



**University of Melbourne Student Union  
Meeting of the Queer Department Committee  
Minutes  
Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022,  
Meeting (3)  
Location: Online**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/9026506832?pwd=VGNrcFZsZVIyQUtOSjBwYWVuN25Qdz09>  
**Password: 0F7wjn**

**Meeting opened at 4:10 pm.**

**1. Procedural Matters**

**1.1. Election of Chair**

Motion 1: That Rose be elected as Chair

Mover: Rook

Seconded: Greta

**CARRIED/FAILED**

**1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians**

Was acknowledged.

**1.3. Attendance**

Rook, Rose, Greta, Andrew, John, Kat, and Poom are in attendance.

**1.4. Apologies**

Chaitanya messaged Rook a few hours before the meeting and apologised for not attending due to last-minute work rescheduling.

**1.5. Proxies**

There were no proxies.

**1.6. Membership**

**1.7. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Rose

Seconded: Andrew

**CARRIED/FAILED**

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**2.1 Minutes**

**Motion:** To confirm minutes of last month's meeting as written

**Mover: Rose**  
**Seconder: John**  
**Outcome: CARRIED**

### 3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Rook stated that they were friends with the drag artist fronting the drag makeup workshop and so elected to stay out of discussion of motion 7.5.

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arose from the minutes.

### 5. Correspondence

Rose spoke about how they and Rook spoke with Dr Joy Damousi, executive sponsor of Pride in Action, about them speaking at the Robert Menzies Institute. Considering Menzies' history of being highly discriminatory towards minorities, it was thought, along with some previous OBs who were consulted with, that this was inappropriate and may damage the reputation of Pride in Action through association. Dr Damousi refused to pull the lecture.

Andrew asked about whether the lecture was affiliated with right-wing politics, Rose reminded him to use the SL and explained the circumstances of the lecture further, explaining that it was at the Institute but not explicitly queer related.

Rose spoke about the meeting with Michelle McNamara and how there was space going forward to use WorkSafe claims as an opportunity to incite action against previously identified TERF activity on campus.

Rook spoke on correspondence with Advocacy & Legal regarding Stop 1 requiring a fee for trans students to change their name on their student ID in the event of a legal name change, as well as escalating the review of the PHIL20046 Feminism subject to the Academic Board.

Poom on the speaking list wanted to ask question about Dr Damousi, but held off discussion for later.

### 6. Office Bearer Reports

Rose – getting ready for Summerfest, training, recap video for the 'No Transphobia in Our Tutes' campaign

Rook – misconduct tribunals, planning for collectives, cleaning office/queer space

Motion: To accept the Office Bearer Reports en Bloc

Mover: Rose

Seconded: Poom

**CARRIED/FAILED**

### 6.3 – Discussion of Midsumma

Rook explained the basic timeline with the decision to cancel Midsumma, stating that the previous OBs registered for the event as a consequence of limited student inclusion by the university in the 2021 contingent. Rook and Rose were then contacted by the POC Department a week before the march was meant to take place and were asked to pull out due to the heavy presence of police and private incarceration firms. A statement was drafted up on Sunday the week before the march and once UMSU Queer's presence at the march was questioned in the student council meeting that Monday, the OBs felt as though they had no choice but to pull out at this point. The statement was released on Monday night and the Communications team was able to send out notice via email to those who had registered on Tuesday.

Due to stress and a heavy workload, both Rook and Rose had forgotten to formally message the committee Facebook Messenger chat to inform them of the decision. This discussion of the Midsumma Pride March was in reaction to this mistake and to the extended conversation that occurred in the chat on Saturday 5/2/22.

Rook apologised for a lack of transparency and poor communication over the decision but stated that some of the comments made on Saturday were inappropriate and unhelpful to ongoing cooperation between OBs and committee members, expressing disappointment over implications of incompetence and/or malice made by certain committee members.

Rose reinforced Rook's sentiments and stressed that the two of them were doing their best and wanted to improve in their communication skills with the committee but that it wasn't fair for the committee to expect mistakes to never happen.

Greta had to quickly step out of the meeting to take an important work call and was absent for the majority of the Midsumma discussion.

Rook pointed out that there was precedence from 2019 stating that Midsumma was an organisation not to be affiliated with, so regardless of consultation or not, it wouldn't have been appropriate for committee to weigh in on a subject that council had already ruled on.

[https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/stances-booklet-new.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1\\_-B6qQKKQ3OtDbtv7e0UnOJV1bu28Lu2E0Ogh1ovY1TkCyf6lXvj6MhA](https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/stances-booklet-new.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1_-B6qQKKQ3OtDbtv7e0UnOJV1bu28Lu2E0Ogh1ovY1TkCyf6lXvj6MhA)

Andrew asked why neither OBs were aware of this document and the consequences it had on Midsumma. Rook elaborated that no one on the student council was even aware of this, as it hadn't been brought during the most recent meeting and was instead brought to the attention of the OBs via one of the Women's officers after the decision was made. Poom asked whether this decision made in 2019 was binding and had any effect now and after some quick reading, Rook confirmed that the decision on Midsumma did still have precedence. Poom then suggested the possibility of bringing this back to council for more discussion.

## **7. Motions on Notice**

## **7.1 – Approval of expenditure for collectives (incl. Queer Lunch)**

Rose explained the logistics of the collectives.

Greta asked for clarification as to the breakdown of expenses and how the expenses were determined, as well as whether they had been made with the input of previous OBs. Rose confirmed that they had and Rook pulled up spreadsheets made showing the differences in budget trends. In viewing the spreadsheets, Andrew asked as to why there was such a big disparity between Queer x POC expenditure and that of other collectives, to which Rook explained that POC was a much larger collective and had more food requirements to account for. Poom was then called upon to elaborate, and he explained that attendance tends to fluctuate a lot and the larger budget was to ensure the collective had enough.

Greta expressed concern as to the size of the Queer x Disabilities collective. Rook explained that attendance had been an ongoing issue and the decision to downsize was made in collaboration with the Disability department. Rose highlighted that we were aiming to find alternatives to still have the collective run in some capacity. Poom further explained the situation, having sat on the Disability committee, stating that COVID had been an issue but attendance at this particular collective was always a problem. This is due to queer and disabled students often choosing Queer Lunch over the collective due to having better food options and being time poor.

### **Motion 7.1**

To approve \$9620 from the Collectives budget line for the year's spending for the following collectives: Queer Lunch (\$4600), Trans Collective (\$480), Queer x POC (\$1800 – same amount to be contributed by POC), QPAC (\$1000), Queer x Media (\$240), Ace/Aro (\$480), Southbank (\$960 – Southbank to contribute same amount).

**Mover: Rose**

**Secunder: John**

**Outcome: CARRIED**

## **7.2 – Approval of expenditure for Queer x Dis social**

Andrew asked what the event would look like and Rook stated that it was going to be a scaled up version of the collective. It would take place in the training room with snacks and games.

### **Motion 7.2**

To approve expenditure of \$50 for the Queer x Disability Social from the Special Projects and Events budget line to fund snacks. The Disabilities Department is to match us on this amount.

**Mover: Rose**

**Secunder: Andrew**

**Outcome: CARRIED**

### **7.3 – Approval of expenditure for Queer Film Night**

Rook and Rose explained the logistics of Queer Film Night, stating that it would be a collaboration with the Film Society and would take place at the Forum Theatre.

#### **Motion 7.3**

To approve expenditure of \$500 from Special Projects and Events budget line to fund screening rights (\$240) and pizza (estimates for similar events are around \$200 but this is estimated to be larger) for the Queer Film Night collaboration with the Film Society.

**Mover: Rose**

**Secunder: Greta**

**Outcome: CARRIED**

### **7.4 – Approval of expenditure for lollies for Summerfest**

Rose outlined how it would be nice to have lollies for the Summerfest in-person stalls.

#### **Motion 7.4**

To approve expenditure of \$40 worth of lollies from the Special Projects and Events budget line for the 3 in-person Summerfest expos UMSU Queer is attending.

**Mover: Rose**

**Secunder: John**

**Outcome: CARRIED**

### **7.5 – Approval of expenditure for the Drag Makeup Workshop**

Rose explained that we would be using the same drag artist who performed at Queer Collaborations 2021 and gave a basic description on what he would be showcasing. John asked what blended mode meant in this context and Rose explained that this would hopefully mean him performing on campus to an audience as well as livestreaming on Zoom.

#### **Motion 7.5**

To approve expenditure of \$130 from Special Projects and Events budget line to hire drag artist Belial B'zarr to give a blended mode workshop on drag makeup and history. The Creative Arts Department are to contribute another \$130 as part of a collaboration to help fund.

**Mover: Rose**

**Secunder: Poom**

**Outcome: CARRIED**

### **7.6 – Approval of expenditure for G&Ts with LGBTs**

Rose explained the logistics of G&Ts with LGBTs and broke down the various costs associated. Andrew inquired into the pay of the COVID marshals and Rook explained that \$30 per hour was the standard rate for the pool of UMSU casuals that was being used. Greta questioned the ethics of the amount and Rook stressed that this was the amount determined by the Events team and that this was beyond a matter of the committee. Rose volunteered to bring up this as a point of discussion in the next student council meeting. Poom then asked how long the COVID marshal was expected to work for, as occasionally they are only there for the first 30 minutes of any given event. Rook stated that we were operating on the assumption that they would be there for the full hour but that COVID regulations were in flux at the moment.

Andrew then asked whether any committee members were able to act as a COVID marshal, with Poom and Greta volunteering in the Zoom chat. Some discussion was had about whether volunteering committee members could be compensated for this financially and Rook asked Rose to clarify with Events whether this was possible as he didn't believe that was an option. Greta then raised a question about how assignment of COVID marshals worked, expressing discomfort with marshals attending autonomous events for identities that they didn't belong to. Rook said that a few facilitators for the collectives had COVID marshalling training which may help with the problem but expressed that they didn't think it was a problem for something like G&Ts where we couldn't guarantee the Ida Bar staff were queer. Rose stated that this may have been raised previously by other OBs as an ongoing issue and expressed intent to look into it.

Andrew then asked if the event would run in a blended mode, to which Rook denied as the event is not successful on Zoom. Rose then emphasised that great pains were being taken to make sure the event was as safe as possible.

#### **Motion 7.6**

To approve expenditure of \$2730 for G&Ts with LGBTs from the Special Projects and Events budget line for the year – around \$220 per event for drink vouchers and \$30 per event for COVID marshals.

**Mover: Rose**

**Secunder: Greta**

**Outcome: CARRIED**

#### **7.7 – Approval for Queer Space supplies**

Rose went into brief detail about the type of supplies necessary for the Queer Space to run.

#### **Motion 7.7**

To approve expenditure of \$870 for the year for menstrual products, snacks, coffee/tea/milk, and sexual health products for the Queer Space out of the Supplies and Maintenance budget line.

**Mover: Rose**

**Secunder: Andrew**

**Outcome: CARRIED**

## **8. Motions without Notice**

There was nothing to discuss here.

## **9. Other Business**

### **9.1 – Summerfest planning and volunteers**

Rook warned the committee that there would be little point in discussing this until the Events team communicated volunteer restrictions due to COVID – the Southbank expo is already limited to one rep per table and two OBs aren't allowed to occupy the same table at the Parkville expo, suggesting that large numbers of volunteers were already undesirable. He told the committee that he would keep them posted and asked them to be understanding since OBs were receiving little information themselves.

### **9.2 – Scheduling**

Rose stated that a poll would be sent out to committee members to determine when we could regularly meet.

### **9.3 – Policy**

Rose stated that they were drafting a safe space policy based off Monash's one to address issues of microaggressions and other problems within the Queer Space and that they would circulate the draft to committee members for input.

### **9.4 – COVID marshals/food safety**

This section was discussed already in other sections and as such, was quickly passed over.

## **10. Next Meeting**

## **11. Close**

**Meeting closed at 5:39 pm.**