

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Environment Committee

Agenda

10:00am 30th April 2019

Meeting 6(19)

Location: Environment Office

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Confirmation of minutes from meeting 5(19) on the 4th April, 2019.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

The Sustainable Campus Team & The Climate Reality Project

We've received a number of emails from representatives of the Climate Reality project, which is a semi-activist group led by Al Gore and Ken Berlin to enact urgent climate action across all levels of society, with a key focus on communities, local politics, and businesses. They want us to promote, and potentially get collective members involved in, their project. I'm of two minds about it - what do we think?

5. Office Bearer Report

Key Activities

Radical Education Week

Radical Education Week was our big week 8 undertaking - packed with workshops and discussions on everything from climate grief and school strikes, to circus for social justice, radical prison abolition, queer political action, and everything in between! The idea behind Radical Education Week is to critique the corporatisation of tertiary education and erosion of cooperative spaces at the university, and to teach useful and thought-provoking ideas that students will never learn in the classroom.

Radical Education Week was very,very well attended throughout the week, with top turnouts of up to twenty at our biggest 'shops. There were many thought-provoking discussions and moments. We were also very proud to hoist our cute new 'Radical Classroom' banner for the first of hopefully many years to come. We're so thankful for all

the amazing contributions from students, friends and the UMSU departments and Food Co-op. It took a great deal of effort from many people, but it is certainly a worthwhile exercise. We are now reaching out to participants and our collective to reflect help improve the week for future years.

Student Forum on Sustainability/Fossil Free MU

As a part of Radical Education Week, The University of Melbourne Student Union Environment Department was proud to host the Student Sustainability Forum on Tuesday 16th April at 6.30pm. This was an evening for students, staff, and community members alike to come together and re-examine our goals and progress toward sustainability as a University community. Many older members of the collective and the Fossil Free campaign came along, and contributed to wide-ranging, critical, and productive conversation with the panel, consisting of University and Chancellery staff, as well as former Enviro OB Lucy Turton. Ideas were raised for more student advocacy, consultation and working groups with the possibility of permanent positions for student sustainability advocates. The night went exceedingly well, leaving more questions to ask as we head into a new phase for the Sustainability Plan at UniMelb.

The Forum was a great opportunity for those students to hear from those spearheading UniMelb's sustainability efforts, and to work with them to imagine a more sustainable future. More importantly, it was an opportunity to communicate the work being done by the Sustainability Executive, and work together to build (and sometimes push for) a more radical platform for sustainability on campus.

Students of Sustainability

Students of Sustainability (SOS) conference is an annual gathering of environmentalists and activists hosted by the Australian Student Environment Network. Students and other activists from across the country come to learn skills and discuss contemporary issues in environmental and social justice.

SOS 2019 is going to be held on Gadigal, Wangul and Darug lands (sydney) in late July, with arrivals and departure happening around the 25th. The Environment Officer and a dozen or more of the environment collective members have expressed keen interest in coming along, and plans are in preparation for the rental of a minivan to take attendees in convoy to Sydney with other collectives members who have car access.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

Action Point 1: Report-back on the success of Rad Ed Week organisation

See above!

Action Point 2: Feedback and report from the Student Sustainability Forum, including new ideas and initiatives for transparency and ensuring the success of the divestment campaign

Workshop submissions are coming through and our schedule should be ready by Tuesday 9th of April for distribution. Promotional materials are also on their way. Feeling geared up for a very rad week in the Radical Classroom.

Action Points to be completed by next report

Action Point 1: Create Rad Ed feedback sheet with Environment Collective + attendees on how to improve the week for next year.

By date of next Students' council.

Action Point 2: Follow up on discussions and initiatives from the Student Forum, including possibility of more collective engagement in official Sus Campus positions.

Ongoing project.

Action Point 3: Work with collective + committee to create a plan for an ongoing series of 'Radical Workshops' run by Enviro for the rest of the year. This is in response to overwhelmingly positive feedback and demand for more events, in a less hectic time schedule, over the rest of the year.

Budget Expenditure

\$500 spent on marquee weights for radical week.

\$600 spent on Sorghum Sisters catering from the Student Forum event.

\$160 spent on banner-painting and workshop materials through Radical Education Week.

\$164 spent reimbursing MUCG convenors for their materials and supplies purchases this semester.

6. Motions on Notice

Motion: Approving funding for the Melbourne University Community Garden's Wurundjeri Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony event.

Preamble

Mimm and Clare from the MUCG have been busy organising a much-overdue Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony for the Community Garden with the Wurundjeri land council.

The event is tentatively set for 5.30pm on Wednesday 29 May this year. John Wayne Parsons from the Wilin Centre at VCA will be singing, and an appropriate indigenous edible bush/small tree will be planted to mark the occasion, as well as some murnong (yam daisies). Super rad.

The event will require a significant amount of funding with a cost of \$1200 for the WTC and smoking ceremony, not including catering costs and the plants. We believe this is a very important event for the Department to support, as we have supported numerous MUCG initiatives in the past with our special events budget.

Assuming a cost of \$1200 for smoking, \$300 for plants, and a further \$500 maximum for catering a budget of up to \$2000 seems appropriate for the event. This can come from our \$9000 special projects events budget line.

Motion:

To approve up to \$2000 funding for the upcoming Welcome to Country event organised by the Community Garden. This will include \$1200 to be paid to the Wurundjeri Land Council for the WTC and smoking ceremony, and a provision of up to \$800 for catering and native plants to be planted on the night. This will be taken from the special projects budget line.

Motion: Funding for ASEN's Camp Care.

Preamble

ASEN are planning a 3 or 4 days Camp Care a lot (name negotiable) to relax, share and learn skills, and continue important discussions and plannings for looking after each other and ourselves in our movements. This is their description:

“We are thinking themes could include (and not limited to) communication skills, conflict resolution, peer support, co-counselling, self and community care (is there even a difference?), healthy organising and groups, anti-oppression, and personal development! There will also be ample time for music, dancing, developing new friendships and deepening old ones. The idea for this gathering was born out of conversations about these ideas at SOSes and Training Camps, and we would love people to help with the organising or to express interest in coming!

The idea of the camp is to spend time together, not burn ourselves out organising it, so the ‘conference’ will only be what the people who attend make it! So please don’t have high expectations of amazing food served to you and a perfect program, it will at least be a good time :) It will be less like a conference and more like a gather, where the extended community of ASEN (Australian Student Environment Network) and SoS get together and skillshare and discuss caring. And if you do have any specific things we can do that will help you attend please let us know!”

Due to our close relationship with ASEN, and that much of our collective activist skills and knowledge (and many Rad Ed Week workshops) come from the hard work of ASENites, the Environment department would like to contribute some funding to Camp Care to go toward catering and/or accommodation. It has been suggested that an amount from \$500-\$1000 would be helpful in meeting needs for ASEN.

Motion:

To approve up to \$500/1000 funding (negotiable) to go to the Australian Student Environmental Network for the funding of catering or venue booking at their Camp Care conference to be held in late May. This to be taken from the special projects budget line.

Motion: Updating the Enviro Library for 2019.

Preamble

It’s that time of year again. The much-treasured enviro office library is in need of an update after the loss of some books, and the publishing of some really great ones in the past twelve months.

The Enviro Library has served as a small but essential element of reading group and collective for the past couple years, allowing collective members to rent key (and often expensive) environmental texts free of charge. A number of books have been requested by members, as in the list (including prices from Book Depository) that follows:

- A Manifesto for Living in the Anthropocene (various authors) - \$34.59
- The Empowerment Manual (Starhawk) - \$47.43
- Am I Black Enough For You? (Anita Heiss) - \$29.67
- This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate (Naomi Klein) - \$19.48
- The Shock Doctrine (Naomi Klein) - \$19.90
- Silent Spring (Rachel Carson) - \$18.16
- The Mushroom at the End of the World (Anna Tsing) - \$28.76
- The Companion Species Manifesto (Donna Haraway) - \$16.24

Motion:

To approve the spending of up to \$200 from the Stationery and Office Supplies budget line for the purchase of the above books for the Enviro Library using the UMSU credit card.

Motion: Approving Students of Sustainability ticket subsidies for 2019.

Preamble

Like in previous years, the environment department will be subsidizing student tickets to attend ASEN's Students of Sustainability conference in 2019. This year SoS will be held on Gadigal, Darug, and Wangal lands in so-called Sydney. Tickets will again be \$180 each for the full conference including accommodation.

Last year we received 37 subsidy requests for the Naarm conference, and we can probably expect at least 20 this year (probably less than 2018 due to the distance). We want to provide either full subsidies (ideal) or at least half-subsidized prices for these tickets, as they are an expensive undertaking for students. Given last year \$3000 was provided to subsidize tickets, we plan on doing the same in 2019. This should provide up to 26 people with half-price, or 13 people with fully subsidized tickets.

Motion:

To approve up to \$2500 for the subsidy of SoS 2019 tickets for Environment Collective members/University of Melbourne students, taken from the special projects events budget line.

7. Motions Without Notice

8. Other Business

Radical Workshops - A New Initiative?

In response to overwhelmingly positive feedback from Radical Education Week workshops, it has been suggested that Enviro could host semi-regular 'Rad Workshops' on topics similar to those addressed in REW. These could take place, hypothetically, on a monthly basis where speakers from Melbourne's activist community come to the University to train collective members up in a certain skill, or teach them about a certain topic (for example, direct action or dealing with activist burnout).

Ideas that have been floated so far are getting Beth Hill back for a longer workshop on Climate Grief and Burnout, and Nick and Oli from ASEN are keen to do a workshop on queer ecology and transecofeminism.

What do we think about this? Is it feasible? Do we have the budget? Let's discuss.

Students of Sustainability - Collective Convoy Edition

We're also looking to have a convoy for the upcoming SoS conference. This could involve Enviro renting a van to take multiple people up, while other collective members take their own transport. What do we think? Could be costly.

9. Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 14th May at 10:00am. Enviro Office.

10. Close