

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Welfare Committee

Agenda

9 am 12th March

Meeting [4](21) (petitioned)

Location: Zoom

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. Conflict of Interest Declarations

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

N/A

5. Office Bearer Report

Allen speaks to his OB Report.

Hue Man: something that wasn't in my Report is that we are renovating! Currently the Welfare Office is being used for storage, but Allen and I are working to get decorations up and make it a much better space.

Naomi: Are there details on collaboration with Unimelb HP- what sorts of therapeutic approaches?

Allen: initial, speculative discussions at this stage- they've hinted at centring student leaders. If there is criticism to be made on the University's approach, we will definitely make it.

6. Other Reports

7. Motions on Notice

7.1 Welfare Booklet

7.2 Welfare Breakfast

7.3 Resource Hub 'Warmer Winters'

7.4 Resource Hub 'Food and Resources'

8. Motions Without Notice

8.1 Mid-Semester Stationery Giveaway

9. Other Business

N/A

10. Next Meeting

Hue Man: Times will be decided by the Whenisgood. There are only 5 meetings left this semester. Please take care to attend, as your membership may be adversely affected by an absence!

11. Close

Meeting closed at 9:20am.

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Welfare Department Report
Allen Xiao
To Students' Council 4(21)

Summerfest is over! We were incredibly happy to see the interest in our plans for 2021- the free stuff at our stall didn't hurt either. Meeting new students- as well as students who were deprived of an on-campus experience last year- was a definite highlight. Now that the semester is truly beginning, Welfare's in-person events are primed for rollout, provided that restrictions and COVID-safe guidelines are in our favour.

Key Activities

Summerfest 2021 was a great success! I was responsible for the in-person stall on Wednesday the 24th, 12-5pm. While far more limited than in previous years, it was incredibly encouraging to see students show an active interest in our programs. In particular, students were keen to find out more about the range of volunteering opportunities available to them. On an unrelated note, talking to first-years about textbooks and tutorials made me (a 4th year postgrad!) feel very, very old. *Alas, the fleeting years glide by...*

Snap Rally Against Transphobia. On the 3rd of March, I attended on behalf of the Welfare Department. The rally was organised impeccably by Amy, Laura and QPAC. I was very proud to stand as an ally against TERF academics (and their enablers) on campus, and hope to assist this activism in any way through our Department's work.

Welfare Guide 2021 is finally complete. We have reviewed the information to align with any updated locations, phone numbers, and contact hours that were instated in the past year. We have also added a range of helpful resources to increase its retention value, including a guide to Special Consideration and a map of Union House. A print edition has been confirmed and is slated for release over the next week!



Most excitingly of all, our new mascot is featured on the cover; we are suffering from a lack of sheep-related puns (or indeed, a new name for the little fella) so please hit us up with your best ideas.

Meeting with the Health Promotion Program. On the 19th of February, Hue Man and I met with Dr Sourav Jain, the Health Promotions Officer at Unimelb. We discussed the potential of UMSU collaborating with the HPP to become a Local Drug Action Team. By collaborating with student representatives, the program aims to improve health education, ongoing support throughout the year and referral pathways (through University Health Service and CAPS) for students who may be experiencing drug use problems and/or addiction. Overall, we think the program is a constructive step forward, and are looking forward to integrating it into our own campaigns.

Online engagement. Over the Lunar New Year, we took to Facebook and Instagram to wish our fellow students a prosperous Year of the Ox. Currently, we are working on updating the website- despite persistent Wordpress issues- to make sure that students are able to access the latest information, including a digitised version of the Welfare Guide.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. Complete the online edition of the Pocket Guide and publicise before Summerfest. **Completed!** They will now be slated for public distribution at our first in-person events; watch this space.
2. Continue to plan activities and engagement for Summerfest 2021. **Completed.** Hue Man took care of the online events admirably, and I was particularly disappointed that I couldn't witness her cooking skills.
3. Run Committee meeting with Hue Man. **Completed on the 19th.** We approved purchases for the Summer Welfare Packs that were delayed due to a deeply uncooperative credit card; we have also approved the purchase of a range of stationery (including scientific calculators) for students in need.

Action Points to be completed by next report

4. Finalise website updates in time for in-person events
5. Continue preparation for Welfare Breakfasts and volunteering initiatives
6. Run Committee meeting with Hue Man
7. Meeting with SSDP and related UMSU personnel for Safer Partying Initiative

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Key Activities

Key Activity - Reorganise the Welfare Office

Key Activity - Meet with Advocacy + Stop 1 Regarding Union Mart

Key Activity - Sort out the Welfare Breakfast

Progress on assigned actions from last report

Key Activity 1 - Prepare for Summer Fest Online Activities

(The best activity from Summer Fest was that of the cooking series that was done with Welfare). I helped prepare Summer Fest plans with the social media content. I worked with Allen to organise the filming of our Lunar New Year Video. I worked with the Environment Department on the collaboration and went and bought the ingredients for the cooking show.

Key Activity 2 - Create a Timeline for Semester One

WELFARE BREAKFAST - Welfare Breakfast has been the most difficult event to get on the road by far. The hardest part is that I haven't been able to come onto campus until almost three months into starting my term, I'm still new to the Welfare spaces (plus with the lack of storage spaces and COVID-19 restrictions) therefore welfare breakfast has been delayed. I'm going to get further advice on how we can run the breakfast. Once the welfare office has been sorted out, it will be much easier for me to work out what to do next with both the breakfast and other projects. Under advice we also need to meet with Advocacy (Finance Support Team) and Stop 1 Financial Support to get more information about how we can run a successful resource hub - Union Mart.

Apart from these two activities, there have been a lot of things that have happened since last month:

- We had a follow up meeting with CAPS on the 1st of March to hear more about what they have been up to. We ended up sharing information amongst CAPS, SEDS, Disabilities and Welfare. I've scheduled to share a number of their events on our socials. The next meeting is on the first Monday of April at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Action Points to be completed by next report

Finalise the Auslan classes and the students who are going to do it with Disabilities Department

Organise the Instagram Takeover

Reorganise the Welfare Office and bring in new furniture and storage

Meet with Advocacy + Stop 1 Regarding Union Mart

Sort out the Welfare Breakfast situation and the COVID-19 health plans for the event

7 Motions on Notice

Hue Man: because these motions are all related, I will talk about them together as they concern our immediate plans this semester. The Welfare Banner needs to be updated with the new mascot. Some Welfare Breakfast payments were approved by OpSub, but more are incoming at this meeting. We are also purchasing items for the resource hub, beginning with household goods as Melbourne winters can be difficult.

7.1 Welfare Banner

Motion: To adopt to move \$500 from the Welfare 2021 Department Budget line 'Orientation' to pay for the creation of an updated Welfare Banner.

Mover: Hue Man Dang

Secunder: Allen Xiao

7.2 Welfare Breakfast

Motion: To adopt to move \$1000 from the Welfare 2021 Department Budget line 'Regular Events' to purchase any food related items for the Welfare Breakfast.

Mover:

Secunder:

Motion 7.3 and 7.4 Preamble: The Welfare Department this year is looking to kickstart the purchase of items for the Resource Hub this year.

7.3 Resource Hub 'Warmer Winters'

Motion: To adopt to move \$1000 from the Welfare 2021 Department Budget line 'Regular Events' to purchase winter related household items for students who are struggling with the weather conditions during Melbourne's winter such as (but not limited to heaters, blankets, heated blankets. .

Mover: Hue Man Dang

Secunder: Allen Xiao

7.4 Resource Hub 'Food and Resources'

Motion: To adopt to move \$1000 from the Welfare 2021 Department Budget line 'Regular Events' to purchase food and other related items for the Resource Hub.

Mover:

Secunder:

Motion: To approve motions 7.1-7.4 en bloc

Moved by Naomi, seconded by Zahra

CWD

8 Motions without Notice

8.1 Mid-Semester Stationery Giveaway

Motion: To adopt to move \$500 from the Welfare 2021 Department Budget line 'Special Projects' to purchase stationery for the mid-semester stationery give away in conjunction with the Activities Department.

Hue Man: this will be a massive giveaway over the mid-sem break! We will be running this with the Activities Department, by which time we should hopefully have online events to complement this giveaway.

Mover: Hue Man Dang

Secunder: Allen Xiao

CWD