**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Minutes of the Environments Committee**

**Meeting 2(21)**

***Meeting Agenda***

**5PM, 29th January 2021**

**Location: Zoom**

**Link:** [***https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/85985945194?pwd=dXhpUWZLSFdKSFZHZlM1QTFpczRVQT09***](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/85985945194?pwd=dXhpUWZLSFdKSFZHZlM1QTFpczRVQT09)

**Password**: 196982

**Agenda**

1. **Procedural Matters**
   1. Election of Chair

**Motion: to elect Ann as Chair**

Mover: Ann  
Seconder: James  
CWD

* 1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So Acknowledged

* 1. Attendance

Jeremy, Aashi, Vishal, Laura, Rubina

* 1. Apologies

Harry, Jaslyn

* 1. Proxies

Max Dowell proxies for Jaslyn Potter

Felix Sharkey proxies for Harry Syson

* 1. Membership
  2. Adoption of Agenda

**Adopting the Agenda as presented**

Mover: Ann  
Seconder: rubina  
CWD

1. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**Minutes sent to email after previous meeting.

**Mover: Ann  
Seconder: James**

**CWD**

1. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
2. **Correspondence**
3. **Office Bearers’ Reports**

View attached

1. **Motions on Notice**

6.1. In circumstances where we don’t reach quorum for committee, we need to approach the Operations Subcommittee and can pass up to $1000 each meeting.

Vishal: Is this an one -off thing, or does it happen multiple times?  
Ann: It can happen multiple times as long as there is a valid reason

Vishal: What kind of budget are we expecting this year?

James: Described the budget lines

**Motion: To delegate Op-Sub the ability to pass up $1000 from the Environment Department’s 2021 budget each meeting.**

**Mover: Rubina**

**Seconder: Vishal**

**CWD**

1. **Other Business**

**7.1. Summerfest goodies & activities**

- Prepping for summerfest (mostly online, but a little bit of offline as well)

- We wanted Summerfest to be welcoming and open for everyone

- Instagram takeover planned for a vegan chef/student in Melbourne uni for the day in Summerfest

- Having a seedback for the in person booths

- Cookathon planned with the Welfare department

- During Hopin, James and Ann will be baking together and chatting and answering questions

- If any committee members want to join in, they are welcome to do so

- Rubina wants activities to be more interactive ex. Quiz, kahoot etc.

**7.2. Ideas for Enviro Collective and EOIs**

- We talked about themes, and ideas, for enviro collectives  
 - Going over what we talked about last week to fill in the details for people who missed the last committee meeting

- Aashi is interested in organic farming -> how to do organic farming? (Collective idea)

- Rubina would like to join in and help run the educational sessions in the collectives

- Vishal was checking out a book called “Animal Rights” (collaborative work from philosophers) -> wants a chapter of this to be added into the reading group

**7.3. What do you want to see from Enviro?**

- annual school strike <- Rubinna would like to see us adding to this movement

- We can also support individuals that start up a movement

- Aashi wants us to do an awareness event for the humanitarian crisis that arises from climate change

**7.4. Moving to Signal**

- Vishal doesn’t support Facebook therefore believes that moving to Signal is a better alternative for communication

**7.5. Other Business**

- Laura asked if we are involved with the Greens

- We are not involved with any political groups but we can do things similar to them to support the environmental effort

- vishal has a short essay that he would like to share with everyone for people to read

1. **Next Meeting**

TBC – chosen via when2meet

1. **Close**

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| **University of Melbourne Student Union**  **Environments Department Report**  **Ann Nguyen**  **To Students’ Council 2(21)**  **20/01/2021** |

**Key Activities**

**Ongoing Collaborations with Sustainability Team**

The University’s Sustainability Team has always supported the Enviro department in promoting and supporting its events. We plan to continue this collaborative relationship and have been working with the Sustainability and Green Impact Team to discuss ways we can support each other throughout the semester. We’ve roughly drafted out ideas for a Sustainability Week, a collaboration with the Indigenous Knowledge Institute, creating a Sustainable Eating Guide on Campus, an Enviro Collective collaboration and have also discussed ways to improve the transparency and clarity of the University’s 2021 sustainability report. The team is also on board with our plan to demand a declaration of a Climate Emergency from the University, and have provided us with important contacts in the University for a proposal. We will be having fortnightly meetings with the team to put these plans into action.

We’ve also scheduled a meeting with the team and Clubs OBs to discuss the continuation/implementation of the sustainability guide that last year’s OBs produced together with a similar guide about to be published by the Sustainability Team.

**Semester and Summerfest Prep**

We had our committee meeting and successfully brainstormed a few themes for future collectives, events in the semester and Summerfest! A few ideas we had jotted down from the first meeting include: workshop on ethics of capitalism, plant propagation, having a seed bank, low-tox and low-waste household products, etc.

The Giveaway that we had planned for the end of 2020 had to be postponed because of delivery delays as well as issues with my flight back to Australia due to unexpected changes in border restrictions. Regardless, the reusable menstrual products have all been received and will be given out around the start of the semester.

On top of the giveaway, we are currently in the process of finalising our plans, and are contacting clubs, departments, Ablaze Zine, vollies of the Food Co-op and the Community Garden for collaboration, as well as potential speakers for the semester.

We have also been trying out different social media engagement methods to which is most effective, as a strong online presence is crucial for this year. Currently, we are creating and sharing weekly, bite-sized infographics about important environmental issues, bringing attention to what can be done, protests that can be attended, along with local organisations to support and learn from, making sure to centre Indigenous voices/BIPOC voices in the process. We will be reaching out to the committee and collective members to gauge what they want to see from us throughout the semester and on our social media.

**Action points from last report:**

1. To look for key contacts in Melbourne Uni to discuss a declaration of a Climate Emergency by the University.

This has been kindly provided to us by the University’s Sustainability Team. We are in the process of planning and producing resources before contacting them.

1. To facilitate a committee meeting and develop themes for Enviro Collectives in 2021.

Done! We got together and brainstormed a few themes for our weekly

collectives. These themes will be put into respective dates and we hope to find keen collective and committee members who are interested in chairing.

1. To have a complete social media, events and engagement strategy for 2021.

This is still in the works - we have been posting weekly infographics, but this strategy might change once the semester starts. We might change it up once members start rolling in by posting more uni-based, student-life content.

**Action Points to be completed by next report:**

1. Finalise collaborations with the Sustainability Team: have events dates/weeks set out and work out their logistics; sustainable clubs’ guide; Green Impact
2. Continue to prepare resources for UMSU’s and University of Melbourne’s Climate Emergency declaration.

**Budget Expenditure**

$17,311.83 from 2020’s budget, spent on reusable menstrual products (cloth pads and menstrual cups of various sizes, safety razors, organic shaving soap, and reusable blades.

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| **Environments Department Report** |
| **James Park** |
| **To Students’ Council 2(21)** |

**Key Activities**

**Contacting and Collaborating with the Sustainable Campus Team**

Ann and I had a very productive meeting with the Sustainable Campus Team on the 6th of January. We were introduced to with Sue Hopkins, the Sustainability Manager, and the rest of the Sustainability and Communication Officers. The meeting was mostly about how our department and the Sustainable Campus Team could work together to assist in promoting/running events for each other, and discussing the goals that were outlined in the Sustainability Report. We discussed possible collaborations we could potentially run in the future—namely the Bike Co-op and having the Sustainability Officers as speakers for the Enviro Collectives. Additionally, they gave us access to resources and contacts to assist in our effort to get the university to declare a climate emergency. We plan to have bi-weekly meetings with them to establish a working relationship and to further discuss our plans in-detail.

**Researching**

I have been reading up on the various reports published by Sustainable Campus and Pangolin Associates to get a good picture on the state of sustainability on campus.

It is worth pointing out that things like total gas emissions and waste probably were reduced in 2020 due to the restrictions imposed on Melbourne. However, the reports highlighted several issues that remain unsolved. Namely, the goal to develop and implement a Climate Adoption Plan for each University campus has been unmet—Dookie, Creswick and Burnley campuses are without Climate Adoption Plans. Additionally, the reports have found that academic divisions are not considering sustainability impact into their decision making when conducting research activities. Research in sustainability is also woefully inadequate in this university. Not only this, the university also lacks an annual report for the Water Management Plan on campus—thus lacking an effective way to review the plan—apparently due to a lack of material being able to be committed to this. Finally, the university has revised their community engagement strategy and has deemed the building of partnerships with communities to be no longer necessary.

I find areas like these to be extremely problematic, and will work to fix this to ensure that the university follows through with its sustainability plan.

**Budget**

We finished finalising the budget for this semester, and we are very excited to put our plans into action! Coming up with the expenditures and taking Covid-19 into account has been tough due to the uncertainty that a pandemic brings. The overarching goal to that we strove to achievement with the budget was how we could best mobilise the students in the university to fight against its unacceptable business practices, and gather support for our campaigns. We hope to revitalise the environmentalist movement in the university after such a chaotic year in 2020.

**Action Points to be completed by next report**

* Hold the January Committee Meeting
* Continue meeting and discussing with the Sustainable Campus team
* Finalise plans for the weekly Collectives for the semester
* Plan collaboration projects with the Arts and Welfare departments