

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Education Committee

Agenda

4 pm Thursday 18 April 2019

Meeting 7(19)

Location: Mary Cooke A, Level 2, Union House

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
Dominic, Mindi, Hue Man, Nick
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
Melinda Suter has joined the Education Committee
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

7. Other Reports

8. Motions on Notice

See appendix for motions on notice

9. Motions Without Notice

10. Other Business

11. Next Meeting

12. Close

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Education Academic Affairs Report
Elizabeth Tembo
To Education Committee 2(19)
21/01/19**

Elizabeth's back and Dom FINALLY has access to his emails!!!

Key Activities

1. Regular Meetings

• **Academic Board**

Heard the Academics questions and perspectives on the new Green Paper for Student Life. We had our opportunity to express our opinions already.

2. EdAc x EdPub Meeting with Professor Anna Chapman (Associate Dean of JD)

Cam and I (Elizabeth) met with Professor Chapman to discuss implementing a policy of mandatory class recordings of all Melbourne Law School (MLS) classes. From our discussion and the paper Professor Chapman wrote on behalf of MLS it became clear that the school has no intention of changing its current practices.

3. Academic Procedures Committee (APC) – Discussion on Law Lecture Recordings

Last Friday, Elizabeth presented the case for mandatory class recordings in MLS. Professor Chapman was also in attendance to speak to her paper. The discussion was long with the academics raising concerns about;

- A loss of incentive to engage in class even if in attendance
- Student and staff fear of expressing opinions due to a perceived lack of privacy/anonymity
- Potential learning outcomes in some subjects not being met through not being present
- A significant drop in attendance
- Class recordings won't actually address the stigma of identifying and seeking health for poor mental health amongst law students, student poverty and the need to work, difficulties in comprehension that may arise due to not being a native-English speaker
- The proportion of the 'seminars' spent lecturing rather than engaging. There was serious doubt that all MLS classes were conducted as seminars and that even for the subjects that are, that there was no significant amount of lecturing within them
- That the special considerations process was long and complicated, causing students' studies to still be impacted due to the waiting periods and amount of paper-work required

Professor Chapman conceded that lecturing is often necessary as students do not always do their readings. It seemed that MLS would be reluctant at best to make further changes to their current special consideration processes that allow a set number of recordings.

I and other academics in attendance pointed out that a significant drop in class attendance was anecdotal and contrary studies showed that there was significant evidence to show that **was not** does not happen. I also pointed out that;

- As a science student whose classes are all recorded, there're classes that still have high attendance and others that don't and there therefore are other reasons that contribute to not attending a class.
- UMSU does not believe class recordings are a solution but are a necessary step in addressing these issues. And that it is our intention to continue working with MLS to address
- MLS's current special consideration processes do not address mental-health stigma, ESL speakers, assessment stress nor those who must work. And would need expanding.
- That this practice is effectively shutting out students who do not come from a certain amount of privilege
- The students who need this wouldn't necessarily consistently miss class, but that recordings would allow them to cope with the fluctuations they experience in health and work.

Though with varying contributions and perspectives, the academics neither seemed to fully be in support of our recommendations nor with MLS's current practices. It seemed that the academics thought a compromise could be reached;

- All class recordings are made available at the end of the teaching period
- An attendance hurdle is introduced

Professor Chapman argued that checking attendance would consume a lot of class time. This was refuted by a couple of members.

The discussion was cut off due to time constraints. Professor Gregor Kennedy (Arts Teaching and Learning VC) pointed out that Academic Board is actually unable to implement/recommend these changes and just like with the University Lecture Recording Policy, it will have to be brought through Provost. He offered to take it up there.

4. Selection Procedures Committee (SPC)

Great to have an enthusiastic new UMSU member on SPC! Shame that it was the driest meeting I've ever attended to date :(:(:(. But rest assured that any new scholarships created will have gone through a very very very very lonnnnngg process of scrutiny!!

5. Student Employability

I (Dom) got acquainted and touched base with Tim Brabazon the Director of Student Success in a uni networking event... and we'll be arranging to meet to talk about the issue of graduate outcomes of unimelb undergrads

6. Meeting with Maddy McMaster about Selection Procedures for VCA Programs

Dom met with Maddy McMaster (Executive Director, Academic Services and Registrar).

7. Other

Ed now has some cool new chairs and a cabinet!

Progress on assigned actions from last report

Green Investment

Elizabeth is arranging to meet with Caren Walker from Sustainability after the Easter Break

Meet with the Dean of MSD

Elizabeth arranging a meeting following the Easter Break

Action Points to be completed by next report

Attend Meetings

Please see above

TALQAC – Law Class Recordings

Debrief the department on how this went and our next steps

SRN Committee Meeting

Call this meeting.

OPEN NUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE GRANTS

Grants for EdCon will be opened within a week. They will be open to ALL currently enrolled Unimelb students (come along!)

Appendix – Motions on notice

8.1 What are You Voting For? BBQ

Students need to be given the issues to make an informed decision this election. The best way to do this in public is to have an event where we give them something for free, in order for them to tell us what they want to vote on. There'll be 5 different boxes, environment, healthcare, workers' rights, education and the economy. Students get a ticket when they get a sausage and tell us what issue they'll be voting on. Good to launch at the government during the election!

Motion: to pass up to \$400 for a “what are you voting for” BBQ in week 8

Moved: Charli

Seconded:

8.2 UMSU Education Event Promotion on Social Media

Social media promotion was the absolute best way to get people to Surge. We spent \$150 and get 15 people to spend an entire weekend away, to be able to do this for our current campaigns, it'd be great to have some money passed in lieu of having a committee meeting

Motion: to pass up to \$200 for social media promotion of UMSU Education events throughout the year

Moved: Charli

Seconded:

8.3 Collectives – Let Them Eat Pizza

Motion: to pass up to \$500 for food for the remaining five weeks of collective meetings, including but not limited to, Take Back Our Coop, Syndicate.

Moved: Charli

Second:

8.4 On Track Collective

On Track meetings have been running every teaching week so far, with a total of 18 different attendees. This is super exciting, and shows that despite being a new collective, there is a real enthusiasm for public transport campaigns among the student body.

We've been spending almost exactly \$60 (usually in the realm of \$58) for 4 pizzas for each meeting. This motion is for money for pizza for the 6 collective meetings in the last 6 weeks of semester.

Motion: To pass \$360 for pizza for the next six weeks of On Track collective meetings.

Moved: Cam

Seconded: Elizabeth