

University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Disabilities Committee Minutes (Wednesday, 28 February 2024 @ 12pm AEDT) Meeting 3(24) Location: Zoom / Disabilities Lounge (Building 168)

https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/81129655170?pwd=S1JJQzFWVmxDTXpQTFJld0thVi9aUT09

Password: OWLFIE

Meeting opened at 12.17pm.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Anishaa be elected as Chair.		
Moved: Anishaa	Seconded: Della	
CARRIED		

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Anishaa Jeyakumar, Morgan Sheather, Matthew Denipitiya, Della Johnston, Madeleine Salisbury

1.4. Apologies

1.4.1. Eleanore Arnold-Moore

1.5. Proxies

- 1.5.1. Eleanore to Madeleine
- 1.6. Membership

Vansh has been terminated. Madeleine to be reinstated on committee in the coming days.

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: To adopt the Agenda as presented.		
Moved: Matt	Seconded: Morgan	
CARRIED		

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 2(24)

Motion 3: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of Meeting 2(24). Moved: Della Seconded: Matt CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Stocking the Disabilities Lounge

We still have up to \$500 to spend on restocking the lounge with essential supplies. The updated shopping list is as follows:

- Toaster

- Storage solutions e.g. containers for craft supplies
- Note: get taller containers to store pencils upright
- Whiteboard + eraser
- Smaller whiteboard for fridge
- Whiteboard cleaning spray
- Takeaway containers
- Sandwich bags
- Aluminium foil
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Hydralyte / icy-pole versions
- Elastic bands
- Cellotape
- Blu tack
- AAA batteries
- Masking tape
- Masks
- Multi-purpose cleaning spray

We note that we need to be careful with what we store in the fridge to avoid spillage. Moving forward canned drinks may be a better option than bottles since large bottles cannot be stored upright.

There is a juice stain on the carpet that will need to be steam cleaned if possible.

4.2. MHFA training

Brief discussion around the benefits and drawbacks of undergoing the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training offered by CAPS and potential alternatives. Morgan stressed the importance of equipping ourselves with these skills, citing frequent disclosures from students in the past. At \$60 per head, we may consider sponsoring the CAPS MHFA training for other interested students alongside committee members. Registrations are currently closed and upcoming workshops are yet to be scheduled. Alternatively, we will explore the possibility of hosting a workshop on campus run by an organisation of our choosing. The training would need to be reasonably different to that offered by CAPS.

https://services.unimelb.edu.au/counsel/student-workshops/mental-healthtraining

5. Correspondence

5.1. SSAF grants

Applications for SSAF grants are open. We flagged this as a potential source of funding for our upcoming initiatives.

<u>https://students.unimelb.edu.au/careers/get-career-ready/leadership-and-</u> <u>employability-programs/fund-your-idea-with-a-student-grant/student-services-and-</u> <u>amenities-fee-ssaf-grant-program</u>

We later opened a discussion with Luke about his vision for a Critical Disability Theory reading group based on the principles of Universal Design and if the grant would help support its development.

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. Anishaa Jeyakumar

6.1.1. Summerfest

Both our Summerfest events were really successful and had high volume of student engagement. There was a lot of interest and a lot of new faces which is encouraging. However as a department we had to compensate for organisational failures within UMSU.

Committee discussed how Market Hall is not a sensory-friendly environment. This concern was noted prior to Summerfest, but it was decided that we go ahead so as not to lose out on visibility. It is an accessibility issue that the tradeoff we faced had we opted out or chosen a different location was exclusion. We met a few students who were too overwhelmed to participate in the sensory bottle making workshop on the Wednesday, but were happy to be introduced to our Lounge on the Friday. Della and Matt broadly described the heat protocols for Summerfest as negligent. The decision to implement heat safety and cooling measures on Thursday e.g. installing fans in Market Hall read as arbitrary. On Wednesday, it was significantly hotter inside Market Hall than it was outside.

Additionally, there was poor communication from UMSU Events staff regarding pack down for the sensory bottle making event as we were not briefed regarding the speed friending event that was scheduled to take place at 3pm, which impacted the timing of our pack down. Initially, our event had been scheduled to run until 3pm, with pack down taking place anytime between 2.30 and 3pm. This led to participating students being rushed out of the hall unexpectedly. This lack of consideration also extended to our committee members who were made to pack up in a hurry with little support from staff.

6.1.2. Review of Respect module

Anishaa met with Jess Phillips, the project manager of the Respect Initiative, for user testing of the module before it is launched in March.

6.1.3. Items for discussion

Kickstarting Critical Disability Theory reading group. Would like to launch by Week 3 or Week 4 if possible. It will function in part to support the second edition of The Ability Issue. Anishaa, Morgan and Madeleine will meet with Luke to discuss his proposal.

Upcoming: Neurodiversity Week (18-24 March) Check if the university's Neurodiversity project is hosting any events or workshops in conjunction with Neurodiversity week and explore potential avenues for participation and collaboration. We will also consider hosting a workshop or event of our own. We had the idea to distribute print-outs of Matt's "Unsolicited ADHD Advice" from last year's The Ability Issue.

6.2. Adam Whitehead

N/A

Motion 4: To accept the Office Bearer Reports en Bloc.		
Moved: Matt	Seconded: Morgan	
CARRIED		

7. Motions on Notice

7.1. Food for weekly collective

Motion 5: To approve spending \$200 within tag "Collectives" under account 03-60-675-3839 "Programs", this is for catering upcoming collectives at the DisabilityLounge.Moved: DellaSeconded: MorganCARRIED

7.2 Casuals for Summerfest Sensory Bottle Making

Motion 6: To approve spending of \$181.50 within tag "Orientation" under account number 03-60-675-3840 "Events", this is to pay casuals for our sensory bottle making event at Summerfest.

Moved: Della

Seconded: Matt

CARRIED

7.3 Reimbursement for supplies purchased for Summerfest

Motion 7: To reimburse Anishaa \$136 for purchasing supplies for our sensory bottle making event at Summerfest. This is to be charged to tag "Orientation" under account number 03-60-675-3840 "Events".

Moved: Madeleine

Seconded: Morgan

CARRIED

8. Other Business (Motions without Notice)

9. Next Meeting

To be held two weeks from now.

10. Close

Meeting closed at 12:51pm.