



**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Disabilities Committee
Agenda
(Monday, 18th of November 2024 @ 9am AEDT)
Meeting 10(24)**

Location: Zoom / Disabilities Office (Room 304, Building 168)

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/88484054099?pwd=s2GBfDiAthtg2F1mH6lCMs2Uvl4KHR.1>

Password: OWLFIE

Opened at 9.09am

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Della be elected as chair.

Moved: Morgan Sheather Seconded: Matthew Denipitiya

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

1.3. Attendance

Madeline Salisbury, Eleanore Arnold-Moore, Della Johnston, Morgan Sheather,
Matthew Denipitiya

1.4. Apologies

Victoria Qin

1.5. Proxies

1.6. Membership

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved: Della Johnston Second: Matthew Denipitiya

CWD

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 9(24)

Motion 3: That the previous minutes be confirmed as true and accurate records of Meeting 9(24).

Moved: Matthew Denipitiya

Second: Eleanore Arnold-Moore

CWD

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Madeleine to declare a conflict of interest and abstain from voting on Motions that relate to IP for Owlfie.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Improving the Disabilities Lounge

4.1.1. The last Coles order has been placed, and the supplies will be left in the space for student use over the summer and for the start of 2025. We have received significant amounts of positive feedback from students about the impact this food provision has had on wellbeing, especially around exams but across the board. We will be hoping that a form of this initiative can be continued, as accessibility of other services can have real barriers for those in our community, and the needs can be very different from what is addressed in more general initiatives, meaning the products required aren't available or prioritized for those who need them most.

We have successfully purchased the various approved items for the space, including lamps, speakers, and a polaroid camera + polaroid printer, art and study supplies, chargers, fans etc. The photo wall has been started and it's great to see pictures in the lounge. It is starting to feel like a safe space people feel belongs to them, one that is created by and for them. We hope this continues to build a sense of belonging, community, connection and pride.

The lamps are all portable, and adjustable in colour/temp and brightness. Meaning we don't have the same issues we used to where meeting the visual/sensory needs of some people meant not meeting the needs of others.

4.2. Exam Survival Kits

Most of the deliveries have come through now, although there will be a few coming over the next two weeks that Della and Morgan will pick up. So far, we have received the Loops, the hot water bottles, the headphones, and the regular water bottles and vouchers for app store tools. We have been in touch with the community and distributing these to students as per needs and requests, given the hurdles faced around data handling and privacy, as exam season has progressed – and will continue to do so at the final lunch collective later today. Any remaining kits and items from them will continue to be made available through to the end of our term – and arrangements made if there are leftovers thereafter to be made available for students going into next year.

We will have a quantity of sunflower lanyards arriving shortly, as were intended inclusions in the study survival kits - as we have had a lot of feedback around these being difficult to find more recently and it's impact on travel to and from campus. These unfortunately will be arriving late, and will go into the space for people to take as needed.

5. Office Bearer Reports

Morgan: Hey! Thank you everyone for being there through such a rollercoaster of a year. I personally want to type this out as it will be a hard one to express. I want to say once again how incredibly proud I am of you all, and to have had the opportunity to work alongside everyone for 2 years. You are all inspiring, talented, and passionate in ways I am truly humbled to be amongst.

The one goal we really had a few months ago was to try and rebuild a sense of trust, safety and community that hadn't had the support it needed to thrive through a lot of this year.

I so wanted to draw attention to the strengths in the community. To work on collaborative reform, but to also focus our efforts and the limited time available to us on helping support people in building their baseline of needs security and in building their capacity to self-accommodate in support of the additional equity measures that are so needing change. So the gaps in the systems, that will still take time to reform, might have a lesser impact while that change is pursued, or for where things fall through the cracks. To focus on QOL and human-centered design in changes to the space, and the resources we were able to provide.

I hope we have had as much success as possible given our limitations, in starting the ball rolling on positive changes – and in returning to tending to that sense of belonging and safety for the community.

I will miss working with you all. I can't wait to see the amazing things you do next.

Della: Hi everyone, me again for one last time. I really appreciate everyone, there have been good but also very difficult times. This is just a sort meeting to finish finalising things before offboarding, but I wanted to reiterate how much we appreciate you all for sticking with us. We have put together suggestions for handover to try and ensure the best interests of the community continue to be met. If anyone has any questions about finishing things up for the year please give me a shout. I hope all your final assignments and exams went well, happy holidays and I wish everyone luck in the New Year. Good luck to everyone. It's been lovely.

Motion 4: To accept the Office Bearer Reports.

MOVED: Madeline Salisbury

SECONDED: Eleanore Arnold-Moore

CWD

6. Motions on Notice

As noted in previous meetings, Morgan has been in discussion with UMSU departments regarding the IP of Owlfie. Efforts have been made to discuss the varies elements of IP Law, volunteers retain ownership of their intellectual property – and as such Madeleine Salisbury retains ownership of the rights to the beloved Owlfie, our 'unofficial' mascot.

To date, use of the design has been approved on a case-by-case basis (A single-use/conditional license, that Madeleine as the designer was able to approve per use). As the IP still belongs to Madeleine, transfer of ownership or purchase of an extended license would require a written agreement.

In efforts to both to minimise the administrative burden of juggling licensing on future departments and on the already hard working staff in CME, as well as set a good precedent around committee member obligations, understandings and agreements as volunteers.

There is of course due process that typically would not involve the hiring of committee members, which is entirely appropriate. However, the adoption of Owlfiel as a mascot by the people in the community was unplanned and has had a life of its own over the past few years. It would be sad and very difficult for him not to be used anymore. Owlfiel is honestly a deeply enmeshed and lovely, important part of the community identity.

Enquiries are still unresolved at this point around how to ensure all appropriate checks, balances and constitutional requirements are met. As a result the specifics have not been able to be ironed out yet. Unfortunately we are unable to continue to approve motions through to the end of term/year from this point.

In efforts to cover our bases as a result of this, we suggest that provisionally (pending agreement on terms to meet requirements and obligations, and the shaping of a contract that is fair and reasonable) approve moving \$5000, as the remaining unused budget for 2024, to the appropriate line for the design of, or licensing of a digital asset. Suggestions 03-60-675-3802 "Asset Expense", 03-60-675-3845 "Contractor Fees" or as deemed most administratively appropriate.

And that we then approve the spending of the amount to be determined and approved by agreement from these funds for the purpose of purchasing or licensing the IP for the Owlfiel design.

6.1. Motion 5: To approve \$5000 from the amount represented in the P&L surplus to be moved as deemed administratively appropriate, pending agreement, to budget line 03-60-675-3802 "Asset Expense" or 03-60-675-3845 "Contractor Fees".

Motion 6: To approve spending, amount per agreement TBD as detailed above, from these funds for purchasing or licensing the IP for Owlfiel as the Mascott for continued use by UMSU Disabilities Department.

Other Business (Motions without Notice)

Procedural Motion 8: To pass Motions 5-6 in Items 6.1 en bloc

MOVED: Matthew Denipitiya

SECONDED: Eleanore Arnold-Moore

CWD

7. Next Meeting

This is the final meeting for 2024. Thank you.

8. Close

Meeting closed at 9.30am