)

Location: Level 2 Room 201, Building 168, Parkville Campus

Zoom link:

https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83378577069?pwd=bGd3RGRtQ1EyT2xNSlB2eGZEamtodz09

Password: Education

**Meeting opened at 6:06pm**

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

**Motion**: That Julian De Marco be moved as chair.

**Mover**: Julian De Marco **Seconded**: Amaya Castro Williams

**Carried**

* 1. **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians**

So acknowledged.

* 1. **Attendance**

Bella Beiraghi, Amaya Castro Williams, Whitney Chen, Julian De Marco, Kristine Gia Hue Hong, Wen Hao Wu, Anndrya Chua.

* 1. **Apologies**

Lucy Rachman Vascotto.

* 1. **Proxies**
  2. **Membership**
  3. **Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion**: to adopt the agenda as presented.

**Mover**: Julian De Marco **Seconded**: Amaya Castro Williams

**Carried**

1. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**2.1** Minutes 1(24)

**Motion**: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting 1(24).

**Mover**: Julian De Marco **Seconded**: Amaya Castro Williams

**Carried**

1. **Conflicts of Interest Declaration**
2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Julian to follow up Whitney Chen’s question regarding the confirmation of minutes stated in the first committee meeting minutes, 1(24).

1. **Correspondence**
2. **Office Bearer Reports**

Anndrya Chua asks Julian De Marco about his meeting with CME and recommendations regarding Summerfest events. De Marco clarifies the need for the requested $2000 spending line from the budget.

**Motion**: Taccept the Office Bearer Reports

**Mover**: Kristine Gia Hue Hong **Seconded**: Anndrya Chua

**Carried**.

1. **Other Reports**
2. **Operational Business (Motions on Notice)**
3. **General Business (Motions on Notice)**

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| **9.1**  **Motion:** That the Education Committee approves $2,000 within Tag Orientation under account number 03-60-620-3840 “Events”.  The purpose is for Summerfest activities, including ‘Meet your Education department’ bar events and Summerfest stalls.  **Mover:** Anndrya Chua  **Seconder:** Kristine Gia Hue Hong  **Carried without dissent.** |

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| **9.2**  **Motion:** That the Education committee amends motion 9.1. from Meeting 1(24) on December 22nd, 2023 to read “9.1 That the Education committee approves up to $2000 from Tag General, under account number 03-60-620-3713 “Printing – External” for the printing of Know your Rights and Know your University Booklets.”  **Mover:** Anndrya Chua  **Seconder:** Kristine Gia Hue Hong  **Carried without dissent.** |

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| **9.3**  **Motion**: That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Events Budget Line (code 3840) of up to $500 for the purchasing of 500 P2 masks for distribution in the Ed office space, at indoor banner paintings, at collective meetings and department forums. This is in keeping with the UMSU health and safety policy statement which commits the student union to eliminating or minimising “risk of injury or illness to people associated with UMSU’s operations.” Reducing the risk of COVID-19 infections at UMSU events by supplying free masks to students is both an accessibility issue and a health and safety responsibility for office bearers. PPE tech has quoted the department $1AUD p/mask.  **Moved:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Seconded:** Kristine Gia Hue Hong  **Failed.** |

Wen Hao Wu asks Bella Beiraghi a question to clarify why the department needs N95 and P2 masks if the university supplies surgical masks. Bella Beiraghi clarifies that the university has a limited supply of surgical masks and that the quality of masks supplied by the university do not protect students from potential COVID-19 infections sufficiently. Wen Hao Wu asks Bella Beiraghi another question to clarify where the department is planning on putting the masks.

Bella Beiraghi replies that the masks will be stocked in and around the departments office for any students who wise to access them as well as being supplied at department events. All committee members excluding Amaya Castro Williams abstain from voting on the motion.

Bella Beiraghi enquires about the reservations of committee members to support a motion which is consistent with UMSU’s health and safety policy and the responsibility for the department to facilitate accessibility requirements. Whitney Chen cites concerns regarding the potential waste and environmental costs associated with purchasing life-saving PPE. All present committee members abstain excluding Amaya who votes for the motion.

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| **9.4**  **Motion:** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Printing - external Budget Line (code 3713) of up to $400 for posters which are larger than A3. These posters will be used to boost the visibility of the department's campaign against education cuts. Slogans such as “no cuts, no fees, no corporate universities” and “wipe the $74 billion in student debt” would be printed on posters with the aim of spreading awareness among the student body regarding attacks on higher education.  **Moved:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Seconded:** Kristine Gia Hue Hong  **Failed.** |

Amaya Castro Williams speaks to the motion, citing the importance of raising student awareness around key issues pertaining to the department, including quality of education and student poverty. Anndrya Chua asks Amaya to clarify the need to outsource printing. Bella Beiraghi replies that offices tend to outsource printing for materials larger than A3, that the universities printers are not resourced to print materials of this sizes larger than this in bulk. Anndrya asks Bella to clarify the need for materials larger than A3, as opposed to using the universities facilities to print in A4. Bella clarifies the importance of printing materials larger than A3 is about awareness raising among the student body and helps boost the department’s ability to engage with students on issues pertaining to their quality of education. Anndrya, Wen Hao Wu and Whitney abstain from voting, Amaya and Kristine vote in favour of the motion.

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| **9.5**  **Motion:** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and supplies Budget Line (code 3352) of up to $200 for megaphones for the purpose of hosting an outdoor speakout and forum in week 8 of semester 1. This forum will be a part of the department’s plans to host a Radical Education Week; a week of public meetings and forums centred on raising awareness about issues of student poverty, course cuts and fee increases among the student body. This is in keeping with UMSU’s acceptable conduct policy which endeavours to provide “services, events and activities which are accessible to, and take into account, the needs of all individuals” including those hard of hearing.  **Moved: Amaya Castro Williams**  **Seconded:** Kristine Gia Hue Hong  **Failed.** |

Amaya speaks to the motion, citing the importance of resourcing the department to successfully create an open and accessible environment for all students, including those hard of hearing, particularly at outdoor department events. Anndrya suggests the department should consider getting a sign language interpreter. Bella Beiraghi welcomes the suggestion and offers to add an amendment to the motion to change the line “that the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and supplies Budget Line (code 3352) of up to $200 for megaphones” to “that the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and supplies Budget Line (code 3352) of up to $200 for megaphones and an ASL interpreter.” This is amenable to the mover.

Whitney Chen asks if the department already has a stockpile of megaphones. Bella replies that she has not been able to locate any stockpile of megaphones. Julian De Marco suggests that the departments previous stockpile could have been lost. Whitney Chen suggests that the department should contact previous committee members to locate any potential missing megaphones.

Wen Hao Wu asks Bella why the departments meetings need to be outdoors, and if the department can host indoor meetings there would be no need for megaphones. Bella replies that facilitating outdoor events is an accessibility issue, and in keeping with UMSU’s health and safety policy which maintains that the union should create a safe environment for student engagement. Bella explains that outdoor events limit the spread of life-threatening diseases, such as COVID-19. Wen Hao Wu suggests that the department include a zoom link for those not wanting to meet indoors. Bella replies that this can limit the capacity for all students to engage with the department equally.

Wen Hao Wu asks Bella for more information regarding potential lost megaphones under the department. Bella replies that she does not have any information on this as she was not an office bearer in this department last year. Whitney cites concern over the department’s handling of megaphones and asks if department equipment becomes personal belongings. Julian ensures the committee that this is not the case.

Anndrya, Christine and Amaya vote in favour of the amended motion 9.5 “That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and supplies Budget Line (code 3352) of up to $200 for megaphones and an ASL interpreter for the purpose of hosting an outdoor speakout and forum in week 8 of semester 1. This forum will be a part of the department’s plans to host a Radical Education Week; a week of public meetings and forums centred on raising awareness about issues of student poverty, course cuts and fee increases among the student body. This is in keeping with UMSU’s acceptable conduct policy which endeavours to provide “services, events and activities which are accessible to, and take into account, the needs of all individuals” including those hard of hearing.” Whitney and Wen Hao Wu abstain. The motion fails.

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| **9.6**  **Motion:** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Events Budget Line (code 3840) of up to $800 for professional banners for the purpose of awareness raising among the study body regarding issues of student poverty, course cuts and fee increases.  **Moved: Amaya Castro Williams**  **Seconded: -** |

Amaya speaks to the motion, citing the purpose of printing professional banners in aiding the visibility of the department’s campaigns on campus. Amaya mentions that professional banners increase the longevity of their usage and can survive wet-weather conditions better than homemade banners. Whitney asks how the mover of the motion came up with the suggestion for $800 to allocate to professional banner printing. Bella replies that this is based off consulting other departments experience with professional banner printing services and that the $800 dollar requested spending is a ballpark, hence the wording “of up to” included in the motion. Bella cites the importance of the department accessing services on the union’s ethical register.

Wen Hao Wu asks Bella if the department has engaged in negotiations with university management over the issues cited in motion 9.6. Bella replies that the departments vision for creating a vibrant campaign to defend students’ quality of education is the best way to empower the student body. Bella illustrates how grassroots student led campaigns can pressure the government and university management effectively in explaining the 2014 National Union of Students campaign against the Tony Abbot government’s proposal to deregulate university degrees.

Whitney asks Bella if the department has engaged with any other departments or talked to the executive about the departments plans to campaign around these issues. Bella replies that education public has been talking to education academic, and the environment department, to look into avenues for collaboration on issues of student poverty and education. Whitney suggests directing the officer bearers to consult the executive on plans for campaigning. Julian asks Whitney to clarify what they mean by executive. Whitney replies that they are referring to the UMSU president and General Secretary.

No committee member moves to second the motion, so it fails.

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| **9.7**  **Motion:** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the events Budget Line (code 3840) of up to $400 for a Gazebo for the purpose of hosting department stalls during summer months and in wet weather conditions. This is in keeping with the UMSU health and safety policy statement which commits the student union to “providing a safe and healthy working, and student experience environment.” The department bears responsibility to ensure our activities meet accessibility, health and safety requirements, including facilitating outdoor activities with cover.  **Moved:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Seconded:** Anndrya Chua |

Amaya speaks in favour of the motion, explaining that the purpose behind the motion is to facilitate the departments responsibility to ensure a safe, welcoming environment for student engagement, including outdoor cover for department events. Anndrya asks Amaya if the department should opt to use the existing gazebos supplied by the student union. Bella replies that departments and clubs sometimes keep their own stock of outdoor covers for logistical ease. Anndrya Chua moves to second the motion. Kristine, Wen Hao Wu, Amaya and Anndrya vote for the motion, Whitney abstains.

**Motions without notice – whitney’s one – Amaya abstains, the rest are for – motion carries.**

1. **Other Business (Motions without Notice)**

**10.1**

**Motion:** That the Office bears of the Education Committee engage in discussions with the President and General Secretary of UMSU concerning the ongoing campaigns and advocacy orchestrated by the Education Committee.

**Moved**: Whitney Chen

**Seconded**: Anndrya Chua

Whitney Chen proposes to move a motion without notice to urge office bearers to engage with the UMSU executive on plans for the department’s campaigns. Julian recommends that the wording “UMSU executive” should be changed to specify UMSU’s President and General Secretary for clarity. Anndrya suggests that this issue should be brought to student’s council as it can direct the entire student union to be involved in discussions and debates concerning student campaigns and advocacy. Anndrya moves to second the motion. All committee members vote for the motion excluding Amaya who abstains.

1. **Next Meeting**

First week of February, Julian to send out a when to meet asap. Wen Hao flags that they will not be available between the 10th and the 15th of February.

1. **Close**

**Meeting closed at 7:24.**