

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Welfare Committee**

**Agenda**

**19th February**

**Meeting [3](21) (petitioned)**

**Location: Zoom**

1. **Procedural Matters**
   1. Election of Chair
   2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
   3. Attendance
   4. Apologies
   5. Proxies
   6. Membership
   7. Adoption of Agenda
2. **Conflict of Interest Declarations**
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
4. **Correspondence**
5. **Office Bearer Report**
6. **Other Reports**
7. **Motions on Notice**

**7.1 Summer Welfare Packages**

**7.2 SummerFest Giveaway**

**7.3 Delegation to Operations Sub-Committee**

**7.4 Adoption of the 2021 Welfare Budget**

1. **Motions Without Notice**
2. **Other Business**
3. **Next Meeting**
4. **Close**

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| **University of Melbourne Student Union**  **Welfare Department Report**  Allen Xiao  **To Students’ Council 3(21)** |

We were fortunate to have a productive two weeks in Welfare- preparation for Summerfest, as well as the year-long campaigns that the department plans to engage in, are both well underway.

**Key Activities**

**Invasion Day**I attended the Invasion Day rally on the 26th of January, alongside fellow OBs and Councillors. As a department working on stolen land- and as non-Indigenous OBs ourselves- we commit to actively decolonising our events, campaigns, and advocacy efforts, and are always prepared to improve upon our allyship.

**Committee Meeting**

A Committee meeting was held on the 28th of January, in which 43 participants for Auslan classes were approved. It was pleasing to see the range of backgrounds and courses represented in the expressions of interest, and we see this as an encouraging sign for the continued uptake of this program.

**Meeting with Advocacy**On January 29th, the Welfare OBs met with Donna Markwell from Advocacy. While this was mostly an introductory meeting, we raised the key campaign directions for 2021 under the Department. Among others, pill testing/drug decriminalisation on campus and CAPS reform were discussed significantly. We were introduced to the resources that Advocacy makes available to OBs, including research and policy submissions for similar initiatives in previous years. We hope to consult regularly with Advocacy in future; their insight is critical in maximising the impact of Welfare’s campaigns, particularly as we move into post-COVID recovery.

**Meeting with CAPS and SEDS**

On February 1st, the Welfare OBs met with managers of the CAPS and SEDS programs, in conjunction with the Disabilities OBs. The meeting was primarily intended to familiarise the OB teams with their counterparts at the University, and covered a wide range of topics relevant to student welfare. In particular, we discussed the ongoing under-servicing of common mental health concerns, solutions to increase cultural competency among counsellors, and the available opportunities for structural change. We also noted the enthusiasm held across UMSU departments for a campaign focusing on student mental health, and explored ways in which our departments could influence the University’s policy outcomes in this area.

It was overall a promising dialogue, and we have committed to meeting more frequently as semester begins. We encourage fellow departments to relay any ideas/initiatives that may help us substantiate our advocacy efforts.

**Progress on assigned actions from last report**

1. *Finalise social media posts*

**Work in progress.** Posts to officially introduce ourselves as the OBs ahead of Summerfest have been planned, and are scheduled for the coming week.

1. *Promote “Letter to 2020” over all relevant Welfare platforms*

**Promoted.** The event and Typeform link was shared over the Facebook page, as well as UMSU email.

1. *Finalise Pocket Guide updates with Comms, with an aim to publish before Summerfest*

**The end is in sight.** We are approaching the final stages of the copy editing, where the document is being updated with the latest information relevant to a (mostly) online learning environment. At the time of writing this report, the final edits are being submitted to Comms.

1. *Run Committee meeting with Hue Man*

**Completed.**

1. *Continue to plan activities and engagement for Summerfest 2021*

**In progress.** While plans are evolving, we aim to have a range of activities (including, but not limited to, Kahoot, online giveaways, and film screenings) that are accessible both online and in-person. Currently, we plan for one OB to engage students on campus, while the other coordinates online activities via Hopin.

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

1. Complete the online edition of the Pocket Guide and publicise before Summerfest
2. Continue to plan activities and engagement for Summerfest 2021
3. Run Committee meeting with Hue Man

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| **University of Melbourne Student Union**  **Welfare Department Report**  Hue Man Dang  **To Students’ Council 3(21)** |

**WELFARE DEPARTMENT P.S.A:**

If you or the students that you work with need mental health support and advice outside of business hours (including 24 hours on weekends and public holidays), they can contact the University's After Hours Mental Health Crisis Support Service[[1]](#footnote-1) which is still running:

* Phone: 1300 219 459
* Text: 0480 079 188

Text or call this service for help with:

* Finding immediate relief from emotional distress
* Identifying coping strategies for the current problems or a crisis
* Exploring pathways for longer-term solutions
* Working out the next steps to take.

**Key Activities**

**Key Activity 1 – Prepare for SummerFest Online Activities**

**Key Activity 2 – Create a Timeline for Semester One**

**Key Activity 3 – Start organising the Welfare Collective**

**Progress on assigned actions from last report**

I have recovered from my ordeal with the credit card and am now starting to work out what I’m going to do for SummerFest. Allen and I are splitting up the workload and I’ll be focusing on SummerFest ideas for Hopin. I have set up the timetable which is open to change, given the fact that my cooking is subpar and people may not like to watch me struggle to cook vegetarian food.

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|  | Tuesday | Thursday |
| 11 am – 12 pm | Introducing the Welfare Department. | Kahoot! – including prizes for the winners. Theme: UMSU and University Hacks! |
| 12 pm – 1 pm | *Learning to Cook*: Live cooking session | *Learning to Cook*: Live cooking session |
| 1 pm – 2 pm | Kahoot! – including prizes for the winners. Theme: Getting to know the Welfare Department | Show or movie screening with the Welfare Department |

Completed: touch base with Lee Papworth, Sarah-Lee Tay. The Disabilities Officers – Brigit and Lindsay along with Allen and myself met with the CAPs and SEDS team. We chatted a lot about the potential for a collaboration during the mental health campaign for Welfare Department. We also showed the team what the Welfare Department had in their plans to make sure that SEDs and CAPs and send students to UMSU if needed. We also chatted regarding filming bite-sized videos around topics relating to SEDs and CAPs – as over the past year a lot of information has changed. We want to focus on promoting - **Special consideration for ongoing support[[2]](#footnote-2)and the workshops from CAPS[[3]](#footnote-3) (which are starting in March)** on our socials.

We also arrived on the consensus of monthly meetings starting from the first Monday of March as it was important for us to continually meet and update information. The next meeting is on the **Monday, 1 March 2021 at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**.

Completed: passed the Auslan classes through the Welfare Committee. There are a total of 150 spots for Auslan. 93 of which has already been applied for. The rest will have their applications opened later in the semester for students to apply for.

Completed: Allen and I met with Advocacy to talk about our plans for the upcoming semester. Advocacy talked a lot about the publications that they released in 2020 and its on our growing ‘to read’ list.

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

1. Helping promote the Summer Giveaway with Activities Department.
2. Prepare SummerFest plans with the social media
3. Work with Environment Department on the collaboration
4. Finalise the Auslan classes and the students who are going to do it with Disabilities Department
5. Film / record the first cooking series.
6. Organise the Instagram Takeover

**7 Motions on Notice**

**Motion 7.1 Preamble:** In collaboration with the PoC Department, we are planning to deliver personalised Welfare Packs to students struggling under the current conditions of lockdown and online learning.  The Welfare Packs will be customised to student preferences upon completion of a short survey, and will include non-perishable foods, drinks, and hygiene products. All products will be sourced from Flora and Fauna, a Sydney-based company that trades in environmentally friendly and ethically sourced brands. The People of Colour department are paying for packaging, and Welfare will be paying for the goods.

**7.1 Welfare Summer Welfare Packages**

Motion: To pass $3000 from the Welfare 2021 Budget Line ‘Special Projects/Events’ to purchase supplies for the ‘Summer Welfare Packs’ which is a collaboration between the People of Colour and Welfare Department. The supplies that will be used will come from Flora and Fauna and will be personalised to the student’s needs. The items will include a range of the following (depending on preferences this is subject to change):

- Tea or Coffee

- Chocolate or Lollies

- Vegan Mac ‘n’ Cheese or Vegan Soup

- Banana Chips or Protein Bar

- Hygiene Products

- Stick Deodorant

- Hair Shampoo or Body Soap

Moved:

Seconded:

**Motion 7.2 Preamble:** SummerFest is going to look a lot different this year! SummerFest is technically occurring from the 22nd of February to 5th of March. The two UMSU online days are **23 & 25 February from 11am to 2pm.** For the in-person component,Comms has recommend that we give away smaller items including candles and cookies. We have found a local cookie maker which are selling in bulk at an even cheaper price and will individually package the cookies using biodegradable packaging. The amount is going to cover the online and in-person prizes.

**7.2 SummerFest Giveaway**

Motion: To pass up to $500 from the Welfare 2021 Budget Line ‘Orientation’ to purchase the Orientation supplies, rewards and give-away vouchers for the online (in-person stall on South Lawn) and digital event (Hopin).

Moved:

Seconded:

**Motion 7.3 Preamble:** The Operations Sub-Committee (OpSub) is a sub-committee of the University of Melbourne Student’s Council that functions to pass smaller operational expenses. OpSub is another method for the Welfare Department to pass motions to spend any money that has already been approved by the budget, as long as it is under $1000. OpSub functions to smoothly pay for any money that the committee cannot get to in time.

**7.3 Delegation to Operations Sub-Committee**

Motion: That we approve budgetary delegation to the Operations Sub-Committee of up to $1000 for each Welfare Department Budget Line.

Mover:

Seconder:

**Motion 7.4 Preamble:** The Welfare 2021 budget is filled with new projects and new ideas! The Budget this year differs from 2020 as it is only a half year budget were has the 2020 budget was a full year. Out budget submission (which has passed) has been attached along with the agenda.

In summary we are keeping our key events from last year and adding a few more include:

* Welfare Collective
* ‘Union Mart’
* Healthy and Wellthy Week

**7.4 Adoption of the 2021 Welfare Budget**

Motion: To adopt the attached budget as the Welfare Department Budget for 2021.

Mover:

Seconder:

**9 Other Business**

**9.1 Discussion of SummerFest Plans**

1. https://services.unimelb.edu.au/counsel#emergency-and-crisis-support [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://students.unimelb.edu.au/your-course/manage-your-course/exams-assessments-and-results/special-consideration/ongoing-support [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://services.unimelb.edu.au/counsel#workshops [↑](#footnote-ref-3)