

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Clubs & Societies Council



Unconfirmed Minutes

Monday October 13, 2:15 pm
Meeting 2/25

Location: The Singapore Theatre (PAR-133-B1-B120, Building 123)

Meeting opened at 2:20 PM by Ewan Bezzobs

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: To elect myself as chair.

Mover: Ewan Bezzobs

Secunder: Tarish Kadam

CWD

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

C&S OBs: Esther Luk, Ewan Bezzobs

Club representatives: listed below

C&S Committee: Oliver Nassau, Tarish Kadam, Doris Wang, Alex Gwynn, Joshua Solomon

Staff: Fiona Sanders, Melanie Gunton, Stephen Luntz

Observers: Johar Malik (Islamic Society), Mathilda Stewart (Farrago), David Trevorrow, Megan Chee (Interprofessional Education and Practice Health Students Network), Lino Sojan (Optometry Students Society), Raymond Fu (Buddhist Society), Mabel Shelley (Sexpression), Christina Damigos (Greek Association), Tanmay Kabil (Beer and Cider Society), Vinayak Kapoor (PSA)

1.4. Apologies

C&S Committee: None

Clubs: Banking on Women, BusinessOne Consulting University of Melbourne, CastOn Charity Group, Chess Club, French Club, Indian Club, Platypus Affiliated Society, Responsible Artificial Intelligence Development, Speech Pathology Students' Society, Students Association of Management and Marketing, VCA Music Theatre Society, Wine Society, Women in Economics Students' Society

1.5. Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Before the procedural was voted on, another motion was put to the council.

Procedural Motion: To discuss 8.1 before the election.

Mover: Joshua Solomon

LOST

Procedural Motion: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

CWD

2. Nominations for the 2026 C&S Committee Opened

Steven explains how to fill in the nomination form. If someone wants to be on the committee, they must fill it out. It is not an attendance sheet.

2.1. Role of the C&S Committee

Ewan shows the UMSU website, which describes the role of the C&S committee. They oversee discipline and regulations.

2.2. Appointment of Returning Officer

Motion 2: To appoint Stephen Luntz as Returning Officer.

Mover: Chair

CWD

2.3. Call for Nominations

Ewan explains the process again – students sign the sheet if they want to nominate. Stephen says if you are the executive of multiple clubs, you indicate which club you're representing, and mention all other clubs you are on the committee of.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3.1. May 19, 2025

Motion 3: To confirm the minutes as a true and accurate record of the 19 May 2025 S1 Clubs Council meeting.

Mover: Chair

Seconder: Joshua Solomon

CWD

4. Matters Arising from May Council

4.1. Club Tiers

Esther explains that the proposal in the papers is written by C&S, and that there is another proposal to be distributed at a working group. Ewan explains that as there are 250 clubs, there are funding difficulties in the department. There will be a working group where clubs can express their thoughts.

4.2. Grant Spending

Ewan explains that a few reps have come to us asking about the grant cap. We haven't made any changes this year, and might be able to but it won't be much. Ewan explains the process of how the cap could be increased. It is a good thing that people have been consistently spending throughout the year.

For any late arrivals, Ewan explains the nomination form is going around the room and invites them to nominate.

5. 2025 Officers' Report

Esther's and Ewan's reports are both in the papers. Esther summarises that their report describes Winterfest and Awards Night, as well as a series of things they wanted to do to improve the department. In addition, they mentioned the heavy administrative burden on the department, which is why they have been helping out with Applications for Payment etc. where possible.

Esther highlights that it has been disappointing to see clubs being stacked. Stacking is when a group of people take over a club for political reasons. Clubs should exist to make friends and Esther wants people to vote for who they genuinely want on the committee, not who their friend told them to vote for.

Ewan summarises that the OBs ran Awards Night, as well as the S2 Exec Mixer with over 100 execs in attendance. OBs continued this tradition to support the clubs and celebrate their achievements. Winterfest was across two days with 80 clubs a day, and Ewan hopes the clubs had a great experience.

Ewan and Esther have been trying to get Applications for Payment out as soon as possible. Ewan notifies clubs about regulation changes that will be proposed to council.

There have been 7 committee meetings this semester. Meetings are 2-5 hours every fortnight. Ewan informs the council that this is the commitment of being on the C&S committee.

Motion 4: To accept the OB reports.

Mover: Sharvendra Nair

Seconder: Jason Shan

CWD

Stephen advises that there are only 8 nominations, and invites any last nominations. Ewan explains there will be speeches.

6. Introduction of 2026 Clubs & Societies Officers

Ewan and Esther have a month and a half left in their term. The new OBs, Alex and Seamus, will take over the role in December and invites them up to speak.

Alex introduces herself. She was on the Swifties' Society committee for two years and on the C&S Committee this year. She has an understanding of how the department operates, and understands and respects how much work the executives put into clubs. Alex thinks what makes clubs so wonderful is the executives who run it. She acknowledges the dedication needed to be on the C&S Committee.

Seamus introduces himself and says he was the president of the Beer and Cider Society this year. Seamus wants to make next year the easiest year to run a club.

7. Election of 2026 Committee

7.1. Outline of Election Procedure

Stephen closes nominations at 2:47pm and invites candidates to the front to give their speeches in ballot order.

There are 10 nominations and everyone gets 2 minutes to speak. A candidate points out that the questions were out of control last year, and Stephen says he will manage that.

Stephen says to start with name and club. Ewan adds that people have to mention every club they are in the committee of and who they are representing.

7.2. Candidate Statements

Roger Cao from Student Institution of Mihoyo Players speaks first. He mainly wants to clarify regulations.

Charles Gao from Society of Astronomy at Melbourne University. He wants to remove bureaucracy and provide more support and money.

Stephen now has the ballot order and instructs candidates to line up in order.

Yunyi Chan from Hispanic Culture and Language Society and Language Exchange Club speaks next. She wants to be a part of the committee and wants to hold more events like Exec Mixers. She wants to tackle stacking by setting rules and regulations.

Michael Werden from Very Special Kids Society, who is also a member of Queer Commerce Club, speaks next. He ran because he believes in the democratic process, values connections, and wants to build friendships.

Joshua Solomon from Society of Transportation Enthusiasts at Melbourne, Society for Astronomy at Melbourne University, and Jewish Students Society, who was also previously on the Physics Students Society committee, speaks next. Josh is a current member of the C&S Committee. He has been working to improve regs.

Tarish Kadam, who has been on the committee of Language Exchange Club for 3 years and is a current C&S Committee member, speaks next. Tarish outlines the effort and importance of clubs and the dangers of stacking. He wants to put in regulations to prevent stacking and to implement tiers.

Max McKenzie Fitzpatrick from Film Society and Pirates speaks next. He wants to fight the University, the OBs, and Students' Council for funding. He will sit in Students' Council meetings for clubs.

Meiqi Liu, who has been on the Drawing and Painting Club committee for 2 years, speaks next. She thinks there is bias to the top 25% of clubs. She wants to foster more connections with the clubs.

Percival Taylor from Financial Management Association of Australia and German Club speaks next. Money might not be there next year and he wants to make sure there is money for everyone to run events.

Lucia Flynn from Arts Students Society speaks next. She outlines the importance of clubs for creating a community. She wants to support clubs through all the admin and uphold standards.

Stephen asks if there are any questions.

Student asks all candidates about their opinion regarding tiers.

Student asks all candidates about external political affiliations.

Student asks all candidates about specific changes to prevent club stacking.

Student asks all candidates about their opinions on the Uni's policy on free speech about Israel.

Student asks Max about what he said regarding small clubs becoming big clubs. Max explains that that's what happened within his club, and tiers prevents that.

Student asks all candidates what they have planned for next year to foster connections between clubs.

A few students have exams at 4pm. Stephen asks who wants to go to a vote, and most people put their hands up. Remaining 3 students don't get to ask their questions.

7.3. Voting

Process is explained – students go to the back of the room, hand over their yellow voting ticket to receive a ballot, and vote at a polling table.

Ewan moves to other business while voting occurs.

8. Other Business

8.1. Club-submitted proposals

8.1.1. Communications policy

Ewan shows the proposal that was sent to C&S. C&S Committee have already recommended a regulation to Students' Council regarding this. The idea is not to restrict or penalise clubs for not putting things on the calendar. It is to engage members and students.

Josh explains that his motion is to adopt this policy. A student does not agree with the policy as it restricts funding. Josh agrees to remove the first half of his motion.

Motion 5: To direct the Clubs and Societies Committee to adopt the policy on its enforcement.

Mover: Joshua Solomon

Seconder: Nathan Ben David

LOST

8.1.2. *In absentia* council nominations

Ewan reads the document to the room. Josh wants presidents to be able to nominate themselves if they can't attend Clubs Council.

Someone asks about running a hybrid meeting. Josh says that his proposal is only for nominations for the C&S Committee election.

Someone mentions that you would not be able to ask questions of a candidate who is not present.

Motion 6: To recommend to Students' Council to allow absentee nominations at Clubs Council through the attached changes to the Clubs & Societies Regulations.

Mover: Joshua Solomon

Seconder: Lucas Sinclair

LOST

9. Close

Meeting closed at 4:05pm

List of clubs in attendance:

Accounting Students Association - Dhairya Shah

Actuarial Students' Society - Suyao Liu

Adventist Students on Campus - Shayna Anthea

Aerospace and Rocket Engineering Society (ARES) - Lachlan Miegel

AIESEC in Melbourne - Tony Le

ALP Club - Tobias Putland

AniManga Society - Adithya Ratheesh

Apollo Music Society - Peter Kim Go

Arts Students Society - Lucia Flynn

Asia-Australia Youth Association UniMelb - Carmen Chung

Asia-Pacific Development Initiative - Jacqueline Tee

Australia-China Youth Association - Conlan Zhong
Barbell Society - Zuhair Mobasshar
Beta Alpha Psi - Unimelb Chapter - Jay Shen
Bhakti Yoga Club - Dhruv Chheda
Biomedical Engineering Society - Leo Liu
Biomedicine Student Society - Isabella Rykers
Biomedicine Students' Orchestra - Madison Muscat
Bollywood Club - Yashesvi Verma
Book Club - Alexander Fung
Buddhist Society - Yifei Liu
CAINZ - Justin Kwong
Cambodian Student Society - Christina Xim
Cantonese Students Association - Yuching Leung
Character-Creator and Worldbuilders' Guild - Andes Chang
Chariot Journal - Daniel Harvey
Chemical Engineering Students Society - Isla Jones
Chinese Calligraphy Club - Weiya Wan
Chinese Comedy Club - Zhengsheng Li
Chocolate Lovers Society - Anushka Sachdeva
Christian Union - Hannah Williams
Civil and Structural Society - Laila Wasti
Classics and Archaeology Society - Elizabeth Brown
Clinical Audiology Students' Association - Azalea Rohaizam
Coffee Appreciation For Enthusiasts - Cynthia Wong
Commerce Students Society - Olympia Dobbin
Consistently Amazing Kitchen Endeavours - Saraf Ishmam
Construction Students Association - Rafael Riofrio
Creative Literature and Writing Society - Vincent Chen
Cubing Club - Gerrard Hallis
Data Science Student Society - Jake Paul
Design Student Society (DES) - Asakir Sm
Drawing and Painting Club - Meiqi Liu
Earth Sciences Students Society - Aryam Srivastava
Embrace Education - Meghna Mallik
Enactus - Aidin Liu
Engineers Without Borders - Gangotri (Gigi) Mitra
Esports - Ng Kyi (Desmond)

Eurovision Social Club - Aaliyah Kadir
Excel Club (MEC) - Bogdan Olenko
F1 Club - Manika Birmiwal
Filipino Students Association - Jace Furuto
Film Society - Maximilian Mckenzie Fitzpatrick
Finance Student Association - Casper Appelberg
Financial Management Association of Australia - Percival Taylor
Friends of Unnatural Llamas (F.O.U.L.) - Freya Campbell
Friends of Vet Beyond Borders Student Chapter - Vanessa Yee
Geomatics Society - Isabella Deng
German Club - Aurick Chatterjee
Gleam Up Beauty, Business and Science - Maggie Zhong
Global Affairs Society - Ivan Sokolov
Google Developer Student Club - Sharvendra Nair
Greek Association (MUnGA) - Christina or Athanasios
Greens Club - Lottie Jenkins
Habitat for Humanity - Abhie Gupta
HackMelbourne - Hung-Vy Nuyen
Healthy Eating and Nutrition Society - Gabriella Sim
Hispanic Culture and Language Society - YunYi Chan
History Society - Luke Atkinson
Hong Kong Students Association - Man Him Luis Fong
Indian Graduate Researchers Society - Dhiren Swain
Indian Graduate Students Society - Jhil Mehta
Indonesian Students Association - Edward Louis Gomulia
Information Security Club (MISC) - Ella McKercher
International Vietnamese Students at the University of Melbourne - Van Tien Do
Interprofessional Education and Practice Health Students Network - Joshua Goundar
Islamic Society - Noor Besisou
Italian Social Club - Alyssa Cabral
Japanese Club - Joshua Otsuka
Jewish Students Society - Nathan Ben-David
Korean Students Society - Siwoo Kim
Kpop Club - Devashree Kathale
Labor Club - Daniel Motika
Language Exchange - Tarish Kadam
Let's Talk Conversation Group - Bhavlin Garg

Linguistics Society - Corbin Afanasyev
Macau Students' Association - Edward Tang
Macedonian Student Society - Adam Kalajdziovski
Malaysians of Melbourne University - Ha Shawn
Marketing Intelligence - Justin Tran
Mathematics & Statistics Society - Dylan Hoi
Mechanical Engineering Student Society - Jeson Chanx
Melbourne Microfinance Initiative - Angela Tang
Model United Nations Society - Aileen Hu
Music Students Society - Damien McCluskey
Myanmar Students Association - Jamie Rizwan
NEMO - Networking for Ecological and Marine Opportunities - Gracie Rawlinson
New Zealand Students Society - Anisa Prajitno
Next Generation Trading Club - Shihan Zhou
Nursing Students' Society - Saul Colliver
OmniSci Magazine - Ingrid Sefton
Optometry Students Society - Tiffany Truong
Overseas Christian Fellowship (O.C.F) - Sarah Hui-Yun Wong
Oxfam Group - Kevin Phan
Pakistani Society - Saaisha Vohra
Philosophy Society - Pamela Piechowicz
Photography Club - Julius Jin Zher Tee
Physics Students Society - Ryan Stewart
Physiotherapy Students' Society - Joshua Bailey
Pokemon Observation, Knowledge and Evolution Nation - Ronglin Hou
Postgraduate Environment Network - Mathew Jacob
Pre-Law Society - Danielle Spratling
Psychology Association - Hannah En Hui Abishenganaden
Queer Commerce Club - Clarissa Sothy
Real Estate Investment Student Association - Casper Tabain
Ring of Choir - Matt San Buenaventura
Robogals Melbourne - Liam O'Connell
Robotics, Engineering & Competition Society - Thomas Radford
Rock and Metal Society (RAMS) - Amber Hanily
Rotaract Club - Joanne Tritton
Saudi Students Association at Melbourne University - Salem Khaled S Alnawaf
Sexpression - Lucas Sinclair

Slavic Languages Club - Jessica Pisani
SMART Consumers - Kay Pritchard
Socialist Alternative - Aidan Hawe
Society for Astronomy at Melbourne University - Charles Guo
Society for Transportation Enthusiasts At Melbourne (STEAM) - Joshua Solomon
Soil and Plant Society - Song Qi
Sri Lankan Graduates' Society - Hiruni Wijewardena
Statistics and Mathematics Postgraduate Society - Alexandria Jeffrey
Student Institution of Mihoyo Players - Yifan (Roger) Cao
Students in Renewable Energy - Rhea Sankar
Swifties' Society (Taylor's Version) - Mehak Bhasin
Tabletop Gaming Society - Jason Shan
TEDxUniMelb - Lushomo (Lushy) Chinganya
Turkish Society - Arman Cakmakcioglu
Very Special Kids Society - Michael Werden
Wildlife Conservation Society - Tom Weichselbaum
Women in Commerce and Politics - Doris Wang
Women in Technology - Sara Banfalvi
Women* in Science and Engineering (W.I.S.E.) - Jane Deborah
Youth Charity Society - Raechel Mary Bobby
