



**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Education Committee
Minutes
Friday 23rd December 2022
Meeting 1(23)
Location: Zoom**

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78943821354?pwd=wPldd5FIWNSeHlz9p9BX9QpOJEq8WP.](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78943821354?pwd=wPldd5FIWNSeHlz9p9BX9QpOJEq8WP.1)

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<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75606943986?pwd=uie8vslp9S3GGba8aQt0I7zwAa5B7q.1>

Password:

Meeting opened at 1:07pm.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion: That Mary Kin Chan be elected as Chair

Mover: Mary Kin Chan

Seconded: Lachie Mutimer

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Mary Kin Chan, Carlos Lagos Martin, Taj Takahashi, Rahul Mittal, Tom Xie, Heather Maltby, Lachlan Mutimer, Divya Rajagopalan, Akanksha Agarwal

1.4. Apologies

None.

1.5. Proxies

None.

1.6. Membership

Sara Kabir has resigned from the Education Committee. The ticket allocation process has begun to replace Sara Kabir's membership.

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Mary Kin Chan

Seconded: Carlos Lagos Martin

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 16(22)

Motion: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting 16(22).

Mover: Mary Kin

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

None.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Education Department Summerfest event - finalising event planning

OB's will liaise with Rowden Library to see if we can hire VR sets for Summerfest - The treasure hunt idea is not ideal because Unimelb volunteers run an event that is similar. Budget needs to be approved before further planning for the summerfest event can take place.

4.2. One page pamphlet content

Mary, Taj and Carlos will continue working on one-page pamphlet - liaising with environment department to include collab for May 10 - Day of Action on climate crisis.

4.3. Editing of Know Your Rights document

Carlos will go over what needs to be edited on the Know your rights document - finalising before deadline set out by UMSU printing (Jan 6).

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. Carlos

Carlos reported on the EdPub campaign for Semester 1, 2023. He explained that EdPub is hoping to drive an UMSU submission to the Australian Universities Accord, which a government review into higher education. He highlighted two major intersectional issues: high cost of living and quality of education. He noted that EdPub will focus on connecting students and their experiences regarding these two issues. He envisioned a final goal as the University of Melbourne's endorsement of UMSU's submission, with a rough aim to finish by June or July.

Heather disagreed on behalf of the Socialist Alternative ticket, pointed out that students and UMSU are not on equal footing with management. Therefore to negotiate with management is actually collaborating with management to disadvantage students. She asserted that physical presence through campaigns and active protesting would bring forth more concrete change.

Carlos reminded that Committee members are wearing both an UMSU cap and factional cap at the same time. He said that the National Union of Students (NUS) wants to be active participants in the Accord process and UMSU would be part of it. He added that NUS has passed a motion regarding collaboration between student unions on the Universities' Accord during NatCon.

Divya questioned what are we contributing towards?

Carlos answered that UMSU's submission to the Universities Accord would put forward the issue of rising cost of living (students having to juggle study and work) and its impact on students' quality of education (with implications on academic integrity). EdPub will collate student testimonials, then send them to the Accord for review and highlight that policy drafting should consider such students' difficulties. The goal is to let the University of Melbourne show support as a big and prestigious university.

Heather reiterated that inviting and showing solidarity are insufficient, concrete issues and goals have to be clearly expressed from the get go, such as fighting for lower tuition fees. She gave the successful example of students' protesting against the deregulation of university tuition fee setting in 2014. Disrupting business as usual is more useful than writing letters to Ministers. Carlos said that Heather's points were very good and will look into how the Ed Department can emulate part of the 2014 campaign's successes and attract greater student interest / activism.

Divya asked what are the negatives to participating?

Carlos replied that at this point it will be just a submission, written document surrounding the themes that are set out by the Terms of Reference of the Accord. Not a monetary support. Riding on the big name of UniMelb would be a good way to put forward students' concerns.

6.2. Mary

Mary reported on the first meeting with Advocacy. She said that she is trying to get used to the role and up to date with emails. Organising the Student Representative Network (SRN) and filling up the positions is her key concern now. She is giving a short report because she is also typing up the minutes.

6.3. Taj

Taj reported on the meeting with Advocacy. He is catching up on induction modules and sifting through emails. He added that he will work with Mary on the SRN and expects a close working relationship with Carlos.

Motion: To accept the Office Bearer Reports en bloc	
Mover: Mary Kin Chan	Seconded: Divya Rajagopalan
CARRIED	

7. Other Reports

None.

8. Operational Business (Motions on Notice)

8.1. Budget discussion

Carlos noted that one Committee didn't want to cut their budget, so the Education Officers worked to cut some of its budget to show solidarity towards smaller, autonomous Committees. The total cut is \$1500. \$1000 will be cut from the freebies budget line, \$100 from general budget line, \$400 from the Summerfest and Winterfest budget line. This brings the total budget amount to \$40 530.

Motion: To approve the budget as presented	
Mover: Rahul Mittal	Seconded: Tom Xie
CARRIED	

8.2. Delegation to Operations Sub-committee

Mary explained that the Operations Sub-committee functions to pass emergency motions. In situations where committees like the Education Committee are unable to meet, yet require funds for daily operations, such funds may be passed by the Operations Sub-committee. Thus the Education Committee is advised to delegate a portion of its budget to the Operations Sub-committee. Mary reiterated that this portion can still be accessed by the Education Committee, and is not an amount outside of the passed budget. The Operations Sub-committee is a contingency measure.

Carlos suggested delegating \$1000 total from campaign outreach and workshop budget lines.

Motion: That the Education Committee approves budgetary delegation to the Operations Sub-Committee of up to \$500 for the campaign outreach budget line, and up to \$500 for the workshop budget line.	
Mover: Lachie Mutimer	Seconded: Divya Rajagopalan
CARRIED	

8.3. Recurring meeting schedule

Carlos noted that he will set up the meeting dates from January and February through Facebook messenger poll, with a more permanent schedule after everyone has received their course timetables.

9. General Business (Motions on Notice)

None.

10. Other Business (Motions without Notice)

10.1. Student Representative Network (SRN) nominations

Mary noted that the SRN is composed of student representatives that sit on various university committees. The previous EdAc OBs have worked on the first round of applications and selected representatives for a few positions but 15 of them remain unfilled. Therefore a second round of applications will be open between late January to late February as that is when student engagement increases.

Divya asked whether there was a difficulty to find the right candidate or were there insufficient applications to begin with. Mary replied that it was the latter. Therefore she encouraged Committee members to spread the word to their (factional) peers when the application form is open again later.

Carlos suggested that clear roles and responsibilities should be described in the application form so that student representatives understand what to expect in these university committee meetings. There should also be a feedback form inviting students to outline their experiences of serving in the committee. Mary agreed.

Motion: To approve the nomination of proposed SRN candidates.

Mover: Mary Kin Chan

Seconded: Carlos Lagos Martin

CARRIED

10.2. Summerfest budget approval

Divya asked whether there is a difference between approving the orientation money combined and separately. Carlos replied that having all the orientation money at once would allow leeway for unexpected circumstances during Summerfest.

Motion: To pass \$2040 for Summerfest and Winterfest

Mover: Carlos Lagos Martin

Seconded: Divya Rajagopalan

CARRIED

Tom Xie left the meeting at 1:57pm.

11. Next Meeting

Will be set up via Facebook Messenger poll.

12. Close

Meeting closed at 2:10pm.