



UMSU
**Students
Council**

STANCE BOOKLET

(Last updated 23/03/2026)

INTRODUCTION

The following booklet comprises the political and/or ideological stances taken by the University of Melbourne Student Union from 2009 to the current. These stances act as ideological precedence that may have an impact on policy that guides the Union's political and social activism. Motions shall remain in this document until they are actively rescinded by the Students' Council.

This booklet takes its stances from the motions passed through Students' Council, which acts as the Union's highest authority on the control and management of UMSU, including the management of finances, affiliation to third parties, and the coordination of the Union's activities. This booklet also outlines the evolution of the Students' Council's involvement in public discourse and its commitment to issues that impact not only students but our wider community.

These stances in this booklet are intended to align the Union's constitutional purposes. The purposes for which the UMSU Incorporated is incorporated are:

1. To advance the welfare and interests of Students;
2. To represent Students of the University within the University and to the community;
3. To provide amenities and services, principally for Students and other members of the University community, and incidentally to the public, but in all cases not inconsistent with agreements made with the University, as the case may be, from time to time;
4. To provide an independent framework for Student social and political activity;
5. To develop, maintain and support Student clubs, societies and associational life generally;
6. To promote and defend the rights of Students to education on the basis of equality, without regard to race, colour, sex, sexuality, gender identity, age, physical disability, mental illness, economic circumstances, political religious or ideological conviction, or national or social origin;
7. To oppose violence and/or hatred through militarism, nationalism, or discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, sexuality, gender identity, age, physical disability, mental illness, economic circumstances, religion, or national or social origin.
8. To provide a democratic and transparent forum in which Students' affairs and interests can be governed in an effective and accountable manner; and
9. To promote free and accessible government-funded education.

ONGOING STANCES LIST

This list includes stances that have no end date.

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ASYLUM SEEKERS

Government Refugee Policies

13th February 2014 - Meeting 3(14)

That Students' Council condemns the Abbot government's refugee policies.

Moved: Ruby Healer

Seconded: James Crafti

CARRIED

12th April 2024 – Meeting 6(24)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the Labor party's migration amendment bill as an attack on the rights of refugees.
- UMSU extends its solidarity to ASF17 and all those refugees who presently face persecution by the Australian government.

Moved: Lola Bowers

Seconded: Yasmeen Atieh

CARRIED

Manus Island & Nauru

1st March 2016 - Meeting 5(16)

That Students' Council:

- (i) Call on the government not to send any asylum seeker or refugee to Manus Island or Nauru;
- (ii) Call on the state government to not cooperate with any attempt by the Federal government to return any of the 267 to Nauru;
- (iii) Will provide appropriate moral, financial and material support for the campaign by community and refugee advocacy groups to prevent asylum seekers being returned to Manus Island and Nauru;
- (iv) Declare solidarity with the houses of worship throughout Australia offering sanctuary;
- (v) In memory of our Union's past sheltering of East Timorese refugees and anti-war activists from forcible removal, offer the Union House building as sanctuary for the 267, and are prepared to mobilize the university community to defend that sanctuary;
- (vi) Should sanctuary be required, to call on the University and colleges to offer their

facilities as sanctuary.

Moved: Anisa Rogers

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

20th February 2023 – Meeting 4(23)

1. UMSU condemns the Federal Labor government on its decision to re-open the Nauru detention centre.
2. UMSU condemns the Labor government's attempts to introduce Migration Amendment (Aggregate Sentence) Bill 2023, which seeks to will force people recently released from immigration detention back into detention.
3. UMSU stands in solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees in detention and calls for their release.

Moved: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Park Hotel Refugees

20th January 2021 – Meeting 2(21)

- That UMSU stands in solidarity with the refugees being locked up inside the Park Hotel and other facilities across Australia and offshore.
- That UMSU reaffirms its support for refugees and their rights.
- That UMSU officially endorses the United Rally on January 30th at 2pm.

Action:

Students Council directs:

- The UMSU President to contact the organisers of the United Rally, sending our official endorsement.
- UMSU Comms to share the event link (<https://fb.me/e/4YGblOzC0>) for the United Rally across social media, as well as posts raising awareness.

Moved: Hannah Krasovec

Seconded: Emily Hope Kaji

CARRIED

20th January 2021 – Meeting 2(21)

Action:

- UMSU recognises that the detained refugees at Park Hotel Prison and elsewhere in

this country are political prisoners and extends solidarity to them and acknowledges that this solidarity will be extended to them on a personal note.,

- UMSU condemns the deliberate cruelty of the Coalition Government against the detainees and recognises that the Labour Government’s silence is complicit in the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in detention centres.
- UMSU condemns the use of excessive force by Victoria Police on peaceful protestors outside the Park Hotel Prison.

Moved: Srishti Chatterjee

Seconded: Mickhaella Ermita

CARRIED

12th March 2021 - Meeting 4(21)

UMSU supports the demand to settle ALL refugees in Australia permanently.

UMSU supports the demand for financial support and free housing be made available to released refugees in Victoria by the Dan Andrews Government.

UMSU recognises building protest action as an important factor in this latest victory for refugees.

Actions:

UMSU will provide material support to building future refugee rallies such as printing and encourage students to attend the rallies through their official UMSU social media pages and UMSU events.

UMSU will call on Melbourne University, a billion-dollar institution, to provide free education to the Men released from Park Hotel with the desire to study.

Mover: Xavier Dupe

Secunder: Andoni Fischer

CARRIED

Rally For Refugees

5th October 2017 – Meeting 18(17)

- i. Condemn Peter Dutton’s callous and racist treatment of refugees on Manus and Nauru, and in Australia;
- ii. call on the government to shut the detention centres and Manus and Nauru immediately and resettle the asylum seekers safely in Australia;
- iii. call on the Victorian government to go beyond its stated guarantee of temporary income support for the affected refugees, and protect them from any attempt at deportation;
- iv. reaffirm our promise to provide moral, financial and material support for the refugee

campaign to bring them here;

- v. endorse the Rally for Refugees on the 8th October 2017;
- vi. resolve to host an UMSU contingent to said rally, and direct UMSU to publicise this contingent via all available channels, including hosting the contingent event on Facebook; (vii) direct the president to release a statement to these ends.

Moved: Ella Shi

Seconded: Guong Jie

CARRIED

Refugee Commonwealth Athletes

17th August 2018 - Meeting 14(18)

UMSU calls upon Home Affairs minister Peter Dutton not to deport athletes who fled the Commonwealth Games to seek protection and safety in Australia.

The athletes are under threat of being deported to countries where they face grim persecution.

Following the Commonwealth Games held at the Gold Coast in April this year roughly 250 athletes sought protection in Australia.

A number of athletes are LGBTI. If they are forced to return to their home countries where homosexuality is illegal, they face the prospect of vicious punishment including “corrective” rape. Others face persecution for having political opinions that oppose their home governments.

All of these athletes should have the right to live safely in a country which will protect them.

UMSU calls upon the Home Affairs minister to grant these athletes suitable protection in Australia.

Moved: Molly Willmott

Seconded: Amelia Reeves

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Transfield

12th August 2014 - Meeting 15(14)

That Students’ Council reiterate our opposition to mandatory immigration detention.

That Students’ Council commit to divesting from all contracts with Transfield and other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention.

That Students’ Council call on UniSuper to divest from Transfield and all other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention centers.

That Students’ Council further call on NTEU National Executive to urge UniSuper to divest from Transfield and all other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention

centers.

Moved: Madeline Clarke

Seconded: Kyle Webb

CARRIED

Wilson Security

19th May 2016 - Meeting 11(16)

1. That Students' Council condemns Wilson Security's role in Australia's system of offshore detention.
2. That Students' Council condemns the University of Melbourne for providing contracts to Wilson Security.

Moved: Anneka D'emanuele

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

EDUCATION

Course Cuts

27th May 2020 – 11(20)

- UMSU lends its solidarity to staff and students at the University of Sydney fighting against course cuts, and to all staff and students across the country facing similar cuts.
- UMSU commits to fighting against any cuts to subjects or courses at the University of Melbourne and opposes the increasing of class sizes as an alternative to subject cuts.
- UMSU recognises that it is only through the mobilisation of as many staff and students as possible that attacks on courses can be fended off.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Andie Moore

CARRIED

COVID-19

12th May 2020 – 10(20)

- UMSU demands that students will not be forced to pay for this crisis. We demand income support and full cancellation of Semester 1 fees for domestic and international students.
- UMSU supports the demand for fully funded free education for all students.
- UMSU stands in solidarity with staff at UniMelb! UMSU demands no cuts to jobs, wages, and conditions!
- Full rights for international students! We demand access to welfare and an indefinite extension of student visas!

Actions:

- UMSU will support the Student Organising Resistance campaign against any attacks to higher education.
- UMSU will provide resources to future SOR campaigns and use their social media platforms to promote organising meetings and future events.

Moved: Chair (Jack Buksh)

CARRIED

Deregulation

14th May 2015 - Meeting 13(15)

That Students' Council:

- Reaffirms UMSU's support of free and accessible government-funded education.
- Denounces the Government's plans to continue to push for the deregulation of undergraduate university fees, to cut postgraduate research programs and to reduce Commonwealth funding to students in Commonwealth Supported Places, amongst other higher education and welfare measures.

Moved: Hana Dalton

Seconded: Stephen Smith

CARRIED

17th March 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

That Students' Council:

- i. Notes its concern about the government's higher education policy following the comments of Education Minister Simon Birmingham at the Universities Australia Conference.
- ii. Notes the danger of the government introducing a 10% hike to HECS fees alongside a 20% funding cut to the higher education sector.
- iii. Notes its concern that deregulation of university fees remains Liberal party policy (iv) Reaffirms UMSU's commitment to campaign for free and accessible government funded education.

Moved: Akira Boardman

Seconded: James Baker

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Exam Spy Software

12th May 2020 – Meeting 10(20)

- Any type of invasive invigilating software is an entirely unnecessary, Orwellian encroachment on student's privacy which UMSU, in principle, opposes.
- UMSU supports the student campaigns against exam spy software at other universities around the country.
- UMSU opposes any existing use of CADMUS or similar software at the University of Melbourne and will not stand for the lockdown being used as an excuse to extend these practices.

Actions:

- UMSU will investigate whether any faculty intends to use any variant of invigilating software for exams during the lockdown.
- UMSU will also investigate whether CADMUS or similar software is already in use.

- UMSU will campaign against any spy software being used on students for any assessments.

Moved: Chair (Jack Buksh)

CARRIED

Fee Hikes and Funding Cuts

June 25th 2020 – Meeting 12(20)

- UMSU opposes Dan Tehan’s proposed fee hikes and funding cuts.
- UMSU recognises that these reforms are an attack on all students.
- UMSU recognises these reforms are also an attack on staff conditions.
- UMSU supports the staff campaign being run against cuts to conditions.
- UMSU recognises the need to organise a student campaign to fight these reforms.
- UMSU will promote all NUS endorsed Fee Hike campaign events, including through sharing events on social media.

Actions:

- UMSU will promote all No Cuts at Unimelb events, including through sharing events on social media.
- UMSU will promote all NUS Student Fightback campaign events, including through sharing events on social media.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne

Seconded: Shirley Killen

CARRIED

June 25th 2020 – Meeting 12(20)

1. UMSU reaffirms its commitment to oppose cuts to the tertiary education sector.
2. UMSU reaffirms its commitment to fighting for free education in the tertiary education sector.
3. UMSU recognises the importance of cross- union solidarity and action.
4. UMSU accepts the need for a broad, grassroots campaign to challenge ongoing and future cuts from the University, beyond its traditional activist arsenals - bringing together students from across the union and the University’s faculties.
5. UMSU acknowledges and commits itself to fighting fee cuts on both a national and local level and that effective mobilisation of student and staff forces are required to fight back against the government and university management.

August 25th 2020 – Meeting 15(20)

UMSU condemns Dan Tehan and the Coalition Government's proposed changes to the HECS/HELP system.

UMSU reaffirms its commitment to free and fully funded public higher education system.

UMSU commits to fighting these changes and any other attacks on students.

Action:

UMSU will participate in and lend its platform to support the NUS-led Student Fightback campaign against attacks on students, staff and higher education.

11th September 2020 – 19(20)

The following demands of the No Cuts at Unimelb campaign be also demands of UMSU:

1. An immediate end to layoffs, a reinstatement of all previously dismissed staff and a transition of all casual workers to full-time employment.
2. An end to subject cuts and the reinstatement of all cut subjects.
3. Transparency of the University's true financial situation.
4. Significant pay reductions for Senior Management and a reinvestment of that money to fund fee relief.
5. A public condemnation of the Federal Government's university reforms, and a commitment to working towards their reversal.
6. The resignation of the Vice Chancellor and Senior Management should they refuse to act on the previous demands.

UMSU commits to organising with staff to win these demands, engaging in confrontational activism in order to win a university which works for us, not just the Senior Management.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Briana Symonds Maree

CARRIED

26th September 2020 – Meeting 20(20)

Dan Tehan's bill that will see an overall loss in funding to universities has passed in the senate. The decrease in government funding and changes to the cap on fees means that student fees for humanities degrees could increase by 113%. However, the University of Melbourne is not obliged to pass on these fee increases to students.

UMSU demands that the University of Melbourne, a multi-million-dollar institution, does not place the onus of decreased government funding onto its students and staff by cutting courses.

UMSU also demands absolutely no fee increases for students in all subjects. Students intend

to fight for this demand and will not rely on the administration to heed our demands without a fight.

Motion:

UMSU will organise students to continue to fight against the fee increases and intends to do everything necessary to ensure that the cost of education does not increase.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Briana Symonds Maree

CARRIED

HECS

5th May 2023 – Meeting 9(23)

1. UMSU supports the NUS Freeze the HECS Indexing Campaign lead by the NUS President, General Secretary and Welfare Officer.
2. To direct all OBs and Councillors to sign the petition.
(https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/freeze-studentloanindexation?mibextid=Zxz2cZ&fbclid=IwAR13WdL5kSF5_aFxs4M_lu4HJG0X2rTrOcJ6-FHiL9jczun1Xw5LQYGo2ql)
3. UMSU endorses the NUS Education campaign which is fighting the cost-of-living crisis for students demanding we abolish HECs debt completely, impose rent caps, double Jobseeker and Youth Allowance and tax the rich.

Moved: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Ishita Ganeriwala

CARRIED

Hodgkinson Review

20th February 2025 – Meeting 3(25)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the Report and its recommendations as an attack on the right of students to protest and the right to freedom of speech.
- UMSU calls on the University of Sydney to reject the recommendations of the Report.
- UMSU commits to taking action against all attempts to curtail freedom of speech, protest, and the independence of student organisations.
- UMSU affirms that student unions are entitled to political independence from the universities on which they operate.
- UMSU opposes the imposition of “civility” codes or principles as attacks on freedom of speech.
- UMSU supports the USYD SRC in taking action against the Report and protecting the

right of students to peacefully protest and engage the student body in activism.

- UMSU recognises that the long history of student activism and the right of students to protest is not inconsistent with student safety on campus. Universities have an obligation to promote safety on campus and facilitate meaningful discourse and political debate - the two are not mutually exclusive.

Action:

- That the UMSU Students' Council and/or UMSU President will release a statement to this effect.
- That the UMSU President provides a report to each Students' Council with any relevant updates regarding communication with the university Vice Chancellor and administration pertaining to the Anti-racist action plan or other new regulations related to protest and/or free speech.

Moved: Amaya Castro Williams

Seconded: Joshua Stagg

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

International Partnerships

6th October 2016 - Meeting 17(16)

UMSU opposes the cutting of the CCP as:

- Cutting CCP guts the arts.
- The Dean is erasing the future of socially engaged art.
- VCA is losing Australia's only centre for community and socially engaged art -We lose an institutional home for socially engaged and transdisciplinary artists.
- Cutting CCP severs ties between artist/researchers and the wider community UMSU condemns the behavior of the university administration:
- Misconduct in cutting the CCP -Failing to meet with and consult with students.
- Disregarding the emotional, financial, and academic repercussions that students will face.
- Misleading international students who have only recently moved to Australia to take part in the course.
- Failing to provide secure employment to the teaching staff at CCP.

Action Points:

- UMSU commits to supporting any and all actions taken by the Save CCP campaign.
- UMSU departments and offices are strongly encouraged will share and promote the Facebook page and take every effort to attending any actions called by Save CCP
- Students Council will take a photo of solidarity to send to the CCP students.

- UMSU will give financial support of up to \$750 to the Save CCP campaign from the Education Department Budget Line.
- All departments and offices will sign and share the online petition found here.

Moved: Anneke D'emanuele

Seconded: Frances Connors

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

16th May 2025 – Meeting 6(25)

Platform:

1. UMSU stands in support of our student researchers and the broader academic community. We recognize the role of international research collaborations in fostering innovation, addressing global issues, and enriching the educational experience.
2. UMSU condemns actions that compromise academic freedom, including politically motivated funding cuts and intrusive oversight measures. We affirm our commitment to upholding the principles of academic integrity, inclusivity, and the free exchange of ideas.

Action:

1. UMSU will write a statement to the effect of the preamble, highlighting the detrimental impact on academic freedom and international research collaborations.
2. UMSU will engage with the University of Melbourne's administration to discuss the implications of these developments and advocate for measures that protect the interests of our student researchers and uphold the university's commitment to academic freedom.
3. UMSU Education will inform the student body about the importance of academic freedom and the current threats posed by international policy shifts.

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Luv Golecha

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

International Students

10th October 2024 – Meeting 14(24)

Platform:

That UMSU Condemns the Labor Government's proposed international student caps as detrimental to the diversity, inclusivity, and quality of higher education at the University of Melbourne and in Australia more broadly.

That UMSU Affirms international students are a vital and valued part of the University of Melbourne community, contributing to the academic excellence and cultural diversity of our

institution. That UMSU Calls on the Australian Government to reject any policy that imposes restrictive caps on international student enrolment, and instead to promote policies that encourage global engagement and the equitable treatment of international students. That UMSU Commits to advocating for the rights and welfare of international students, ensuring that their voices are heard in all relevant discussions and decision-making processes at the university and national levels.

Action:

- That Students' Council call on the UMSU President to communicate this stance to the relevant university bodies, government representatives, and media outlets, ensuring that our opposition to international student caps is publicly known
- That Students' Council will advocate for students and staff to join in solidarity with international students in opposing this harmful policy, publicly reinforcing our message that international students are always welcome here.

Moved: Jayde East

Seconded: Luv Golecha

CARRIED

Menzies Institute

6th August 2021 - Meeting 12(21)

1. UMSU opposes the creation of the Robert Menzies Institute, a partisan project of conservative forces to exert public and scholarly influence.
2. UMSU calls on the Vice-Chancellor, Duncan Maskell, to revoke the contract with the Menzies Research Centre. UMSU calls on the University to release relevant correspondence and papers that detail why the decision was made to support the establishment of the Robert Menzies Institute without wider consultation.
3. UMSU pledges to support the campaign against the Menzies Institute organised by GSA Education Officers and UMSU Education, with support from the NTEU, by using its promotional and financial resources to further the campaign.

Moved: Hannah Krasovec

Seconded: Monica Sestito

CARRIED

31st January 2022 - Meeting 2(22)

1. UMSU commits to build the campaign against the Robert Menzies Institute to be as big and engaging as possible into 2022.
2. UMSU commits to promoting the campaign and campaign events by doing the following:
 - i. Regularly posting about and sharing from UMSU's public facing social media accounts information about campaign events and news.

- ii. Including information about the campaign, the open letter, and campaign activities in newsletters and other correspondence to UMSU members.
- iii. Encouraging UMSU representatives to sign the campaign's open letter and participate in campaign activities.
- iv. Leveraging its links to other student associations to build the campaign and its profile.

Moved: Raphael Duffy

Seconded: Sam Rath

CARRIED

11th March 2022 - 4(22)

1. UMSU endorses the rally on Thursday 17 March, 5pm, against the new shrine to Robert Menzies at the Menzies Institute.
2. UMSU unequivocally opposes any attempt to sanitise the legacy of a warmongering, fascist-sympathising, anti-worker racist like Menzies.
3. UMSU recognises that Liberal Party figures are not welcome on our campus.

Moved: Julien Macandili

Seconded: Ruby Craven

CARRIED

4th August 2022 – 12(22)

UMSU Students' Council recognises and opposes the current crackdown on civil liberties, reaffirms its support for the right to protest, and expresses its solidarity with Blockade Australia activists facing state repression.

UMSU expresses its support for student activists facing fines and opposes Victoria Police's crackdown on activists protesting the bigoted Liberals behind the Menzies Institute.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Maeve Russack Riches

CARRIED

Mid-Semester Break

22nd September 2025 – Meeting 9(25)

Platform:

- UMSU recognises that a mid-semester break after Week 7 of Semester 2 negatively impacts student academic performance and wellbeing

Action:

1. The President will work with the CEO, Welfare Education Department and Student

Representative on University Council to launch a campaign with a petition to change the Mid-Semester break

2. The petition will call for Semester 2 Break to be changed from its position the week after Week 9 to a week before Week 8
3. The campaign and petition are to be advocated for by the Union across all platforms until it reaches University Council

Moved: Jayde East

Seconded: Viraj Patel

CWD

Postgraduate Students

12th May 2020 – Meeting 10(20)

- UMSU recognizes that all HDR students have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- UMSU supports that the University offer a universal six-month extension to Higher Degree Research student candidatures and stipends, including those beyond 3 years full-time, in addition to the existing duration of candidatures and stipend entitlements, for both domestic and international students.
- UMSU supports dismantling the complex bureaucratic process of applying for COVID-19 leave and agrees that the University offer paid COVID-19 leave of 60 days to all HDRs, with additional paid leave to be granted to eligible students experiencing further disruptions.

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Christopher Melenhorst

CARRIED

20th February 2025 – Meeting 3(25)

Platform:

The University of Melbourne Student Union represents all students across all campuses, be they graduate, research, coursework, undergraduate, domestic or international. In 2025, The University of Melbourne Student Union must further advocate on behalf of our postgraduate student community across working groups, campaigns, events, collectives and more. One key aspect of this is ensuring that we, as an organisation, are connected with other postgraduate representative bodies across Australian tertiary institutions.

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations is the peak body for postgraduate student representation in Australia representing over 485,000 postgraduate students across Australia.

Action:

The Students' Council should apply for UMSU to maintain Constituent membership of the

Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations Inc. and agree to abide by the Constitution of the Association as amended by time to time, any Code of Conduct produced by the CAPA Board and agree to pay the annual affiliation fees if they appear reasonable.

Moved: Joshua Stagg

Seconded: Luv Golecha

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

Turnbull Government

6th October 2015 - Meeting 23(15)

That the Council acknowledges that there is nothing to suggest that the Turnbull Government will be any less hostile to students and the higher education sector than the Abbott Government was.

Subsequently, that the Council reaffirms its opposition to the Coalition Government on the basis of ideological hostility, demonstrated through detrimental policies.

This affirmation extends to the endorsement of campaigns to this effect, including those which oppose specific policy measures which are detrimental to students, as well as those which focus on the electoral success of this government for as long as anti-student policies remain in place.

Moved: Conor Seron

Seconded: Steven Connolly

ABSTENTIONS: 2

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

Blockade IMARC

29th July 2019 – Meeting 13(19)

- UMSU stands in solidarity with the high school strikes.
- UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to revoke its sponsorship of IMARC, on the grounds that financially supporting the meeting and collaboration of major perpetrators of carbon emissions through oil, gas and coal mining ultimately contributes to the continuation of such practices.
- UMSU demands that the Australian government prevent the building of the Adani coal mine and subsequent projects of the same nature.
- UMSU calls on the Australian government to invest in 100% renewable energy.

Actions:

- UMSU will participate in future climate strikes, whether they be exclusively for university students, or in collaboration with the high school strikes.
- UMSU will develop and participate in a demonstration against the University of Melbourne's sponsorship of IMARC.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manna

Seconded: Terence Taylor

CARRIED

26th November 2019 – Meeting 1(20)

1. That UMSU condemns police brutality in any form.
2. That UMSU condemns the university of Melbourne for their sponsorship of the [IMARC] conference.
3. That UMSU supports the right to protest without fear of violence or excessive force.
4. That UMSU condemns the Victorian labor government of their role in allowing for such violence and their subsequent defence of police actions.
5. That UMSU offers their support to all those arrested or injured by police as they await court.

Actions:

1. That the contents of this motion be released as a presidents news by the 2020 president.
2. That UMSU investigate ways to support university of Melbourne students affected by the actions of police during IMARC

Moved: Molly Willmott

Seconded: Hannah Krasovec

CARRIED

11th December 2020 – Meeting 1(21)

- Stopping the climate crisis necessitates opposing the corporations that profit from extracting fossil fuels and other resources.
- Civil disobedience and other forms of mass protest are essential to stopping the climate crisis. UMSU condemns the repression of the IMARC blockade.
- All charges against the IMARC 25 and other climate activists should be dropped. The real criminals are the capitalists that steal indigenous land and are destroying the environment.
- UMSU opposes any restriction on the right to protest, whether in the form of civil disobedience, demonstrations, or labour strikes.

Moved: Xavier Dupe

Seconded: Hue Man Dang

CARRIED

Climate Change

29th July 2019 – Meeting 13(19)

UMSU endorses the National Union of Student's August 9 National Day of Action for climate action.

UMSU supports students who are walking out of class on August 9 to demand climate action.

UMSU will commit funds of \$500 from Whole of Union for printing posters and leaflets for the promotion of the August 9 National Day of Action

UMSU will promote the National Day of Action through department networks and by sending out emails to members and sharing the event on social media.

Moved: Anneke D'emanuele

Seconded: Milly

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

23rd January 2020 – 3(20)

- UMSU supports protests against climate change.
- UMSU recognises and opposes the bipartisan support for the fossil fuel industry.
- UMSU opposes the actions of the Daniel Andrews government in attempting to curtail the democratic rights of protesters, and his support for the Victorian Police.
- UMSU opposes any attempt to curtail democratic civil rights and liberties.
- UMSU condemns the University of Melbourne's continuing support for fossil fuel

industries, including investment into and research alongside arms companies.

- UMSU opposes attempts by the University of Melbourne to greenwash and demands that the university transition to 100% renewables and a zero-carbon footprint.

Moved: Anneke D'Emanuele

Seconded: Nick Reich

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

4th March 2020 – Meeting 5(20)

UMSU recognises that both major parties are unwilling to take meaningful action on climate.

UMSU recognises its role is to organise students to fight for their rights.

UMSU recognises the need for a mass, radical climate movement.

UMSU supports the Uni Students for Climate Justice movement.

Actions:

UMSU will provide material support to all future Uni Students for Climate Justice protests.

UMSU will promote all future Uni Students for Climate Justice protests, on campus and on social media.

Moved: Nick Reich

Seconded: Hannah Buchan

CARRIED

16th March 2020 – Meeting 6(20)

- UMSU acknowledges the climate crisis as one of the paramount issues of our time, being a profound existential threat that demands immediate and radical action.
- UMSU acknowledges the role of private corporations, in tandem with the state, in driving this crisis, accelerating our collective demise in the ruthless pursuit of short-term profit.
- UMSU demands the provision of green jobs and a just transition and encourages the university to be judicious in support of this goal by setting renewable targets and ensuring it only endorses employees who share this goal.
- UMSU affirms its stance that ACAB, as cops are mere thugs who brutalise any dissent against the corporate oligarchy, whose actions like that seen at IMARC last year results in state-sanctioned violence against peaceful protest in addition to the systemic racism, sexism, homophobia and ableism they uphold.
- UMSU supports the abolition of the police force.

Actions:

- UMSU condemns the university for their passive support of climate criminals like Rio

Tinto and Exxon Mobil, and strongly recommends they cease any further promotion of the fossil fuel industry as anything other than a (literal) dead end.

- UMSU shall call out the university's hypocritical approach to sustainability, noting that their words in support of green jobs and climate action ring hollow when they uncritically platform these vile corporations.
- UMSU condemns Rio Tinto and Exxon Mobil themselves, for so generously giving students the opportunity to participate in their own doom.
- UMSU reiterates that cops have no place on campus; their presence is unwelcome and serves only to silence legitimate criticism and re-traumatise victims of police brutality, particularly minorities who experience their oppression on a daily basis.

Moved: Thonya Deverall

Seconded: Evelyn Ranogajec

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

11th December 2020 – Meeting 1(21)

- UMSU acknowledges the urgency of the climate crisis by declaring a Climate Emergency.
- UMSU demands full divestment from fossil fuel industries, more transparency, and more climate action from the University of Melbourne.
- UMSU re-evaluates the sustainability of UMSU events and forms a union-wide strategy to lessen climate impact through reducing single-use waste and carbon footprint.
- UMSU and the Enviro Department work with all departments to provide resources to support them in the transition towards having more sustainable operations.

UMSU will respond to the climate emergency by supporting environmental activism and organising students to build a climate movement that stands in opposition to the "corporations, states, and other institutions destroying the planet.

First Nations voices should be centered in environmental activism. UMSU agrees to consult First Nations people where applicable in actioning climate activism.

Moved: James Park

Seconded: Ann Nguyen

CARRIED

12th March 2021 - Meeting 4(21)

UMSU endorses the March 19 USCJ climate action.

UMSU recognises that moderate strategies such as individualist lifestyle politics and lobbying are not effective and will not bring real climate action.

UMSU sees mass movements, protest and activism as the only viable strategy to ending destructive industry and mitigating climate disaster.

UMSU opposes the role our own university plays in climate destruction by sponsoring mining conferences and partnering with fossil fuel and weapons companies.

Moved: Xavier Dupe Seconded: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna (on behalf of Ann Nguyen)

CARRIED

22nd March 2022 - 5(22)

1. UMSU endorses the Global Climate Strike on 25th March, including:
 - a. Both the School Strike for Climate “Four Days for Future” organised climate actions, and the Uni Students for Climate Justice protest; and
 - b. Any concurrent strikes in other cities where University of Melbourne students may be present.
2. UMSU recognises that the impacts of climate change are predominantly felt by marginalised groups, especially First Nations People and People of Colour.
 - a. UMSU also recognises that the voices of these marginalised groups have historically been silenced by privileged persons and institutionalised oppression.

Moved: Chelsea Daniel

Seconded: Brittney Henderson

CARRIED

23rd January 2023 – Meeting 3(23)

- UMSU endorses the National Day of Action earmarked for Friday 17 March 2023, including its Melbourne-based component - a protest meeting outside the State Library of Victoria, at 2pm.
- UMSU endorses the University of Melbourne student contingent to the National Day of Action to be organised by the UMSU Enviro department in collaboration with other UMSU departments supportive of climate activism.
- UMSU commits to promoting the National Day of Action, including the climate rally in Melbourne, in its newsletter and social media platforms.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Carlos Lagos Martin

CARRIED

CSIRO & Climate Change

17th March 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

The Turnbull government has made significant funding cuts to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) which will prevent the continuation of critical

climate science and environmental research. The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) recognises that these cuts diminish the global climate science research effort and Australia's adaption and mitigation capacity. Accordingly, UMSU disapproves of these funding cuts and endorses the Save CSIRO Jobs Campaign and signs onto support the following public statement "Science is vital to tackling climate change. We call on Malcom Turnbull to restore CSIRO climate science and fully fund public science in Australia", approving the display of the UMSU logo on the statement and other campaign materials.

Moved: Zachary Power

Seconded: Megan Pollock

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Fossil Fuels

22nd October 2013 - Meeting 21(13)

That Students' Council endorses the Fossil Free MU campaign spearheaded by the UMSU Environment Department.

Moved: Vicky Fysh

Seconded: Bridget Chappell

CARRIED

1st April 2014 - Meeting 6(14)

That the Students' Council endorses the Fossil Free Melbourne University (FFMU) campaign. To signify this endorsement, that the President and the General Secretary sign the FFMU Open Letter on behalf of the Students' Council.

Moved: Alexa Thompson

Seconded: Hanna McCreath

CARRIED

24th March 2023 - Meeting 6(23)

1. UMSU opposes the expansion of the fossil fuel industry in Australia and recognises that if the world stands any chance of avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, then not a single new fossil fuel project can be constructed.
2. UMSU condemns the QLD Labor government for its approval of gas exploration in the Lake Eyre basin.
3. UMSU condemns the federal Labor government for its approval of coal expansion in the Bowen basin and for approving 54 years of fracking in the Surat basin.
4. UMSU condemns the NSW Liberal government for considering new coal projects.
5. UMSU opposes Anthony Albanese's claims that expanding the gas industry is the key to Australia's energy transition.

Moved: Lucy Chapman-Kelly

Seconded: Maxwell Rea

FOR: Bella Beiraghi, Divyanshi Sati, Evelyn Thompson, Inderpreet Singh, Isi Ogwu (via Reham Elzeiny), Marcie Di Bartolomeo, Raphael Duffy, Reham Elzeiny, Sam Rath (via Raphael Cahen), Sameeksha Mudigere, Watey Diep.

AGAINST: Kisara Perera, Kevin Li (via Rahul Mittal), Luv Golecha, Kunal Dewani

CARRIED

School Strike 4 Climate

29TH July 2019 – Meeting 13(19)

- UMSU stands in solidarity with the high school strikes.
- UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to revoke its sponsorship of IMARC, on the grounds that financially supporting the meeting and collaboration of major perpetrators of carbon emissions through oil, gas and coal mining ultimately contributes to the continuation of such practices.
- UMSU demands that the Australian government prevent the building of the Adani coal mine and subsequent projects of the same nature.
- UMSU calls on the Australian government to invest in 100% renewable energy.

Action:

- UMSU will participate in future climate strikes, whether they be exclusively for university students, or in collaboration with the high school strikes.
- UMSU will develop and participate in a demonstration against the University of Melbourne's sponsorship of IMARC.

Moved: Anneke D'emanuele

Seconded: Terence Taylor

CARRIED

Stop Adani

12th July 2017 - Meeting 12(17)

That Students Council publicly endorses the campaign to Stop Adani.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

ETHICALLY CONSCIOUS

Arms Manufacturers

1. Students Council reiterates its commitment to opposing violence through militarism and denounces the collaboration between the University of Melbourne and Lockheed Martin in respect to the establishment of the STELaRLab and in defense research.
2. Students Council declares that research conducted at the University of Melbourne should be considered against the highest ethical standards and that until demonstrated otherwise that military research conducted in partnership with defense companies like Lockheed Martin are not ethically sound.
3. Furthermore, Students Council declares that research conducted at the University of Melbourne should be conducted in the interest of a better and more peaceful society. Students Council emphasises in the strongest terms that the power of science and education should be harnessed for the betterment of all people and not in the interest of militaristic outcomes, especially not those of a foreign military force or national interest.
4. To call on Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) James McCluskey to clarify the ongoing relationship Lockheed Martin and the University of Melbourne share and the exact nature of their collaborations. Additionally, to demonstrate that research and development stemming from this collaboration will not be responsible for ending the lives of any persons or facilitating an ongoing military technology race.
5. To call on the Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis to speak to the University of Melbourne's position in respect to the development of weapons technologies and involvement in the weapons industry. Additionally, to show cause for the engagement the University has with the ongoing U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Innovation Initiative by proxy of an ongoing relationship with Lockheed Martin. Finally, to consider and speak to the risk that the University of Melbourne takes in further developing automated weapons systems that will not be accountable to us but we will be accountable to.
6. To call on the Honourable Premier for Victoria Daniel Andrews to clarify how research and investment in military research and development in Victoria is ethically sound and in the best interests of both the Victorian and University of Melbourne community. Additionally, how supporting the Defense Innovation Initiative by proxy of endorsing the University of Melbourne and Lockheed Martin collaboration came to be decided and the reasoning behind such a move.
7. To call on the Honourable Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Greg Hunt to explain and provide insight into the strategic necessity for Australia to opt into working with the U.S. D.o.D on the DII. Additionally, to provide clarity as to how such an apparent necessity is balanced against the ethics of weapons manufacturing and the research and development of these technologies. Finally, to answer to what extent will the University of Melbourne be complicit in the development of technologies that Australia will not control and that will be used to inflict death and destruction.

Moved: Dominic Cernaz

Seconded: Anneke D'emanuele

ABSTENTIONS: Xavier Boffa

CARRIED

12th March 2021 - Meeting 4(21)

1. UMSU, standing in the tradition of the student union movement, opposes all forms of militarism.
2. UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to immediately cut all ties with weapons manufacturers.
3. UMSU calls for the STElarLAB to be immediately closed.

Moved: Xavier Dupe

Seconded: Archit Agarwal

CARRIED

12 January 2024 – Meeting 2(24)

Platform:

The UMSU students' council denounces the university for any and all collaboration with Lockheed Martin.

Actions:

The students' council calls on the university to cut its ties with all weapons manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin.

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Lucy Rachman Vascottoss

CARRIED

8th August 2024 – Meeting 11(24)

Students call on The University of Melbourne to fully divest from weapons companies and cut all ties with the state of Israel, Israeli corporations and Israeli academic institutions,' in line with the global Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions movement by taking a vote'

Action:

UMSU Students' Council give support to a mass student meeting chaired by UMSU President and UMSU Education Public Officer Bella Beiraghi to discuss the agenda which will be decided by the chairs on the 15th August at 4pm, and promote it through president's news and via all platforms of UMSU to all UMSU members. The agenda will also include a motion which will not be binding to UMSU and the UMSU Student's Council.

Moved: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Bella Beiraghi

CARRIED

Caged Eggs

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That Students' Council joins with the Cage Free Campus Society in calling for all University of Melbourne eateries to go "cage-free" and that a Students' Council representative presents a resolution to the University Council and to MUSUL calling for a complete cage-free egg policy on campus.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Corkman Pub

Due to the significance of this building, both to the residents of Carlton and the students of this University, Student's Council resolves to:

- i. Condemn the actions of the developers who ordered the demolition as unlawful and in violation of Council protections.
- ii. Express its support for the coalition of Melbourne University students and concerned citizens who have begun a campaign to resurrect the Corkman pub, and to encourage UMSU departments to circulate the petition that this group has produced.
- iii. Call upon the Melbourne City Council to order that the developers pay for the full restoration of the building, and that no further development of the site in violation of Council protections should be allowed to take place.
- iv. Call for the Melbourne City Council to launch a public inquiry into the demolition of this building for profit and the need for stronger protections of Melbourne landmarks in general.

Moved: Gulsara Kaplun

Seconded: Harry Adam

CARRIED

Corporate Social Responsibility

22nd August 2024 – Meeting 12(24)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the reckless behaviour and practices of the chemical storage corporations that have resulted in death and environmental destruction in the

country for the past decade.

- UMSU condemns the role of the Labor Party in underfunding and continuing to ensure the weakness of the powers of environmental regulators such as the EPA.

Moved: Oskar Martin

Seconded: Lola Bowers

CWD

Fair Trade University

8th May 2012 - Meeting 8(12)

That UMSU supports Fair Trade products on campus. That UMSU supports the University's decision to seek accreditation to become a Fair Trade University and will assist in meeting the requirements for accreditation.

Moved: Mark Kettle

Seconded: Ayesha Cain

CARRIED

INDIGENOUS

Invasion Day

7th December 2016 - Meeting 2(17)

That UMSU shows its support for Fremantle City Council in their decision to hold alternative Australia Day celebrations on a date that is more culturally inclusive.

That UMSU condemn the Federal Governments banning of Fremantle City council to hold citizenship ceremonies on the Australia Day alternative day.

The UMSU highly encourages other organisations to take a similar stance and action as appropriate to that organisation, including local councils in the Melbourne vicinity, the University of Melbourne, and Triple J.

Moved: Tyson Holloway-Clarke

Seconded: Tom Crowley

CARRIED

20th January 2021 – Meeting 2(21)

- UMSU condemns ‘Australia’ day celebrations.
- UMSU affirms the right to protest in the Invasion Day rally and stands in solidarity with First Nations people experiencing the hardship /trauma of this day.
- UMSU condemns the Victorian Government and Victorian police who have stated that protesters will receive fines for infringing upon noise restrictions.
- UMSU supports the COVID safe protest during Invasion Day.

Actions:

- UMSU will release a statement condemning celebrations of ‘Australia’ day and express its support for First Nations people.
- To share Naarm Invasion Day rally information on the UMSU Facebook page
- UMSU Office Bearers agree to delete or withhold any content related to ‘Australia’ day celebrations on their pages.

Moved: Brittney Henderson

Seconded: Georgia McCourt

CARRIED

12 January 2024 – Meeting 2(24)

Platform:

- UMSU endorses the annual Invasion Day rally

- UMSU stands in solidarity with Indigenous people and their fight for genuine self-determination
- UMSU condemns the current federal and state Labor governments in their racist treatment of Indigenous people

Actions:

- UMSU will advertise the annual Invasion Day rally via social media, and will encourage students to attend the rally

Moved: Hamish Rose Seconded: Oskar Martin

CARRIED

17th January 2025 – Meeting 2(25)

Platform:

- UMSU endorses the annual Invasion Day rally
- UMSU stands in solidarity with Indigenous people in their fight for genuine self-determination
- UMSU condemns current federal and state governments in their racist treatment of Indigenous people

Action:

UMSU will advertise the annual Invasion Day rally via social media, and will encourage students to attend the rally.

Moved: Oskar Martin

Seconded: Noah Kellett

CARRIED

Indigenous Housing

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That UMSU endorses the statement made by Motion 7: the Intervention Rollback Action Group.

Moved: Ruby Warber

Seconded: Tim Arnot

CARRIED

Sacred Sites

27th May 2020 – Meeting 11(20)

- UMSU condemns Rio Tinto for destroying this site.

- UMSU condemns the government for giving Rio Tinto the go ahead.
- UMSU will advocate for the University of Melbourne to cut all of its ties with Rio Tinto and other destructive fossil fuel and mining companies like them.
- UMSU stands in solidarity with Indigenous communities in regaining control of their land and pushing out environmentally destructive companies like Rio Tinto.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne

Seconded: Anneke D'Emanuele

CARRIED

Voice to Parliament

22 September 2023 – Meeting 15 (23)

- On the 14th of October Australia will vote in a yes/no referendum to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution of Australia, giving First Nations Peoples a permanent platform in policy making and legislation.
- UMSU as a student union and an activist organization acknowledge that not all First Nations Peoples will be voting yes in the upcoming referendum, and the shortcoming of the Voice to Parliament. However, we also acknowledge the Uluru Statement from the Heart and First Nations Peoples who are voting yes.
- UMSU is taking the position of 'Yes, but...'. While the Voice to Parliament is a step towards the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the heart and ensuring First Nations Peoples' voices are included into legislation, we recognize that this is not enough.

Moved: Hiba Adam

Seconded: Mohamed Hadi

CARRIED

Truth Telling

27th June 2025 – Meeting 7(25)

Platform:

1. UMSU condemns the unconscionable comments made by a member of the Melbourne Law School who remains employed at the University of Melbourne.
2. UMSU recognises the unsafe culture of the University of Melbourne as a barrier to Indigenous participation in higher education and reaffirms its support for all Indigenous Students at the University.
3. UMSU reaffirms its position against the naming of University of Melbourne buildings after unsafe historical individuals such as prominent 1800s eugenicist and White Australia supporter John Medley.

4. UMSU commends the Yoorrook Justice Commission’s truth-telling process to Victoria and remains committed to truth-telling and learning across all University of Melbourne campuses.

Action:

1. UMSU elected officers will engage with the University of Melbourne executive on the current failings for Indigenous students
2. UMSU will reconvene our campaign to rename campus buildings that are against the expectations of current University of Melbourne students on campus.
3. UMSU will seek to educate and tell the truth of the University of Melbourne’s troubled history on Indigenous issues.

Moved: Ewan Bezzobs

Seconded: Noah Kellett

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

Youth Curfew

12th April 2024 – Meeting 6(24)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the Labor Party’s recent ‘Youth Curfew’ scheme in Alice Springs.
- UMSU demands the immediate end to the curfew and removal of increased police presence.
- UMSU condemns this as racist policing and stands in solidarity with Indigenous people in the Northern Territory that have been subject to similar punitive initiatives their entire lives.
- UMSU demands that the close to 800 homeless children in Alice Springs be immediately provided with free and suitable housing.
- UMSU demands the Australian Labor Party stop enforcing systemic poverty and instead provide access to all necessary social services in Alice Springs and its surrounding communities. The half a million the NT government pledged to the NT Police on Tuesday is an appropriate start.

Moved: Penelope Scacciante

Seconded: Hamish Rose

CARRIED

IN SYMPATHY

Bushfire Relief

12th February 2009 - Meeting 3(09)

That UMSU extends its sympathy and support to students and staff who have lost family, friends and homes in the bushfires.

Moved: Goldie Pergl

Seconded: Katherine Klaus

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

NATIONAL TERTIARY EDUCATION UNION

Campus Alliance

13th February 2020 – Meeting 4(20)

That the UMSU Students Council endorse the creation of a campus alliance between students and workers to facilitate co-operation between the NTEU and the UMSU in organising towards common goals at the University of Melbourne.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Noni Bridger

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

NTEU Industrial Action

19th May 2009 - Meeting 12(09)

Since February 2017, negotiations have been taking place between University of Melbourne management and local National Tertiary Education Union over the creation of a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA). These negotiations have yielded little results, in no small part due to University obstructionism and an inability for their representatives to bargain in good faith. One of the many actions from the University that displays this is their refusal to offer staff a small pay rise as is customary during such a drawn out negotiation process.

The University is clearly motivated to reduce the bargaining power of the NTEU on campus—this is best exemplified by their demand to split the current EBA into one for academic staff and one for professional staff. This divide-and-conquer mentality to bargaining will serve as a pretext to the University being able to rearrange services such as Stop 1 at will with little regard to the job security of people in those areas, before coming for academic staff, who will have little support left.

It's important to recognise the effect that some of the changes proposed by the University will have on students, too. The removal of student-to-student ratios, for example, will result in increased class sizes, which means more work for teachers and less time for students to interact with them. Here we can see that there is a clear link between the interests of students and the interests of staff, which are currently on the line.

With that in mind, NTEU members recently voted in favour of stopping work from 9am- 1pm on May 9th, (and attending the Change the Rules rally instead) as a beginning to pressure the University to back off from their more insidious demands, as well as to begin considering more suggestions from the NTEU. This strike action needs to support of both staff and students if it is to succeed.

Actions:

1. UMSU supports the NTEU and University staff in fighting for fairer conditions at the

University of Melbourne.

2. UMSU will stand in solidarity with all NTEU industrial action that is taken to improve the terms of their EBA.
3. Students' Council directs Office Bearers and Councilors to attend and participate in the NTEU action on Wednesday the 9th, 9am, at gate 4 (Monash Road Entrance), and join the NTEU/UMSU contingent to the Change the Rules Rally (from 10am-1pm that same day) unless they have work, significant personal reasons, or classes for which both their attendance would be marked and attendance is required under the handbook.
4. Student's Council directs office-bearers to use their department social media channels, opportunities at events, and other means within their responsibilities to publicise and inform students about why we should stand in solidarity with staff in their industrial action, and encourage them not to attend classes, and to attend rallies or picket lines.

Moved: Conor Clements

Seconded: Toby Silcock

CARRIED

12th May 2020 – Meeting 10(20)

That UMSU supports the NTEU Vote No campaign (no concessions on pay or conditions) and condemns the VC on commencing negotiations on changing the EBA to whittle away staff pay and conditions.

That Students' Council:

- Endorse and promote the NTEU's public and online actions to #SaveHigherEdJobs and promote actions that students can take on May 21st.
- Assist in planning a joint action with a joint list of demands focused on staff working conditions and staff job losses as well as student fees and student learning conditions. An action that is being proposed this week to the NTEU branch committee will be a University Assembly. NTEU and UMSU could jointly call its membership to meet and form a University Assembly of staff and students to vote on demands.

Moved: Noni Bridger (on behalf of Annette Herrera) Seconded: Charlie Joyce

CARRIED

10th March 2023 - Meeting 5(23)

UMSU recognises the importance of a strong and supportive university community, where students and staff members can work together to achieve shared goals and outcomes.

UMSU acknowledges the university will create a false dichotomy between the interests of students and staff members, by framing the industrial action as detrimental to students.

UMSU recognises that this narrative seeks to pit students against our comrades at the NTEU

and undermines their collective efforts to achieve fair and just outcomes for both students and staff.

Action:

UMSU will play an active role in the NTEU’s decision to strike at the University of Melbourne and commits to communicate the importance of fair working conditions and job security for university staff members to the student body.

Lastly, UMSU will encourage students to support the NTEU’s industrial action to achieve fair and just outcomes for all members of the university community.

Moved: Carlos Lagos Martin	Seconded: Kevin Li
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CARRIED

19 May 2023 – Meeting 10(23)

Platform:

- UMSU endorses the Students Support Staff Strikes campaign, which aims to bring together as many students as possible to build support for the staff strikes campaign.

Action:

- UMSU will actively raise awareness about the Student Support Staff Strikes Campaign among the student body. This will include disseminating information through various channels, such as social media platforms, public forums, sending emails before every strike action, printing posters and leaflets, and other measures to ensure that students are informed about the objectives of the campaign and how they can support it.

- UMSU will organize and participate in solidarity actions to demonstrate support for the staff Student Support Staff Strikes Campaign. UMSU will place particular focus on mobilising students on the days of staff strikes.

Moved: Carlos Lagos	Seconded: James Gallagher
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CARRIED

UniMelb EBA Bargaining

27th May 2020 – Meeting 11(20)

That UMSU Students’ Council condemns the University of Melbourne for seeking to alter the Enterprise Agreement and water down worker’s rights, and calls them on to withdraw the variation;

Stands in solidarity with the University of Melbourne NTEU Branch, in calling all University staff to vote no to variations to the enterprise agreement on June 9.

Directs all office-bearers to send communications, developed in liaison with NTEU student workers and the Education Public office urging workers to vote no to variations to the

enterprise agreement;

Encourages UMSU office bearers to collaborate with the NTEU in promoting a no vote to the variation, advertising opportunities for students to get involved in their campaign;

Strongly recommends all University staff to join the National Tertiary Education Union (and for all students to join UMSU);

Resolves to defend every job, every subject, and every student service;

Recognises that solidarity, is indeed, the best medicine.

That:

- UMSU opposes the proposed pay cuts.
- UMSU rejects the notion that pay cuts save jobs.
- UMSU opposes all other cuts to staff and students, including budget cuts to the Sustainable Campus program.
- UMSU expresses solidarity with the rank-and-file NTEU campaign being run against cuts to universities.

Moved: Andie Moore

Seconded: Lucas Brunning-Halsall

CARRIED

Solidarity with Staff

19th May 2009 - Meeting 12(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union supports the demands of university staff for a fairer deal at work and supports the National Tertiary Education Union.

Moved: John Shipp (Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

29th August 2017 - Meeting 16(17)

That UMSU stands in solidarity with the NTEU on the issue of academic freedom at the University of Melbourne. The 'number one' University in Australia should not be afraid of critical enquiry, intellectual discourse, or public controversy. These qualities are fundamental to the role of universities in the public sphere; it is through rigorous intellectual discourse that academics contribute to public dialogue.

That UMSU stands in solidarity with the NTEU on the issue of staff cuts. Cuts to staff are cuts to students. UMSU condemns large scale and unjustified cuts to staff.

Moved: Sinead Manning

Seconded: Daniel Beratis

CARRIED

12th May 2020 – Meeting 10(20)

- UMSU rejects the idea that staff should be made to pay for the COVID 19 crisis.
- UMSU condemns attempts by the university to undermine wages and working conditions for staff.
- UMSU stands with University staff and rank and file union members who want to fight to defend their conditions.

Action:

- UMSU will use its social media platforms to condemn attacks on university staff and working conditions and support staff fighting to keep their working conditions.

Moved: Chair (Jack Buksh)

CARRIED

Staff Cuts

16th June 2011 - Meeting 8(11)

The University of Melbourne Student Union opposes the planned staff cuts at the Baillieu and ERC libraries. Students value the service provided by staff at these libraries. We support the NTEU campaign to prevent these cuts from taking place and will support the proposed action during second semester. If library management want to respond to changes in library service, they should do so by actually consulting with staff, students and unions first.

Students Council endorses the NTEU campaign opposing staff cuts at the Baillieu and ERC libraries, and will invite the NTEU to place the UMSU logo on any posters and other materials that are part of this campaign, after consultation with the Education Public Affairs Department.

Moved: Liam Byrne

Seconded: Dominique Ottobre

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

12th August 2014 - Meeting 15(14)

Students' Council will support all actions called by the National Tertiary Education Union to fight job cuts to University of Melbourne Staff as a result of the BIP.

Moved: Zoe Efron

Seconded: Stephen Smith

Dissent: Patrick Clearwater

CARRIED

11th August 2020 – Meeting 14(20)

UMSU rejects the neoliberal model of higher education.

UMSU expresses its support for staff members who will be affected by these cuts and resolves to fight for their continued employment at the university.

UMSU rejects the assertion that the University of Melbourne does not have the funds to maintain current staffing levels.

Action:

UMSU will release a statement supporting staff and condemning the University over these job cuts and other stand downs that have occurred through the university's mismanagement of the COVID 19 crisis.

UMSU commits to supporting the NTEU's Financial Transparency campaign regarding the University of Melbourne's finances in its own right and through the No Cuts campaign.

UMSU commits itself to organising a restructure of the tertiary education system that upholds democracy, transparency, and the prioritisation of student and staff needs over profits. Only a confrontational, and militant campaign against The VC and Uni management can win this.

Moved: Noni Bridger

Seconded: Emma Dynes

CARRIED

POLITICAL ISSUES

Donald Trump Presidency

7th December 2016 - Meeting 2(17)

1. UMSU stands firmly opposed to President Elect Donald Trump.
2. UMSU recognises and opposes the array of right-wing forces in Australia, including the Liberal government, Pauline Hanson and fascist groupings like the United Patriots Front, who have gained a confidence boost out of Trump's election.
3. UMSU recognises the positive role a protest against Trump can play in countering those forces and making sure a new right-wing consensus doesn't become mainstream.

Moved: Anneke D'emanuele

Seconded: Alice Smith

CARRIED

16th May 2025 – Meeting 6(25)

Platform:

1. UMSU supports calling for the Australian government to cut ties with Trump's American military

2. UMSU reiterates its support for opposition to the recent policy actions of President Trump that have targeted marginalised communities.
3. UMSU supports calling for an end to the AUKUS deal, closing down Pine Gap and expelling US military employees from Australia
4. UMSU endorses the May 24th National Day of Protest.

Action:

1. UMSU will release a statement in support of the May 24th National Day of Protest to cut ties with Trump's America
2. The UMSU President will send a President's News regarding the protest and the UMSU's opposition to the actions of President Trump.
3. UMSU will encourage students to attend the rally through sharing related items on social media.

Moved: Amaya Castro Williams

Seconded: Joshua Stagg

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

International Students

11th April 2025 – Meeting 5(25)

Platform:

UMSU firmly opposes any governmental policy that targets international students, or that increases or encourages division amongst Australia's international students and domestic students' population.

UMSU rejects comparisons that the international student intake overtly affects Australia's housing market, and that Australia's housing market crisis is caused by and a product of the government's existing failed housing policies.

UMSU reaffirms its opposition to the Jobs Ready Graduates Package that unfairly and unequally splits students looking to study their degree.

UMSU supports putting the Liberals last on the ballot this upcoming federal election, in line with the NUS and the VTHC, to not risk a Dutton government that would significantly harm the interests of University of Melbourne students.

Action:

1. Work with the NUS and VTHC to inform University of Melbourne students of the risks of a Liberal government.
2. Ensure all University of Melbourne students understand our Australian democratic system and how to vote correctly to ensure no vote cast is informal.
3. Distribute our material and raise our voices to reach the widest possible audience across Melbourne and Victoria.

4. The President, the General Secretary, and any other willing and relevant departments will publish a statement affirming this platform and preamble.

Moved: Ewan Bezzobs

Seconded: Viraj Patel

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

Jacinda Ardern Re-Election

26TH September 2020 – Meeting 20(20)

1. UMSU student's council congratulates Jacinda Ardern and the Labour Party on their reelection;
2. UMSU student's council calls on the incoming Labour government to make strong moves to honour Te Tiriti O Waitangi, uphold the sovereign rights of Tangata Whenua, and address systematic injustice in the New Zealand detention and criminal systems via decarceration;
3. UMSU student's council stands in solidarity with Aotearoa's trade union movement, and calls on the incoming government to amend legislation to give unprecedented power to unions to fight for working people in their workplaces;
4. UMSU's student's council calls on the incoming government to take a proactive approach on housing to ensure everyone has the right to a safe, healthy and affordable home;
5. UMSU's student's council directs the UMSU President to write to the Prime Minister's office, expressing congratulations, and encouraging her to take up the following priorities.

Moved: Andie Moore

Seconded: Srishti Chatterjee

CARRIED

Military Spending

8TH July 2020 – Meeting 13(20)

UMSU opposes the government's proposed military spending.

UMSU recognises that the University of Melbourne is complicit in the research and development of weapons manufacturing and demands that the university terminates all programs and projects of this nature.

Actions:

UMSU will state their opposition to the government's military spending announcement on their social media and in their email correspondence with students.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne

Seconded: Sophie Kerrigan

CARRIED

24th March 2023 - Meeting 6(23)

1. UMSU opposes the imperialist war drive of the Australian ruling class and the Labor government.
2. UMSU calls for the withdrawal of Australia from the AUKUS deal, and for Australia to end its alliance with the United States, the primary purveyor of war and destruction on the planet.
3. UMSU affirms its anti-imperialist position, siding with neither China nor the United States in their global imperialist ambitions.
4. UMSU opposes all attempts to direct university research and students into collaboration with the Australian Defence Force and the war industry and will campaign against the University of Melbourne should it take any part in the AUKUS deal.
5. UMSU opposes the media push calling for Australians to psychologically prepare for war with China, brought forward by Peter Harcher through 'Red Alert' piece on SMH and The Age."

Moved: Rhoda Louis-Miller

Seconded: Benjamin O'Donnell

CARRIED

Oppose The Far Right

7th December 2016 - Meeting 2(17)

1. That this student council reasserts its constitutional commitment to standing in opposition to militarism, nationalism, and discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, gender identity, religion, and national or social origin.
2. This student council` notes that the aims, and ideals of far right, and fascist groups are in fundamental opposition to the aforementioned constitutional commitments.
3. That this student council condemns the Australian Liberty Alliance (ALA)'s far-right politics,
4. That this student council condemns the ALA's choice to nominate for the seat of Caulfield an associate of far-right figures including a man convicted of the antisemitic harassment of a Rabbi, gangs associated with far-right ultraviolence, figures who have called in public fora for pictures of Hitler to be displayed in every Australian classroom, as well as self-professed neo-nazis.
5. That this student council notes the owner of the Arcadia Hotel in South Yarra has noted public sympathies for the ALA, and its politics, and has routinely hosted events for the ALA.
6. That, due to the Arcadia Hotel's links to far-right groups, this student councils imposes a rolling boycott upon any future association with or use of the facilities of the Arcadia Hotel, and calls upon its constituent clubs, and societies, and all students to take the same stance in principled opposition to the far-right, and in solidarity with all students under

threat from the spectre of racism, antisemitism, sexism, queerphobia, transphobia, ableism, and militarism.

Moved: Daniel Beratis (Chair)

CARRIED

12 January 2024 – Meeting 2(24)

1. UMSU condemns the growth of far-right figures and movements globally.
2. UMSU will support and promote anti-fascist actions aimed at opposing and fighting the growth of the far right.

Moved: Penelope Scacciante Seconded: Hugh Collins

CARRIED

16 February 2024 – Meeting 3(24)

That UMSU commits to no longer display symbols of Nationalism, which promotes violence, hatred, racism or are co-opted by the far-right, in an Australian context or otherwise.

Moved: Raphael Duffy Seconded: Oskar Martin

CARRIED

22 September 2025 – Meeting 9(25)

Platform

- That UMSU opposes the rise of the far right and fascist politics in Australia
- That UMSU endorses the October 19th antifascist demonstration against the far right

Action:

- The UMSU President will, in collaboration with the UMSU Indigenous representative on council and the UMSU Indigenous Officer, release a statement condemning the “March for Australia” and the attack on Camp Sovereignty
- The UMSU President will circulate information about the October 19th antifascist demonstration to all students via email
- The UMSU Education, Environment, POC and Queer Departments will promote the demonstration through their social media channels, and print posters

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Joshua Stagg

CWD

Privatisation

13th February 2020 – 4(20)

UMSU condemns the state Labor government for even considering privatisation.

UMSU stands in solidarity with the Australian Services Union in their campaign against the privatisation of VicRoads.

UMSU affirms its stance as ideologically opposed to business.

Moved: Gurpreet Singh

Seconded: Matt Harper

CARRIED

Right To Protest

16th September 2020 – Meeting 17(20)

UMSU affirms that protest is a fundamental democratic right and opposes laws restricting the right to protest.

UMSU endorses the campaign “Democracy is essential: Restore the right to protest in NSW.”

UMSU calls for socially distanced protest activity to be exempted from the restrictions imposed under the Public Health Act (NSW)

UMSU condemns the repressive measures used against protesters on the spurious grounds of controlling COVID-19.

Moved: Raphael Duffy

Seconded: Charlie Joyce

DISSENT: Joshua Bruni

CARRIED

20th January 2021 – Meeting 2(21)

1. UMSU affirms that protest is a fundamental democratic right and opposes laws restricting the right to protest, while supporting health measures such as restrictions on businesses, requirements to wear masks etc.
2. UMSU endorses the campaign “Restore the right to protest” in Victoria and a strategy of mass defiant protest as the best way to achieve this.
3. UMSU calls for the removal of the ban on outdoor gatherings “for a common purpose”.
4. UMSU condemns the repressive measures used against protesters on the spurious grounds of controlling COVID-19, while opposing the reactionary anti-lockdown protests held earlier this year.
5. UMSU calls for the cancellation of all fines and charges against protestors, including Warriors of Aboriginal Resistance, the Djab Wurrung Embassy, Refugee Action Collective

as well as individuals targeted at protests.

Moved: Xavier Dupe

Seconded: Brittney Henderson

CARRIED

15th August 2022 - 13(22)

UMSU condemns the Victorian Labor Government for passing legislation that criminalises peaceful protests.

UMSU deems these laws – Sustainable Forests Timber Amendment (Timber Harvesting Safety Zones) Bill 2022 – as an an-democratic law.

UMSU condemns the trend of Australian state governments curbing the right to peacefully protest in this country.

UMSU recognises that these laws further endanger those already vulnerable when protesting including First Nations people, people with a disability, people of colour, and non-citizens.

Moved: Zach Matthews

Seconded: Jaryd Clifford

CARRIED

7th December 2022 – Meeting 1(23)

1. UMSU reaffirms its support for the right to protest as a basic civil liberty and democratic right.
2. UMSU stands against the latest attacks on the right to protest, including the NSW government’s anti-protest laws but also the Victorian Labor government’s criminalisation of anti-logging protestors.
3. UMSU expresses its solidarity with Violet Coco and gives her its full support in her appeal against the unjust NSW legal system.

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Sam Rathnaweera

CARRIED

22nd March 2024 – Meeting 5(24)

Platform:

- That UMSU supports the democratic right to protest, including acts of civil disobedience in the form of strikes, blockades, marches and occupations.
- That UMSU affirms its support for climate activists and condemns state repression.
- That UMSU demands all charges against Violet and Bradley be dropped immediately.

Action:

That UMSU elected Student Representatives take a solidarity photo in this council meeting.

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Raphael Duffy

CARRIED

26th April 2024 – Meeting 7(24)

Platform:

- That UMSU stands in solidarity with pro-Palestine student activists at the University of Columbia
- UMSU defends the right to protest and denounces the University management and US Police for their attempts at repression and persecution

Action:

UMSU Students' Council will take a solidarity photo with students at Columbia University.

Moved: Yasmeen Atieh

Seconded: Penelope Scacciante

CARRIED

26th April 2024 – Meeting 7(24)

That UMSU rejects calls for the introduction of permit protest legislation as an attack on civil liberties and human rights. Where permit laws do exist in Australia, they are routinely used to suppress and even criminalise protests, whether that be for Palestine, climate justice or any other progressive political issue.

Moved: Lola Bowers

Seconded: Rhoda Louis Miller

CARRIED

20th September 2024 – Meeting 13(24)

Platform:

1. That UMSU condemns the Land Forces weapons conference
2. That UMSU condemns the Victorian Labor government for bringing death merchants into our city.
3. That UMSU condemns the Victorian Police's violent attacks against the community picket outside the conference

Action:

1. UMSU President will make a statement on the Land Forces convention brutality

based on the motion.

Moved: Lola Bowers

Seconded: Rhoda Louis Miller

CARRIED

22nd September 2025 – Meeting 9(25)

Platform:

- UMSU opposes all forms of restriction and punishment imposed upon students exercising their right to peaceful protest, as recognised in Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- In line with this, UMSU affirms and commits itself to defending free speech and combating hate speech at the University of Melbourne.
- UMSU condemns the 16 May 2024 Vice Chancellor Rule’s attempt to silence the voices of alumni and community members; and asserts the right of all members of the community to engage in peaceful protest at a public university.
- UMSU condemns the 3 March 2025 Vice Chancellor Rule as a blatant attack on the right of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of political communication, and academic freedom.
- UMSU condemns the University of Melbourne for taking disciplinary action against students who participated in the peaceful ‘Mahmoud’s Hall’ sit-in in the Arts West building in 2024; the expulsion of two students and suspension of two others for engaging in peaceful protest; and the firing of a casual tutor earlier this year.
- UMSU condemns the ongoing use of Wi-Fi tracking to identify and punish students engaged in protest.
- UMSU condemns the harassment of student activists on campus by University security, and the response of University management and security to protests, including calling, and threatening to call, the police on peaceful protestors.
- UMSU recognises with deep concern the climate of fear the University of Melbourne’s actions have engendered on campus and in the classroom; and the threat to academic freedom posed by the actions and statements of University leadership.
- UMSU calls for the University of Melbourne’s restrictions on peaceful assembly to be lifted so as to allow University of Melbourne students to demonstrate their opposition to the genocide in Gaza.
- UMSU supports initiatives such as the People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine that is investigating freedom of speech restrictions related to Palestine across Australian university campuses.

Action:

1. Students' Council directs that UMSU use all available avenues to end the repression of pro-Palestine activists on campus, to overturn the Vice Chancellor Rules made on 16 May 2024 and 3 March 2025, and to defend the right to protest on campus.
2. Students' Council directs that the UMSU President write a public letter to the Chancellor and University Council
 - a. To express in the strongest terms, UMSU's opposition to the University's attacks on freedom of expression and academic freedom, including Wi-Fi tracking and anti-protest rules.
 - b. To demand that the University reverse sanctions on the pro Palestine activists who have been subject to disciplinary proceedings for their participation in peaceful protests, and issue formal apologies to these students.
3. Students' Council progresses its campaign to end the repression of Palestine activists, overturn the protest regulations, and defend free speech and protest on campus, as voted by students at the August SGM by:
 - a. Forming a working group open to all students, to be initially convened by the UMSU President.
 - b. Directing the UMSU CEO and requesting UMSU Advocacy to provide advice and support to the working group as appropriate.

Moved: David Trevorrow

Seconded: Lottie Jenkins

For: Bingchan, Lushy, Marc, Kevin, Anndrya, Oskar, Yashesvi, Ethan, Daniel, Maria, Amaya, Yasmeen, Lottie, Bella, Joseph, Kerry, Junaid, Toby

Abstain: Kevin

CWD

19th January 2026 – Meeting 2(26)

Platform:

- UMSU opposes the Royal Commission in Antisemitism & Social Cohesion as a cynical attempt to conflate pro-Palestine sentiment with Antisemitism
- UMSU opposes implementation of Jillian Segal's recommendations on the grounds of severely restriction academic freedoms on campus
- UMSU commits to defend free speech and the right to protest on campus, including any attacks on the independence of our student union
- UMSU opposes and resists all forms of racisms including Islamophobia and Antisemitism

Action:

- UMSU President will release a press statement based on this motion's preamble to be published no longer than two days after council
- UMSU will collaborate with any free speech campaigns organised by the National Union of Students.
- Students' Council commits to reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission when they are made.

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Mathilda Stewart

CWD

US Alliance and AUKUS

20th February 2025 – Meeting 3(25)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the new Trump government's far right agenda.
- UMSU rejects any attempts to normalise Trump
- UMSU opposes the Labor government's attempts to collaborate with the American government thereby normalising Trump
- UMSU opposes the AUKUS military alliance
- UMSU recognises the need to resist Trump's far right political movement in Australia.
- UMSU condemns Elon Musk's Sieg Heiling at the inauguration and fully opposes fascism
- UMSU condemns the militarisation of university campus's like the University of Melbourne who maintain ties with weapons companies like Boeing, Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems.

Action:

UMSU will release a statement in opposition to the new Trump government and to Australia's military ties to America including AUKUS.

Moved: Luv Golecha

Seconded: Om Deshpande

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19

13th February 2020 – 4(20)

- UMSU recognises that this health crisis is legitimate and recognises that the Australian government should be focusing on international research and health to prevent the spread of this disease.
- UMSU opposes the contradictory and unscientific travel bans and the authoritarian quarantining of citizens on Christmas Island.
- UMSU opposes the neoliberal agenda of both the ALP and LNP who have continually underfunded the health system and deprioritised scientific research.
- UMSU recognises the lack of support from the university for international students unable to return to Australia, and vows to fight for material and financial support from the university for any students affected.
- UMSU recognises and opposes the anti-Chinese racism seen in response to this outbreak and recognises the role that both major parties play in kindling antiimmigration and xenophobic views in popular discourse.
- UMSU agrees to fight against any attempts by the University of Melbourne to respond to the outbreak at the expense of student welfare.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Emma Dynes

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

17th September 2021 - Meeting 15(21)

1. UMSU endorses the Health Before Profits campaign and supports an elimination strategy that aims for zero COVID transmission in the community.
2. UMSU opposes the Morrison and Berejiklian campaign - supported by Daniel Andrews - to open up the economy according to the national four-phase plan and 'live' with the virus.
3. UMSU recognises that the University of Melbourne Chancellery has had counterproductive messaging and that the University of Melbourne has provided inconsistent and inadequate support for students and staff throughout the pandemic.
4. UMSU recognises that COVID circulation in the community is the key threat to the health, wellbeing and lives of marginalised and oppressed communities.
5. UMSU supports a lockdown in Victoria that closes non-essential businesses including construction and non-essential retail, and keeps schools and universities closed until it's safe.

6. UMSU demands an increase in the amount and accessibility of support payments, regardless of visa status. We need to pay people to stay at home.
7. UMSU demands a massive increase in health funding, hospital and ICU capacity, and staffing levels.
8. UMSU demands immediate measures to raise vaccination levels across Indigenous and migrant communities, and for children, which is necessary to bring the pandemic under control.
9. UMSU recognises that striving to eliminate COVID transmission in Australia puts us in the best position to fight the virus internationally, freeing up health resources for deployment in other countries and establishing a precedent of putting health over profits.
10. UMSU demands purpose-built, Delta-proof quarantine facilities, which can prevent the constant outbreaks caused by leakages, while allowing citizens, migrants, international students, and refugees to enter the country.

Moved: Julien Macandelli

Seconded: Winnie Zhang

CARRIED

30th September 2021 - Meeting 16(21)

1. UMSU stands with unions like the Nurses' Union (ANMF) in condemning the far right anti-lockdown protests.
2. UMSU reaffirms support for public health measures like restrictions on non-essential business, PPE and ventilation, which have saved thousands of lives.
3. UMSU opposes the government's 'national roadmap' which proposes an unsafe reopening of non-essential business before sufficient levels of vaccination are achieved to protect the population.

Moved: Shirley Killen

Seconded: Raphael Duffy

CARRIED

31st January 2022 - Meeting 2(22)

1. UMSU condemns the 'let it rip' strategy adopted by the federal government, with endorsement from many Labor premiers and the National Cabinet.
2. UMSU condemns University management for its inactivity and reticence to adopt necessary public health measures beyond mandatory vaccination, as well as for the continual lack of transparency that surrounds its response to the unfolding COVID-19 crisis.
3. UMSU recognises that community groups with heightened vulnerability to the effects of

COVID-19 should not be framed as expendable, an encumbrance, or an outlier from the societal norm. UMSU stands for social solidarity, not the survival-of-the-fittest logic of personal responsibility.

4. UMSU calls on University management to assure students that online classes will remain an option for all students in 2022.

Moved: Shirley Killen Seconded: Sam Rath

CARRIED

Marijuana

13th February 2020 – 4(20)

That UMSU congratulates the ACT in legalising the personal recreational use of Marijuana and affirms its stance that recreational drug use is a public health issue that should be legalised, with proper harm minimisation strategies implemented.

Moved: Matt Harper Seconded: Andie Moore

CARRIED

Harm Reduction

13th September 2016 - Meeting 16(16)

The students' council resolves to implement this drug harm reduction program in the lead-up to the summer festival season and endorses the distribution of packs of relevant information and reagent test kits at the Union House information desk. Students' Council understands the limitations surrounding this testing and affirms that all distribution will be accompanied by a verbal discussion.

The students' council acknowledges the limitations of reagent kits as a test method for drug purity and adulteration and will therefore work toward making more accurate and effective tests available.

The students' council therefore calls upon the University of Melbourne to explore providing access to gas chromatography facilities for this purpose.

Moved: Gulsara Kaplun Seconded: Yasmine Luu

CARRIED

4th April 2017 - Meeting 7(17)

1. That UMSU affirms its commitment to holistic, judgment-free and evidence-based approaches to drug harm reduction.
2. That UMSU implement a series of education sessions, available to all students at no cost,

outlining steps that they can take reduce the harms associated with drug use

3. That UMSU run a campaign calling for high quality pill testing facilities such as gas chromatography mass-spectrometry to be made available to the public.

Moved: Gulsara Kaplun

Seconded: Molly Millmott

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Vaccines

14th October 2021 - Meeting 17(21)

The following motion was passed by a members meeting of the University of Melbourne NTEU branch on 7 October:

The University of Melbourne NTEU branch notes the unusually risky situation of a return to campus and face-to-face teaching in the midst of a surge in case numbers. We therefore support a vaccine mandate for university staff and students. But we note major concerns with the way the announcement has been made at the University of Melbourne, in particular the lack of consultation with staff and students. We call on the University to immediately:

- *Begin discussions with staff and student representative bodies about the implementation of the mandate, and a memorandum of understanding on the safety protocols supported by the NTEU University of Melbourne branch.*
- *Ensure that the burden of enforcement is not placed on individual frontline and teaching staff.*
- *Ensure that the mandate is used in conjunction with all other OHS measures to reduce the risk to the community as far as possible.*
- *Ensure that the mandate is implemented alongside measures to provide access to vaccination for staff and students (especially from vulnerable groups and those without Medicare cards).*

UMSU endorses this motion by the NTEU.

UMSU acknowledges that the university to take measures in addition to vaccine mandates, such as proper ventilation and air purifiers, to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Moved: Hannah Krasovec

Seconded: James Gallagher

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

19th November 2021 - Meeting 18(21)

UMSU endorses the 'PROTEST: Oppose the Anti-Vax, Far Right - Melbourne' demonstration on the 20th of November.

Moved: Shirley Killen

Seconded: Sam Rath

CARRIED

QUEER

Conversion

16th September 2020 – Meeting 17(20)

1. UMSU condemns any sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts to queer students and commits to offering material solidarity and support to any survivor who should request it.
2. Directs the UMSU President to affirm the SOGICE (sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts) survivor statement on behalf of UMSU.
(<http://socesurvivors.com.au/wpcontent/uploads/2020/07/SOGICE-Survivor-Statement-v4-July-2020.pdf>)
3. Directs the UMSU President to share this motion and the text of SOGICE survivor statement through the Presidents News.
4. Directs the Queer Officers to raise the issue of conversion practices with CAPS and form a plan for concrete, tangible support at the University for survivors.

Moved: Ciara O’Sullivan

Seconded: Srishti Chatterjee

CARRIED

Drag

19 May 2023 – Meeting 10(23)

- UMSU calls upon local and state councils to develop more rigorous safety protocols for LGBTQIA+ workshops.
- UMSU condemns the cancellation of queer events, including but not limited to those cancelled by Monash City Council and the City of Casey Council, as it gives into the demands of alt-right bigots.
- UMSU Stands in solidarity with drag performers and demands that they be paid in full despite cancellation of these events
- UMSU recognises the importance of anti-fascist and queer activists counter-protesting far right bigots.

Moved: Rhoda Lewis Miller

Seconded: Lola Bowers

CARRIED

Gender Affirmation

11th December 2020 – Meeting 1(21)

That Students’ Council:

- Reaffirms that one’s pronouns cannot be assumed from just their name or appearance;
- Provides space for trans, intersex, and gender diverse (TIGD) people to share their pronouns without fear of judgement;
- Produces a non-cisnormative and binary-normative environment where they/them pronouns and neopronouns are normalised; and
- Reaffirms that everyone has pronouns, not just TIGD people.

Actions:

1. UMSU reaffirms the position that all people, regardless of gender identity, have pronouns.
2. UMSU will make it the policy that all email signature templates provided by the university will include the pronouns of the person/s signing the email alongside their names. The person/s signing the email may have the discretion to change or remove these.
3. UMSU OBs and Councillors are encouraged to apply these principles to other forms of personal introduction, such as names displayed on Zoom and other online meeting platforms.

Moved: Amy Bright

Seconded: Laura Ehrensperger

CARRIED

2nd September 2021 – Meeting 14(21)

- Re-affirms its support for Transgender and Gender Diverse rights and its absolute opposition to transphobia.
- Calls upon the University to remove [clause 4.7 of the Gender Affirmation Policy], and further consult with the UMSU Queer Office Bearers, the National Tertiary Education Union, the GSA LGBTI+ Officer, and the Pride in Action Committee on appropriate implementation planning.
- Strongly believes that a Gender Affirmation Policy is necessary, and condemns criticism of the policy that is predicated on implications to the contrary.

Moved: Amy Bright

Seconded: Laura Ehrensperger

CARRIED

Intersex Rights

4TH December 2019- Meeting 2(20)

1. That UMSU stands in solidarity with the Intersex community,
2. That UMSU condemns the violation of intersex rights,

3. That UMSU offers solidarity and support to intersex students at the University of Melbourne.

Actions:

1. That UMSU officially affirms the Darlington Statement (linked above).
2. Directs the President to write to the Vice-Chancellor Duncan Maskell, encouraging the university to affirm the statement, and requesting they distance themselves from correction surgeries.
3. Directs the President and the Queer Officers to release a joint statement on the rights of intersex students.

Moved: Ciara O’Sullivan

Seconded: Andie Moore

CARRIED

Queer Education

11th September 2020 – Meeting 19(20)

1. UMSU condemns the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 introduced by Mark Latham in its entirety.
2. UMSU condemns the NSW police for their brutality and crackdown on peaceful protests.
3. Directs the UMSU President to share this motion, as well as the Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) Fighting Fund (basically, a gofundme to help protestors pay fines) through the Presidents News. (https://www.gofundme.com/f/73xau-community-action-forrainbow-rights-fightingfund?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet) and donate \$500 from Whole of Union to this.
4. Asks all members of Students Council to sign the CARR petition against the Bill <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/support-lgbtiq-kids-stop-mark-latham-s-bill>

Moved: Ciara O’Sullivan

Seconded: Thonya Deverall

CARRIED

Pride as Protest

27th June 2025 – meeting 7(25)

Platform:

1. UMSU formally acknowledges that Pride began as a protest and remains a protest today.
2. UMSU opposes queerphobic and transphobic rhetoric in all forms, both locally and globally.

3. UMSU is committed to student-led, justice-focused queer advocacy that uplifts the voices of queer and trans students.

Action:

1. The Queer section of the UMSU Stance Booklet begins with a preamble that explicitly recognises the history and ongoing significance of Pride as a protest.
2. UMSU commits to supporting and promoting Pride events that are grounded in student involvement and reflect a protest-based, justice-oriented approach to queer advocacy and visibility.

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Sonika Agarwal

CWD

Religious Discrimination Bill

13th February 2020 – Meeting 4(20)

- UMSU opposes the religious discrimination bill.
- UMSU supports the Rainbow Rebellion movement.
- UMSU recognises that the Australian political system upholds the oppression of LGBTQI people, and that political parties, as well as the system itself are subject to criticism.

Actions:

- UMSU will provide material support to all future Rainbow Rebellion protests.
- UMSU will promote all future Rainbow Rebellion protests, on campus and on social media.

Moved: Lucas Brenning-Halsall

Seconded: Jack Buksh

CARRIED

Safe Schools

17th March 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

UMSU's student council supports the Safe School Coalition and recognises its important role in working with staff and students in creating a safe and inclusive environment for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, staff and parents.

Moved: Akira Boardman

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

Sex Workers and Trans People

25th May 2017 - Meeting 10(17)

That the President release a statement reaffirming UMSU's commitment to including sex workers and trans people in decision making that affects them, supporting their right to bodily and political autonomy and condemning any activism or ideology on or off campus that does not include, support and respect these communities.

Moved: Cassandra Prigg

Seconded: Lizzie Nicholson

Against: Jesse Krause

Abstained: Gavin Sittampalam

CARRIED

Same-Sex Marriage

15th August 2017 - Meeting 15(17)

1. In recent days, after a second failed attempt to move a plebiscite on marriage equality in the Senate, the Coalition government has authorised a postal survey asking Australians on the electoral roll for their opinion as to whether the law should be amended to allow marriage equality.
2. This policy--a policy that nobody wants--asks a question nobody (except conservatives in the government) believes should be answered by the public. It will deliver a result that will sway nobody and have no legal authority to implement marriage equality in Australia.
3. Instead of simply allowing a free vote in the Parliament, the government has instead persisted with this policy--a costly, unnecessary ballot with massive consequences for a vulnerable community.
4. The pain this survey will cause LGBTI Australians and LGBTI young people especially can already be seen. Lyle Shelton, the head of the Australian Christian Lobby, is calling children of LGBTI Australians "the stolen generation". Politicians such as Pauline Hanson and George Christensen are implying unfounded and malicious slippery slopes,
5. linking marriage equality to polygamy, bestiality, and pedophilia. This has happened, and will continue to happen throughout this process, causing direct harm to LGBTI Australians young and old, as studies of the Irish experience have shown.
6. In recent days, the prospect of a boycott to delegitimize the postal survey has been raised in several quarters. Polling indicates that, in the event of a postal survey or plebiscite, that 15% of LGBTI Australians would prefer a boycott, whilst more than half would prefer a 'yes' campaign. Given the community's preference, UMSU should seek to bolster the yes case, rather than pursue a boycott that may play into the hands of 'no' advocates.
7. Aims 1 and 7 of this student union are clear as to what our position must be. This postal survey has already unleashed and will continue to unleash hatred and trauma upon a vulnerable community. We must do everything in our power as a student union to ensure

that we beat back the tide and ensure that a resounding vote of yes is returned, so that marriage equality may become law in this country.

Actions:

1. That UMSU condemns the divisive, hurtful and unnecessary marriage postal survey as an unrepresentative and damaging policy by a government who could legislate for marriage equality tomorrow, if it so wished;
2. That UMSU nonetheless urges all students to enrol to vote, to update their address, and to vote for marriage equality;
3. That UMSU strongly encourages all Office Bearers to promote the same and enable students to do so as such at their events, in their collectives and through their communications with students;
4. That UMSU strongly promotes those events and others seeking to enrol students and update their details, and shares a link to enrol across appropriate social media platforms once immediately, and once just before or on August 24th;
5. That UMSU publicise on social media channels and at postal survey-related events resources for those affected by the postal survey, provided by either UMSU or the University, including but not limited to resources for queer students and mental health resources, as collated by the President, General Secretary, Queer Officers or other relevant Officers and Staff;
6. That these publications additionally be regularly published in the same way with accompanying reminders to vote, once every fortnight beginning on September 12th, and ending as close as practicable to November 7th; and
7. That the President direct the General Manager to ensure that these publications begin, alongside reminders to enrol or vote as appropriate, as soon as possible, but no later than September 12th for voting reminders, and no later than August 23rd for enrolment reminders.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Seconded: MJ Simkiss

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Transphobia

17th August 2016 - Meeting 14(18)

UMSU condemns the transphobic speaking tour being organised by the extreme conservative Australian Family Association (AFA).

The tour features Quentin Van Meter, who has notoriously claimed that transgender people are delusional and that surgeries to aid transition amounts to child abuse. The AFA has a history of campaigning against the rights of LGBTI people, the right to abortion, and against the Safe Schools program.

These disgusting views have no place in our society.

The growth of far-right politics in Australia can be keenly felt in this moment.

Fraser Anning has just spoken in parliament calling for a “final solution” to the immigration “problem” that right wing politicians have invented. The March For Men, organised by notorious sexist and racist Sydney Watson, will take place in Melbourne next week.

The Van Meter speaking tour is another grotesque example of this trend.

UMSU stands in opposition to transphobia and condemns the views represented by this tour.

Action:

UMSU will take a photograph showing opposition to this tour.

Moved: Desiree Cai	Seconded: Jacob Sacher
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CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

10th March 2023 - Meeting 5(23)

That UMSU:

1. Opposes the Australian and New Zealand tour of far right and transphobic British commentator Kellie-Jay Keen ‘Posie-Parker’.
2. UMSU endorses National Union of Students ‘Fight the Right: protest the speaking tour of right-wing UK transphobe Kellie-Jay Keen’ Rally.

Moved: Sam Rathnaweera	Seconded: Mehul Gopalakrishnan
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CARRIED

24th March 2023 - Meeting 6(23)

- UMSU Condemns Victoria police for their protection of Nazis.
- UMSU condemns Victoria police for their brutality against trans activists and allies during the [Fight the Right: protest the speaking tour of right-wing UK transphobe Kelly-Jay Keen] protest.
- UMSU opposes the far-right national socialist network and their activity.
- UMSU stands in solidarity with trans activists and allies and endorses action against ‘Posie Parker’.
- UMSU condemns the far - right attacks on LGBTQI+ protestors in Sydney.

Moved: Hiba Adam	Seconded: Leslie Ho
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CARRIED

20th March 2024 – Meeting 4(25)

UMSU endorses National Trans Day of Actions protests from 29 to 30 March.

Moved: Ivy Pierlot

Seconded: Luv Golecha

CWD

RACISM

Anti-Semitism

22nd March 2018 - Meeting 6(18)

1. Antisemitism is often dismissed as a phenomenon of the past, both in public debate and academic discourse. People mistakenly assume that anti-Semitism is merely historical. The opposite of this is true. 2017 saw a 9.5% rise* in recorded anti-Semitic incidents and a huge increase in anti-Semitic activity occurring on campuses across Australia.
2. *Executive Council of Australian Jewry 2016-2017 Report of Anti-Semitism in Australia (<http://www.ecaj.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ECAJ-AntisemitismReport-2017.pdf>)
3. One such example is the incident which occurred at the University of Melbourne on the first day of the semester. Two men were seen handing out discriminatory leaflets. They allegedly called one student a “faggot” and were seen spitting in front of another student who identified herself as Jewish after she was questioned about her ethnicity.
4. In an increasingly hostile campus environment, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure the safety and security of Jewish students. It is vital that the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU), the peak representative body for students at the university, acknowledges and acts to prevent the rise in anti-Semitism, consistent with the motion passed by the National Union of Students in December 2017.

Actions:

1. UMSU condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms as defined by the globally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. This is the working definition used by both Australian and international Jewish representative bodies. This is also the definition that was adopted by the National Union of Students on 14 December 2017. It states that: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”.
2. UMSU commits to working with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), as the peak representative body for Jewish students on campus in Australia and New Zealand, to ensure UMSU activist spaces, events and protests are inclusive and welcoming of Jewish voices and perspectives.
3. UMSU will formally recognise and publicise January 27, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and work with AUJS in either partnering or sharing material designed to educate and commemorate the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Moved: Raf Ungar

Seconded: Jacob Sacher

CARRIED

19th January 2026 – Meeting 2(26)

Action:

This motion calls on UMSU to:

- a. Condemn the Bondi massacre of 15 people on 14 December 2025 as an act of terror specifically targeting Australia's Jewish community when gathered to celebrate the first night of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.
- b. Acknowledge this act of terror occurred in the context of rising antisemitic and racist attacks, including the arson attack against the Addas Israel synagogue, anti-Jewish protests organized by the neo-Nazi National Socialist Network, and the assault of an Imam and his wife on Melbourne.
- c. We reject any assertion of implication that the Palestine solidarity movement has given rise to such antisemitic and racist attacks. The Palestine movement is built on the principles of anti-racism and solidarity.
- d. Affirm that Jewish students are entitled to attend the University of Melbourne without facing racial or religious discrimination.
- e. Affirm the right to free speech on campus, and acknowledge the important distinction between discrimination which targets race or religious affiliation, and legitimate political speech which criticizes ideologies or states.

And in response to clauses (a) and (c),

- f. Call upon the entire University of Melbourne community – students, clubs and societies, academic staff, and administration – to oppose antisemitism as well as other forms of religious and ethnic discrimination.

Moved: Kay Pritchard

Seconded: Mathilda Stewart

CWD

Black Lives Matter

June 25th 2020 – Meeting 12(20)

- UMSU stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protestors in America and internationally.
- UMSU condemns the US state and its police forces for their violence against protestors and the media as actions indicative of an authoritarian regime not a democracy.
- UMSU recognizes the protests as a justified and necessary response to the centuries of ongoing systematic oppression of African American people and people of colour in

America.

- UMSU recognizes that we belong to an institution (The University of Melbourne) and state (Australia) built on colonialism, imperialism and white supremacy and as such have no right to criticize the ways in which oppressed people choose to protest their oppression.
- UMSU stands in solidarity with the No Deaths in Custody Protesters in Australia.
- UMSU condemns Scott Morrison and all others who seek to erase the suffering and oppression experienced by First Nations people within Australia, particularly at the hands of the Australian Criminal “Justice” System.
- UMSU demands that the Victorian and Federal Government immediately put in place the recommendations of the Royal Commission 1991 into Indigenous Deaths in Custody.

Actions:

All UMSU departments will post this motion on their social media platforms.

Moved: Thonya Deverall

Seconded: Jessie Ferrari-Thomas

CARRIED

Campus Building Names

13th February 2020 – 4(20)

UMSU reaffirms its stance against racism and calls upon the university to change the name of the John Medley building and the W.E. Agar theatre and to acknowledge the links that they had to eugenics.

UMSU calls upon the University to make some formal acknowledgement of Berry’s role in eugenics in the form of some sort of plaque so that the history is not forgotten.

That UMSU reaches out to Sara Wills, Arts Associate Dean, to explore opportunities in supporting her to restart a taskforce on changing building and location names.

Moved: Catriona Smith

Seconded: Jess Ferrari-Thomas

CARRIED

Indian Students

3rd June 2009 - Meeting 13(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union strongly condemns the racist attacks on Indian students.

We condemn the appalling response by the Victorian Police to the attacks in denying the racist nature of the attacks and blaming the victims.

We also condemn the National Labour Party Students for not seriously addressing the real

issues of racism in Australia and ignoring the demands of Indian Students.

We also condemn the federal and state governments for failing to address the concerns of Indian Students and for fostering racism through their treatment of international students.

We call on the government to provide:

- Adequate funding for support services for international students. This includes housing and employment services, counselling, translation etc.
- Affordable and livable housing for students near universities so they are not forced to live in the outer suburbs.
- Increase staff at train stations and on trains, and increased lighting and surveillance cameras.
- Transport concession cards for all international students.

Moved: Frances Lewis

Seconded: Liam Byrne

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstentions: 11

CARRIED

5th May 2023 – Meeting 9(23)

Victoria University, The University of Wollongong, Southern Cross University, Torrens University and Edith Cowan University have placed a ban on applicants from several Indian states including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujrat. The University of Wollongong in March increased the conditions on entry requirements for students from and India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nigeria.

The justification provided for these decisions by the Department of Home Affairs is that applications from these countries pose a high risk of being non-genuine. The thin veneer of legitimation this supposed risk provides in no way justifies the overreaction. Excluding students based simply on where they come from is racist, students have a right to education regardless of their circumstances and cultural background.

UMSU has always stood against discrimination and racism and will continue to do so.

1. That UMSU condemns the behaviour of the universities named in the preamble for the discrimination against Indian students.
2. UMSU stands in solidarity with the students who are victims of these scams conducted.
3. UMSU urges the university to not adopt these measures and to call on other universities to stop the racist measures.
4. To direct the President, General Secretary and POC Officer to release a statement on this issue.

Moved: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED

Islamophobia

18th of March 2009 - Meeting 5(09)

In 2007 Melbourne University demolished the Islamic prayer space on campus without guaranteeing another space for Islamic students to practice their faith. UMSU played a key role, through the submissions process, alongside the Islamic Students Society in ensuring that a space would eventually be guaranteed on campus for Islamic Students. RMIT has taken away the Islamic prayer room on their campus and have refused to provide any other facilities for the use of Islamic Students. UMSU condemns this racist attack and supports the campaign at RMIT for an Islamic prayer room. UMSU:

1. Condemns RMIT for refusing to return the Islamic prayer room for use by Islamic Students.
2. Endorses the 'Right the Wrong, Return the Prayer Room' campaign being conducted by the Islamic Society at RMIT.
3. Endorses the Public Protest to "Give us a Fair Go, Right the Wrong! Return the Prayer Room! will be held on Monday 23rd March 2009 on Bowen St from 2pm onwards with a march to the state library and VC office.
4. Endorses any demonstrations, forums, or other actions that the RMIT Islamic students hold as a part of this campaign. Students' Council directs the UMSU President to submit this motion in a press release to all major media outlets, and to write a letter to Professor Margaret Gardener AO, the Vice Chancellor of RMIT, expressing our support for the Islamic Prayer room at RMIT to be returned to the Islamic Students.

Moved: Frances Lewis

Seconded: Liam Byrne

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

4th August 2022 – Meeting 12(22)

UMSU stands with MSA and the Monash Islamic society in their fight for adequate prayer spaces for Muslim students.

UMSU supports the ongoing pray-in protests held by Muslim students at Monash until a solution is met.

UMSU condemns Monash University management actions and their failure to meet Muslim student needs.

UMSU calls on Monash university to work proactively with MSA and Monash University Islamic society to establish new and suitable prayer facilities as required.

Moved: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED

Labor Party

13th February 2020 – Meeting 4(20)

- UMSU recognises that both major parties of the Australian government perpetuate racism.
- UMSU recognises that the Australian Labor Party has a racist history and continues to uphold Australian nationalism through racist policy and rhetoric.
- UMSU condemns racism from the Labor Party under all circumstances.

Moved: Shirley Killen

Seconded: Emma Dynes

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Police

22nd August 2025 – Meeting 12(24)

- UMSU rejects the idea that the NT police force can be taught out of racism.
- UMSU calls for the NT police force to be abolished.

Moved: Oskar Martin

Seconded: Sam Eggleston

CARRIED

Racism

That UMSU:

1. UMSU opposes all messages of racism, islamophobia, xenophobia, and fascism.
2. UMSU supports all Muslim students to feel comfortable to express their religion and cultural identity at university.
3. UMSU stands against antisemitism and all other forms of racism.
4. UMSU will always oppose fascist movements, on and off campus.

Moved: Lia Vassiliadis

Seconded: Molly Willmott

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

STUDENT UNIONISM

Adelaide University SRC

11th March 2022 - 4(22)

1. UMSU condemns the right-wing, anti-democratic attacks on the Adelaide Uni SRC.
2. UMSU recognizes the importance of campus activism and opposes all efforts to stifle campus activism and unionism.
3. UMSU will sign on to the Adelaide Uni SRC statement to defend student union democracy: <https://www.facebook.com/adelaidesrc/posts/255109323461311> and share this statement on social media.

Moved: Shirley Killen

Seconded: Emma Dynes

CARRIED

Deakin University Student Association

13th August 2015 - Meeting 19(15)

1. UMSU Students' Council reaffirms its support for the democratic and autonomous representation of marginalised student groups in their student union.
2. UMSU Students' Council calls upon the Deakin University Student Association to establish autonomously and democratically elected representatives with full voting rights on the DUSA Committee of Management, bringing DUSA into line with the majority of other student organisations in Australia.
3. UMSU further encourages the implementation of affirmative action in multi-member committees and councils.
4. Students' Council direct the President, in consultation with the Wom*ns' and Queer officers, to write to the President of DUSA to communicate council's position.
5. UMSU also encourages DUSA to look toward establishing a disabilities department in the spirit of democratic and autonomous representation.

Mover: James Bashford

Seconded: Allison Ballantyne

CARRIED

National Union of Students

23rd July 2017 - Meeting 12(12)

Students' Council condemns the motions passed at the NUS Education Conference [motions included condemning representatives for visiting Israel and banning students from the

Liberal Party], as being contrary to the freedom of political association, and the principles of democracy and liberty, the foundations upon which UMSU is built, and which the Students' Council as the representative body of the wider Melbourne student community are charged to uphold.

Moved: Justin Boyd

Seconded: Stephen Smith

FOR: Matthew Lesh, James Duncan, Charlie Cartney, Chris Jermyn, Bridget Bourke, Justin Boyd (6)

AGAINST: Jeremy Gibson (1)

ABSTENTION: Adam Galvin, Hana Dalton, Sarina Murray, Annalivia Carli Hannan, Jess Evans, Belinda O'Connor, Maddee Clark (7)

CARRIED

12th November 2015 - Meeting 26(15)

1. That Students Council reaffirms our commitment to accountability, transparency, and accessibility for all events, including off campus organisations we financially contribute to.
2. That Students Council calls on our elected delegates to, if a motion comes up, to oppose any motion which would prohibit student journalists from covering the NUS National Conference.

Moved: Pat Dollard

Seconded: Andrea Bozic

FOR: Itsi Weinstock, Danielle Bagnato, Pat Dollard, Lachlan Gell, Steven Connolly, Lachlan McCall, Joshua Rose (for Stephen Mitas) (7)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTIONS: Destan Dikbas (1)

CARRIED

7th April 2022 – Meeting 6(22)

1. UMSU supports the National Day of Action called for by the National Union of Students and the Naarm contingent co-organised by the UMSU Education Department.
2. UMSU endorses the five key demands of the NUS National Day of Action:
 - a. Oppose the corporate university- Stop course and staff cuts, stop the commercialisation of research funding.
 - b. Free Education- No fees for students, abolish all HECS debt and provide a livable income to students.
 - c. Secure Jobs for All University Staff- offer all casual staff conversion to permanent contracts, increase per-student time allocated for marking and lesson prep, and

offer all academic staff the opportunity to work within the 40/40/20 model.

- d. Leave our unions alone! - full, autonomous, democratic student control over student affairs and funding - no corporatisation or management moonlighting as student advocates/service providers.
- e. Support staff industrial action- Support staff demands and abolish antistrike laws which prevent university staff from taking industrial action.

Moved: Benjamin Jarick

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann

CARRIED

4th August 2023 - Meeting 12(23)

UMSU proposes the following actions to address and improve transparency, governance, and student well-being within NUS conferences:

Enhance communication and governance:

1. Plan the conference three months in advance of the chosen date.
2. Regularly update the NUS website with conference updates.
3. Distribute all conference information ten days prior to the conference dates.
4. Evaluate the workshop processes at the conference to encourage quality workshops that align with the aims of the conference.
5. Establish comprehensive union registration for all conferences.
6. Prepare a report summarizing key takeaways and goals after each NUS conference.
7. Establish a key contact person for all questions and concerns.
8. Publish NUS annual NUS financial reports detailing all funding streams and costs for financial transparency on NUS website.
9. Organise feedback surveys for all attendees of conferences that determine composition of conference (university, age, degree etc)

Foster student wellbeing:

1. Provide an overview of the reporting and enforcement procedures for student complaints.
2. Provide safe spaces for students and clearly mention where these are in all conferences.

Council requests all Factions:

1. Ensure all members are aware of the code of conduct and its consequences for violations.

To be considered by UMSU:

1. Improve the budgeting process by increasing UMSU office bearers' awareness of their department's objectives and how these objectives should guide their budgetary decisions.
2. To require the Education Department, provide post conference reports to council.

In presenting this motion, UMSU aims to foster an inclusive, transparent, and respectful environment within the NUS and its conferences, promoting the best interests and well-being of all students across Australia. We hope that by implementing these actions, the NUS will be better equipped to serve its constituents effectively and responsibly.

Moved: Carlos Lagos Martin

Seconded: Mary Chan

CWD

11th April 2025 – Meeting 5(25)

Platform:

1. UMSU recognises the significance of the My Future, Our Voice campaign led by the National Union of Students, which seeks to raise awareness about the role young people play in shaping the nation's future. UMSU acknowledges the importance of student voices being heard in conversations about education, climate, the economy, and social justice.
2. UMSU affirms the concerns raised by students across the country about the impacts of recent federal policies on higher education and public life. UMSU notes the growing student sentiment in support of placing candidates last on the ballot who have historically undermined access to education, academic freedom, and action on key student priorities.

Action:

1. UMSU Education will incorporate themes aligned with the concerns raised in the My Future, Our Voice campaign into our enrol-to-vote and broader election engagement initiatives. This includes stalls, social media content, and outreach that encourages students to reflect on the impacts of political decisions on their futures.
2. UMSU will continue to promote civic engagement opportunities relevant to students, including but not limited to actions and campaigns taking place in Victoria.

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Sonika Agarwal

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

QUT Student Guild

22nd March 2021 - Meeting 5(21)

The University of Melbourne Students Union (UMSU) condemns QUT's decisions to continue online content delivery and stands in solidarity with the QUT Guild and QUT students.

QUT students have called a protest to demand the university provide quality education. Protests like this are essential to defending and improving student conditions, and they should continue until students' demands are met.

Moved: Sristhi Chatterjee

Seconded: Allen Xiao

CARRIED

Sydney College Of the Arts

13th September 2016 - Meeting 16(16)

UMSU expresses its solidarity with the students at SCA and roundly condemns Vice Chancellor Michael Spence and USyd administrators for pressing this neoliberal attack. It is evident that no lessons have been learned after VC Spence and his ilk were made to back down on fee deregulation after massive student opposition.

The Council resolves to:

- i. support the LET SCA STAY campaign and its demands, and stands in solidarity with the occupiers and their supporters;
- ii. communicate this support publicly on social media, including Facebook and the weekly UMSU email digest;
- iii. donate a proposed \$200 to the occupation fund;
- iv. call upon the National Union of Students to affirm the LET SCA STAY demands and provide financial support;
- v. remain vigilant against similar tactics employed by UniMelb administrators in the Business Improvement Program, the Flexible Academic Program, and the impending demolition of Union House under the Student Precinct development project.

Moved: Akira Boardman

Seconded: Anneke D'emanuele

CARRIED

Transparency at UMSU

27th June 2025 – Meeting 7(25)

Platform:

UMSU must ensure that all students can clearly understand its structure, functions, and opportunities for engagement. Transparency should not be incidental or assumed; it must be deliberate, accessible, and embedded across all levels of UMSU's operations and communications.

Action:

1. That the UMSU General Secretary send a union-wide notice to all UMSU members when applications open for any UMSU-run grant programs, excluding Clubs & Societies grants.
2. That all Office Bearer reports from 2023-present be published on the UMSU website,

alongside Student Council minutes, in a clearly visible and accessible location.

3. That the UMSU will work on a general communications strategy to improve awareness and accessibility of information about UMSU, including but not limited to the role of UMSU, what it offers students, and how to get involved.
4. That the new Financial Sub-Committee be delegated to discuss and provide recommendations on:
 - a. The use of blanket expenditure motions for collectives and other large expenses
 - b. The level of breakdown and documentation required within financial motions across departments and collectives

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Rhea Sankar

CWD

27th June 2025 – Meeting 7(25)

Action:

1. UMSU President and General Secretary distribute a one-time anonymous internal survey to all current committee members, asking about their experience within UMSU. This survey should address areas such as but not limited to:
 - a. Relationships with Office Bearers
 - b. Ability to meaningfully contribute
 - c. Understanding of UMSU governance procedures
2. That the results of this survey be presented to Students' Council and that this survey process become an annual tradition, delivered towards the end of Semester 1 each year.

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Joshua Stagg

CWD

TRANSPORT

East West Link

17th December 2013 - Meeting 23(13)

That Students' Council formally oppose the construction of the East West Link and call on the Victorian Government to invest instead in public transport, and that the UMSU President advocate to the University that it adopts a similar position.

Moved: Alexander Sheko

Seconded: John Lester

CARRIED

Fares

31st March 2009 - Meeting 6(09)

UMSU recommends the abolishment of section 2.20DA of the 'public transport amendment act of 2007' on the grounds that it unfairly discriminates against postgraduate and international students.

Moved: Tristan Clack

Seconded: Frances Lewis

CARRIED

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That the University of Melbourne Student Union Students' Council endorses the Melbourne wide Concession Cards Coalition and its demands for transport concession cards for international and postgraduate students.

Moved: Tim Arnot

Seconded: Josh Schmidt

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

21st April 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

Victoria is the only state in Australia where full-time post-graduate students are not entitled to a public transport concession card. The Graduate Student Association is currently running a campaign, Fares Fair PTV, to get the Victorian Government to entitle all full-time postgraduate students to a public transport concession card.

The University of Melbourne Student Union recognises the basis of this entitlement is inconsistent with the rules applied to other students and is unfair.

The University of Melbourne Student Union endorses the Fares Fair PTV campaign and commits to actively promoting it.

Moved: Kelly Smith

Seconded: Zachary Power

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Free Tram Zone

20th February 2025 – Meeting 3(25)

Action:

That the University of Melbourne Student Union and the University itself write to the Lord Mayor and request that he follow through on his electoral promise to extend the free tram zone.

Moved: Joshua Stagg

Seconded: Luv Golecha

CWD

University Station

25th August 2016 - Meeting 15(16)

UMSU supports the University of Melbourne’s proposal to name the new Melbourne Metro Train Station located on Grattan Street the aptly named ‘University Station’. That Students’ Council establishes the principle that we include the name Union or a derivative of in the new Student Precinct.

Moved: Tyson Holloway-Clarke

Seconded: Daniel Sango

CARRIED

UMSU SERVICES

Bar

30 July 2015 - Meeting 18(15)

1. That Students' Council reaffirms its commitment to student control of student affairs/services.
2. That Students' Council recognises UMSU's reliance on its allocation of SSAF from the University, and the vulnerability this creates for a post-SSAF environment; Students Council recognises that we ought to be working towards alternative revenue streams/commercial outlets, as many other unions have.
3. That Students' Council recognises that the most effective way to run a popular bar for students is to allow students to make key decisions around its operation.
4. That the Students' Council approves, in principle, an UMSU-run café and bar in Level 1 space overlooking North Court.

Moved: Rather Withers

Seconded: Hana Dalton

Abstentions: Steven Connolly

CARRIED

Book Co-Op

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That Students' Council endorses and supports the establishment and operation of the UMSU Book Cooperative.

Moved: Sam Cossar-Gilbert

Seconded: Adelaide Rief

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Clubs & Societies

30 March 2010 - Meeting 5(10)

That both the Socialist Alternative Club affiliated to UMSU, and the Socialist Alternative Organisation be informed that they may not put up posters or distribute material that states that they are supported or in any way endorsed by UMSU without following due process of seeking approval of Students' Council or relevant departmental committees.

Moved: Shaun Khoo

Seconded: Kon Moisisdis

For: 11

Against: 5

CARRIED

30 March 2010 - Meeting 5(10)

That no club or group or society should ever say 'supported by UMSU' if not supported via due process.

Moved: Esther Bohmer

Seconded: Joshua Anderson

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Events

8th May 2012 - Meeting 8(12)

That UMSU supports the right of departments to run social and educational events for the benefit of students.

Moved: Anna Morrison

Seconded: James Baker

CARRIED

Student Representation

30 March 2010 - Meeting 5(10)

That the UMSU Constitution exists to:

'Promote and defend the rights of Students to education on the basis of equality without regard to race, colour, sex, sexuality, gender identity, age, physical disability, mental illness, economic circumstances, political, religious or ideological conviction, or national or social origin'

As such, the office bearers of UMSU are reminded that they, as holders of office, have a duty to operate under these values.

In this we recognise that:

- all UMSU Office-Bearers have a right to a workspace in which they are not subjected to bullying, discrimination, harassment;
- the UMSU Office should be a safe space for Office-Bearers and their guests, free from intimidation;
- UMSU Office-Bearers are responsible for the behaviour of their guests while in the UMSU Office;

Students' Council compels that UMSU Office-Bearers:

- treat each other with respect and courtesy at all times;
- undertake to ensure that the UMSU Office is a space that is free of bullying,

discrimination and harassment; and uphold the values of UMSU as outlined above;

- ensure that any guests to their Offices behave in a way that does not compromise the above;
- make every possible effort to resolve any issues that arise due to incidents in the UMSU Office by opening a dialogue with the other Office-Bearer(s) involved in the matter.

Moved: Lydia Bevege

Seconded: Jesse Overton-Skinner

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

10th March 2023 - Meeting 5(23)

The University of Melbourne has recently announced the establishment of a Melbourne Student Forum (MSF), a focus group that aims to listen to student voices. While UMSU supports all efforts made by the University to engage with students, we believe that the MSF has no application to all significant decisions and consultation at the University. As a well-established democratic representative body with over 55000 member and 100 democratically elected student representatives, UMSU believes that it is the only legitimate voice of students at the University of Melbourne.

Furthermore, UMSU is concerned that the MSF has the potential to undermine the voice of students instead of amplifying them. As a university-initiated and led process, it may be used in ways that displace student led initiatives. UMSU believes that this is against the “students as partners” model that the university has previously put forward. We welcome a statement from the University clarifying its position on this matter.

UMSU is also concerned that the establishment of the MSF may be part of a wider move in the tertiary sector to displace democratically elected student representation. We do not want the University to pick who speaks for us – we want to choose and keep democratic student representation alive.

UMSU calls upon the University to unequivocally and publicly state its respect for student democracy at the University of Melbourne and its willingness to partner with UMSU to elevate the voices of students.

1. Ensure student democracy is respected and maintained at the University of Melbourne.
2. Enhance existing structures that are genuinely student led.
3. Consolidate or complement the MSF with existing structures to provide genuine student-university partnerships.
4. Prevent any moves to displace democratically elected student representation and ensure that UMSU remains the legitimate voice of students at the University of Melbourne.

Moved: Carlos Lagos Martin

Seconded: Mary Kin Chan

CARRIED

Satellite Campuses

1st December 2015 - Meeting 1(16)

That all UMSU Departments are required to have at least one event or a specific campaign at a non-Parkville campus per semester.

Moved: Martin Ditmann

Seconded: James Baker

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

SSAF

15th July 2015 - Meeting 17(15)

That UMSU Students' Council:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the SSAF as a means of supporting student representation, student centered services and student activities on campus.
2. Expresses its qualified support for the University's plans to use a portion of its unallocated SSAF funds to create and upgrade study spaces, with the following conditions.
 - a. That the University provides for adequate student representation on any decision-making body relevant to the planning of study spaces funded by SSAF. Such student representation shall involve UMSU representatives including, but not limited to, the President, General Secretary, Education (Academic Affairs) Officer/s and Welfare Officer/s.
 - b. That the University commits to establishing guidelines for the distribution and use of unallocated SSAF funds in future, ensuring that UMSU is represented in this process.

Moved: Hana Dalton

Seconded: Rachel Withers

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

6th October 2015 - Meeting 23(15)

That the Council reaffirms in the strongest possible terms its wholehearted support for the SSAF and endorses any campaigns seeking to raise the profile of, and support for, both the SSAF and student unionism more broadly.

This includes the endorsement of campaigns from the National Union of Students and other student organisations to this effect.

Furthermore, the Council condemns any move to return to a system of VSU, which saw student organisations, and by extension student life, welfare, advocacy, and campus culture, suffer throughout the Howard era.

Moved: Conor Serong

Seconded: Rachel Withers

CARRIED

1st December 2016 - Meeting 1(16)

1. UMSU Students' Council reaffirms its support for the Student Services Amenities Fee and declares its opposition to any moves that would require annual ballots to approve the existence of SSAF and the catastrophic uncertainty this would cause.
2. UMSU reaffirms its commitment to student control of student affairs.
3. UMSU Students' Council believes that student organisations should directly receive a large percentage of SSAF to ensure students have maximal say over how the SSAF is spent; students should always be consulted on the breakdown of the SSAF between organisations.
4. UMSU commits to work with the National Union of Students, National Tertiary Education Union and Universities to campaign in defense of the SSAF.
5. Students' Council directs that all publications (including Farrago), designs and communications from across the organisation, including student representative and staffing departments, are to clearly display a "Funded by SSAF" logo or slogan where relevant, to ensure students are informed of the benefits of their SSAF contribution.

Moved: James Bashford

Seconded: Akira Boardman

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

27th May 2020 – Meeting 11(20)

- UMSU opposes cost cutting methods that sacrifice staff and student conditions.
- UMSU recognises that the purpose of student unions is to fight for student rights, and therefore views funding cuts as attacks on the ability for students to organise against further attacks.
- UMSU vows to oppose and fight against cuts to funding of all student services, particularly cuts to UMSU itself.
- UMSU recognises voluntary student unionism was an attack on student unions, and that SSAF is not an adequate solution to this political problem. University administrations should not control student funds. UMSU reiterates its support for Universal Student Unionism.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Briana Symonds-Manne

CARRIED

Halal Food

31st January 2022 – Meeting 2(22) (first passed in March 2021 and reaffirmed in 2022)

That Students' Council direct:

1. Direct all UMSU Departments (except Clubs & Societies) who intend to hold events expecting 15+ Attendees that serve primarily meat-based catering to have halal meat options for Muslim students.
2. Direct all UMSU Departments to establish a food labelling policy where food of 'special dietary requirements' (vegetarian, vegan, halal etc.) is clearly labelled as so, and this should extend to event promotional material, example, a BBQ poster having "vegetarian, vegan and halal options available" on it.

A grill be purchased to be solely used for halal food only (and be properly labelled as such).

Moved: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED

WELFARE

Centrelink Payments

24th April 2012 - Meeting 7(12)

That UMSU condemns Joe Hockey's statements [about welfare] and calls for a maintenance and expansion of student income support and the welfare state. That the Student Union lobby federal members in the lead up to the Federal Budget on Student Income Support and the Welfare State.

Moved: Carl LaRosa

Seconded: Jade Eckhaus

CARRIED

11th August 2020 – Meeting 14(20)

UMSU supports the following list of demands of the LIFE campaign:

1. Keep the Rate! NO cuts to JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments. JobKeeper direct to workers.
2. No-One Left Behind! Raise all other allowance payments and pensions (Aged Pension, Disability Support Pension, Youth Allowance and Carers Pension) to a minimum \$1100 per fortnight. Extend the JobSeeker and JobKeeper allowances to recent migrants, overseas workers and international students. Increase the minimum wage. Keep free childcare. Massive new investment in public and affordable housing.
3. End Harassment! For Social Security with Dignity. Abolish Mutual Obligation. End the Community Development Program (remote Work for the Dole) and forced income management provisions such as the Cashless Welfare Card and Basics Card. No return to Robodebts. Stop harassment by dodgy Job Providers. Public ownership and control of Social Security and Employment Services.

Action:

UMSU will communicate with LIFE its endorsement of the campaign and its demands. UMSU will post on its social media its endorsement of the LIFE campaign.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Noni Bridger

CARRIED

Cost-of-Living

21st April 2023 – Meeting 8(23)

1. UMSU endorses the National Union of Students May Day 'The People Versus The Rich' campaign.
2. UMSU condemns the state and federal Labor governments for their abandoning of

students and workers during this current cost of living crisis.

3. UMSU condemns the federal Labor government's tax handouts to the wealthiest Australians, in the form of the stage 3 tax cuts and negative gearing offsets.

Moved: Lucy Kelly

Seconded: Bella Beiraghi

CARRIED

Government Budgets

19 May 2023 – Meeting 10(23)

Platform:

1. UMSU condemns the budget as inadequate to solving the cost-of-living crisis facing workers and students.

Moved: Julien Macandili

Seconded: Sam Rathnaweera

CARRIED

Housing

25th August 2016 - Meeting 15(16)

1. UMSU stands in solidarity with the occupants of Parkville and Bendigo Street, which include victims of domestic violence, young children, and LGBT+ people. The majority of occupants have been battling homelessness for years due to lack of resources and public stigma.
2. UMSU condemns both Victorian Housing Minister's actions in calling the police and trying to forcibly displace these people without offering them alternative accommodation, and the Housing Minister's current inaction that have led to a housing crisis where the incidents of homeless have increased by 74 percent in two years.

Moved: Lotus Ye

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

July 8th 2020 – Meeting 13(20)

UMSU stands in solidarity with these residents, whose mistreatment is reprehensible given that they are themselves the frontline workers hailed as heroes in a more naïve time.

UMSU advocates for more public housing, especially given the fact that the high incidence of transmission in these blocks was due to the cramped conditions and poor maintenance of facilities (a consequence of overcrowding) in the first place.

UMSU (once again) affirms that ACAB and all those who support them are too. Thuggery

should not be the go-to response for public crises, and we instead call for the abolition of the police whose functions would be better performed by social workers in this case.

Action:

UMSU shall issue a statement expressing support for these residents and deplore this needlessly hostile response, signed, and shared by every department. Just as we condemned cops for invading our campus so too shall we defend the communities on our doorstep.

Students Council shall allocate \$5000 out of Whole of Union expenses to The Venny, a “free communal backyard” for vulnerable children in Kensington and is working directly with the families affected by the lockdown.

Students Council encourages all departments to find meaningful ways to take action on this issue – a union is nothing if it does not find ways to engage with and enrich its community.

Moved: Max Dowell

Seconded: Tejas Gandhi

CARRIED

10th March 2023 - Meeting 5(23)

2. UMSU endorses the National Union of Students’ ‘Get a Room - Students for Affordable Housing’ campaign.
3. UMSU condemns the for-profit private student housing providers, all of whom take exorbitant amounts of students’ money for poor-quality housing.
4. UMSU condemns the ridiculous prices of the University colleges, which puts an upward pressure on the cost of student housing.
5. UMSU stands in solidarity with Cherish Kuehlmann, UNSW Education Officer, who was arrested for leading a student housing protest at the Reserve Bank. UMSU calls for the NSW state government to drop all charges against her.

Moved: James Gallagher

Seconded: Amaya Castro Williams

CARRIED

Local Business

20th March 2025 – Meeting 4(25)

UMSU condemns the attacks on the Heart of Carlton and any threats to community spaces that support students.

UMSU affirms its support for locally owned businesses that prioritise student needs, in line with the UMSU Ethical Register.

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Luv Golecha

CARRIED

Placement Poverty

20th March 2025 – Meeting 4(25)

UMSU supports the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) in its advocacy for medical students and its Placement Poverty Campaign.

Action:

1. Assist AMSA in reaching its goals by promoting their work through UMSU channels and student networks.
2. Advocate for discussions with upper university management on how placement poverty affects medical students and explore potential institutional support mechanisms.
3. Collaborate with AMSA to develop and share social media infographics that educate students and the wider public on the financial struggles of medical students and the need for policy change.

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Luv Golecha (on behalf of Tony Huang, UniMelb AMSA Rep)

CWD

Price-Gouging

Friday 8 March 2024, 4(24)

1. That UMSU condemns the profiteering of supermarket companies like Coles and Woolworths.
2. That UMSU publicly calls on the federal government to implement immediate price caps on the cost of essential foodstuff.
3. That UMSU publicly calls on the federal government to seize the combined 2.7 billion dollars in profit from Coles and Woolies (2023) to be put into free food programs for all workers and students.

Moved: Clement Wu

Seconded: Anndrya Chua

CARRIED

Victorian Bail Laws

11th April 2025 – Meeting 5(25)

Platform:

1. UMSU opposes the new Victorian Bail Laws that disproportionately target marginalized communities and instead advocates for systemic investment in

education, housing, and social support to address the root causes of crime.

2. UMSU recognizes that rising crime rate as problem for Victorian families, and recognize that need for better victim support services, and the further investment in public education.

Action:

1. UMSU Education and the UMSU President will raise awareness of the issue in advocacy efforts.
2. The UMSU President and UMSU Indigenous will reach out to Murrup Barrak to prepare a joint statement addressed to the Victorian Government to express concern on how these changes will:
 - a. disproportionately impact First Nations people; and
 - b. disproportionately impact marginalised communities; and
 - c. be inconsistent with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights.

Moved: Viraj Patel

Seconded: Joshua Stagg

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Abortion

3rd June 2009 - Meeting 13(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union supports the right of all women to choose what happens to their bodies. UMSU stands with pro-choice protestors in Brisbane who are calling for the charges to be dropped. UMSU condemns these charges and demands they be dropped immediately, and abortion be decriminalised.

Moved: Chair

Abstentions: 1

CARRIED

17th December 2013 - Meeting 23(13)

1. That Students' Council congratulates and supports pro-choice activists for their lively counterdemonstration defending every woman's right to control their own body.
2. That Students' Council condemns those who attended the anti-woman, anti-choice 'March for the Babies'.
3. That Students' Council condemns the Melbourne University Liberal Club for attending the sexist, anti-choice 'March for the Babies' and reaffirms that UMSU stands against sexism.

Moved: Jade Eckhaus

Seconded: Jeremy Galvin

CARRIED

4th March 2020 – Meeting 5(20)

1. UMSU stands in solidarity with the activists of the abortion rights movement as it continues in Argentina.
2. UMSU fully supports the struggle for abortion rights in Australia including struggles against the Religious Exemptions Bill which will make it more difficult for women to have access to abortions.
3. UMSU stands against police brutality, state violence, and structural sexism around the world.

Moved: Hannah Krasovec

Seconded: Hannah Buchan

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

International Working Women's Day

20th February 2023 – Meeting 4(23)

- UMSU endorses the International Working Women’s Day March on the 8th of March, 2023 as organised by We Are Union Women.
- UMSU commits to organising a contingent to the International Working Women’s Day March to be led by the UMSU Women’s Department.
- UMSU will promote the International Working Women’s Day March on its social media and newsletter.
- UMSU acknowledges the increase in harmful TERF and SWERF presence at recent IWWD rallies, and reaffirms that UMSU stands against transphobia and discrimination against sex workers both at this event and within the femme liberation movement.

Moved: Alessandra Soliven

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann

CARRIED

16th February 2024 – Meeting 3(24)

- UMSU endorses the International Working Women’s Day March on the 7th of March, 2024 as organised by We Are Union Women at 5:30pm.
- UMSU commits to organising a contingent to the International Women’s Day March to be led by the UMSU Women’s Department.
- UMSU will promote the International Women’s Day March on its social media and newsletter.
- UMSU acknowledges the increase in harmful TERF and SWERF presence at recent IWD rallies, and reaffirms that UMSU stands against transphobia and discrimination against sex workers both at this event and within the femme liberation movement.

Moved: Micaela Rynne

Seconded: Rachael Hynds

CWD

Sexism

12th March 2021 - Meeting 4(21)

1. UMSU condemns the sexism entrenched by the Liberal Party and other institutions of the capitalist class, such as private schools and colleges.
2. UMSU calls for Christian Porter to be sacked as Attorney-General for his long history of sexist behaviour.
3. UMSU endorses the Women’s March 4 Justice

Moved: Xavier Dupe

Seconded: Sian Tjia Hennessey

CARRIED

WORKERS' RIGHTS & UNIONS

Australian Education Union

24th April 2012 - Meeting 7(12)

That UMSU support Victorian teachers in any upcoming industrial action.

Moved: Jeremy Gibson

Seconded: Patrick Alves

ABSTENTIONS: 1

CARRIED

Australian Unemployed Workers Union

11th August 2020 – Meeting 14(20)

UMSU supports maintaining the current rate of Job Seeker, Youth Allowance, and other payments accessed by students.

UMSU supports the extension of welfare payments to permanent residents and international students permanently.

UMSU rejects the model of employment services in Australia as one dominated by for profit businesses who have no interest in providing employment services to those on welfare payments.

UMSU condemns the decision by the federal government to lower the rate of payments at the end of September.

UMSU condemns classism and the portrayal of welfare recipients in Australian media.

UMSU encourages other student and industry unions to support the campaigns of the AUWU and encourages them to fight for unemployed workers.

Action:

UMSU endorses the AUWU Mutual Obligations strike and will release a statement on their social media.

Moved: Noni Bridger

Seconded: Felix Sharkey

CARRIED

CFMEU

21st October 2022 – Meeting 17(22)

- UMSU Students' Council condemns Knauf's aim to reduce job security by expanding the

use of casual and labour-hire contracts and deliver a real wage cut to workers by offering a below-inflation pay agreement.

- UMSU Students' Council expresses its support and solidarity with the striking CFMEU workers at the Knauf Port Melbourne facility.

Moved: Frankie Kennedy

Seconded: Raphael Duffy

CARRIED

20th September 2024 – Meeting 13(24)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the ALP for putting the CFMEU into administration.
- UMSU supports the two strikes called by the construction union.

Moved: Oskar Martin

Seconded: Sam Eggleston

CARRIED

Community and Public Sector Union

21st April 2023 – Meeting 8(23)

1. UMSU stands against all cuts to Victoria's public services.
2. UMSU condemns the Victorian Labor government for placing the interests of business ahead of the working class.

Moved: Maeve Russack

Seconded: Raphael Duffy

CARRIED

Electrical Trades Union

13th September 2016 - Meeting 16(16)

UMSU condemns this vicious attack on workers and their unions and demands that CUB immediately reinstate the 55 on their original pay and conditions. UMSU supports the picket and is heartened by the support it has received from fellow workers and the community.

Moved: Jason Wong

Seconded: James Bashford

ABSTENTIONS: Xavier Boffa

CARRIED

Gig Economy

26th April 2024 – Meeting 7(24)

Action:

- That UMSU supports students at the University of Melbourne who are Gig Economy workers, recognizing the higher rates of International Students who go into Gig Economy work to relieve cost-of-living pressures.

Moved: Julian De Marco

Seconded: Gursagar Singh Sekhon

CARRIED

International Workers Movement

Over the early months of this year the University and College Union in Britain has executed a large scale strike to protect working conditions and pensions for University Staff. The central question of the UCU strike has been around the issue of casualisation with Universities aiming to make it easier to fire employees and leave them with virtually no benefits or secure source of income.

The strike is occurring in more than sixty universities and has been running since late February with unionists refusing to capitulate on their demands and with students unionists standing in solidarity with them, arguing with other students the importance of a picket line and why it should not be crossed.

UCU have also stated that this is a political battle between how the future of universities should be shaped. The administration desires a push to a business model of education in which students are customers who purchase their degrees at the highest rate possible meanwhile they push the conditions of the staff down in order to turn over the most profit possible. Staff and students within these universities are fighting to see education as a right, not a commodity.

These dynamics are not isolated to the UK however. Melbourne University also faces similar circumstances, with staff conditions under threat.

Motion:

- UMSU supports the UCU strikes and the USS campaign.
- UMSU recognises the importance of industrial action for staff trying to improve their conditions and acknowledges the importance of student unions playing a productive role in those strikes.
- UMSU recognises that when industrial action is taken by staff it is the union's responsibility to not be conciliatory to any attempt by administration to sabotage strike action.
- UMSU will make a public statement of support for the ongoing action taken by UCU and the students supporting their staff.

Moved: Melinda Suter

Seconded: Nick Reich

CARRIED

SDA/RAFFWU

23rd January 2020 – Meeting 3(20)

1. That UMSU stands in solidarity with all victims of wage theft.
2. That UMSU condemns Domino's for the mistreatment of their workers.

Actions:

1. Students' Council and any relevant departmental committees will not approve any expenditure for Domino's Pizza.
2. UMSU Student Representative and Staff Departments will not use Domino's pizza at any events, collectives, or functions.
3. The UMSU Clubs & Societies officer will communicate this information to all UMSU Clubs & Societies, and direct clubs to use alternative food vendors to cater their events.
4. UMSU condemns the Fair Work Commission established by the Gillard Government for its approval of dodgy EBAs that allow underpayment to run rampant.

Moved: Hannah Buchan

Seconded: Felix Sharkey

CARRIED

29th September 2020 – Meeting 18(20)

UMSU condemns the leadership of the SDA union and its reactionary politics.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Gurpreet Singh

DISSENT: JOSHUA BRUNI

CARRIED

United Workers Union

13th August 2015 - Meeting 19(15)

That the student union support the strike action of these workers [Melbourne Liquor Distribution Warehouse] in their fight for job security and better working conditions.

Moved: Lia Vassilidis

Seconded: Patrick Dollard

CARRIED

24th September 2019 – Meeting 19(19)

UMSU stands in solidarity with the workers at Crown Casino in their ongoing dispute.

UMSU expresses its disappointment in the Biomed Students' Society for moving their Biomed Ball to Crown Casino after the large public rally.

UMSU Students Council believes that engaging in businesses where workers in industrial action undermines the industrial strength of already vulnerable workers.

UMSU Students Council, the Clubs & Societies Officers and the President will investigate ways in which to educate the student population about industrial actions to ensure that no UMSU resources are used in unethical businesses or where workers in a dispute are undermined.

Moved: Gurpreet Singh

Seconded: Josh Harmer-Ross

CARRIED

Young Workers Centre

24th April 2012 - Meeting 16(17)

The Young Worker's Centre operates out of Trades Hall in Carlton and aims to inform young Australians below the age of 30 of their rights at work. They also assist in getting young people back pay, helping them approach their employer about issues they see at work, and generally helping to engage young people in the union movement.

In light of the recent scandals from Grill'd, 7/11, Bakers Delight, and Subway (to only name a few), the Young Worker's Centre has dedicated time to educating workers about the systematic failures of the franchise operating model so that they may begin to reform their workplace. This might take the form of terminating zombie agreements, or collectively speaking to management.

In order to take the fight to the next level, YWC has launched a survey collecting the experiences of people who have worked for a franchise. This information will be used to better inform their campaign against stores that systematically exploit young people.

1. That UMSU endorses the survey and reaffirms its solidarity with young workers, many of whom are university students attempting to make ends meet.
2. UMSU spreads the survey via its weekly newsletter and publicizes it via relevant social media channels.

Moved: Louis Devine

Seconded: Desiree Cai

CARRIED

WORLD ISSUES

Argentina

19th July 2024 – Meeting 10(24)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the Argentinian federal police and the government of The city of Buenos Aires for their use of unrestricted force on peaceful protestors.
- UMSU demands the immediate release of all protestors arrested for attending the June 12 protests.
- UMSU recognises the democratic right to peaceful protest

Action:

UMSU signs onto the petition for the release of political prisoners

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddQxR1EWpnuaInDkyia0o9a8FhcBQU T356shBIbzXzY9VJIA/viewform>

Moved: Lucy Chapman-Kelly

Seconded: Oskar Martin

CWD

Bangladesh

22nd August 2024 – Meeting 12(24)

Platform:

UMSU supports the anti-government protests in Bangladesh.

UMSU condemns the murder and locking up of innocent protestors in Bangladesh.

Moved: Yasmeen Atieh

Seconded: Penelope Scacciante

CARRIED

Chile

24th April 2012 - Meeting 7(12)

That UMSU send a letter of solidarity and support to CONFECH and encourage NUS to do the same.

Moved: Patrick Alber

Seconded: Jeremy Gibson

Abstentions: 2

CARRIED

Hong Kong

29th July 2019 – Meeting 13(19)

1. UMSU expresses solidarity with the Hong Kong protestors, and with all Chinese people who face oppression and subjugation at the hands of the Chinese Communist government.
2. UMSU condemns the Chinese Communist government for its ongoing human rights abuses and efforts to undermine Hong Kong's independence, and the Carrie Lam Hong Kong government for betraying its own constituents.
3. UMSU will publish a notice expressing support for the Hong Kong protestors and students from Hong Kong who study at UniMelb in the next edition of Farrago.

Moved: Tim Lilly

Seconded: Joshua Bruni

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

8th July 2020 – Meeting 13(20)

UMSU condemns the University of Melbourne for advertising the Probationary Inspector job for the Hong Kong Police Force.

UMSU condemns the police brutality and crushing of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

UMSU reaffirms its commitment to the freedom to protest, and opposition to all police brutality.

UMSU reaffirms its position of ACAB.

Actions:

UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to remove the job listing, as it acts against the interests of democracy and human rights.

UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to not advertise jobs in foreign police forces or militaries in the future.

Moved: Hannah Krasovec

Seconded: Gurpreet Singh

CARRIED

India

23rd January 2020 – 3(20)

UMSU stands in solidarity with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia and Jawaharlal Nehru University at this time when they are being persecuted and attacked for raising their voices against injustice, and with the JNU Students' Union, for showing the continued courage of standing up for their rights in the face of intimidation and opposition.

UMSU condemns the violence being perpetrated against students on these campuses and calls for a systematic and unbiased investigation into the people and institutions responsible.

Moved: Andie Moore

Seconded: Lachlan Hines

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

11th December 2020 – 1(21)

UMSU stands in solidarity with Indians across the world who are continuing protesting the tyrannical and bigoted Government of India.

UMSU extends solidarity to the present general strikes and marches across the country by Sikh and Dalit farmers, protesting against the corporatisation of land and crop revenue.

UMSU retracts the [23rd January 2020 – Meeting 3(20)] motion calling the state of India oppressive and claiming that it is built on apartheid and genocide. UMSU recognises that the Union of India has a rich and diverse history and is built by hundreds of communities who worked together to achieve independence.

UMSU recognises the xenophobic nature of its earlier stance and apologises to all Indian students who were made to feel unsafe because of an ignorant decision made by the members of that Students' Council.

UMSU recognises that the present government of India is in no way equivalent to the Indian state and denounces all individuals who attempt to conflate the two.

UMSU condemns the actions of the ruling party which is a right-wing party in India, the actions of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah condemning the actions and blatant and divisive political tactics that they have created in the largest democracy on earth. The recently passed law of Citizen's amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of citizens act (NRC) are dangerous, offensive and is based on xenophobic and Islamophobic attitudes and is a divisive and blatant attack on the minorities of India. India's current political standing and ruling party BJP is based on social oppression and racial injustice.

UMSU condemns Hindutva and all other form of Hindu Indian nationalism.

Moved: Archit Agarwal
Chatterjee)

Seconded: Muskaan Hakhu (on behalf of Srishti

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Iran

23rd January 2020 – 3(20)

1. To unconditionally oppose war on Iran and further imperialist wars wherever they are.
2. To endorse the January 25th No War On Iran protest, organised by the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network and the Worker Student Alliance.
3. To commit to taking further action should war be escalated.

Moved: Gurpreet Singh

Seconded: Matthew Harper-Gomm

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

23rd January 2023 – Meeting 3(23)

UMSU stands in solidarity with the nationwide rebellion in Iran, recognising it as a popular democratic struggle of the masses of ordinary Iranians against the regime. We stand in solidarity with the efforts of student activists on campuses and condemn the state’s brutal repression of protests. UMSU also stands in solidarity with workers across the country who are organising in independent trade unions and striking to fight for their demands. The struggle in Iran is an inspiration to everyone fighting against exploitation and oppression and we champion their demand for “women, life, freedom!”

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Sam Rathnaweera

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Israel-Palestine

19th May 2009 - Meeting 12(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns Israel’s war on the population of Gaza. The University of Melbourne Student Union calls for Israel to lift the blockade of Gaza’s borders and allow the passage of all food, fuel, and medical supplies. The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns the Australian Government and Western governments around the world for ignoring the plight of the Palestinian people.

Moved: Sadia Schneider

Seconded: Liam Byrne

FOR: Josh Schmidt via Phoebe Kelloway, Phoebe Kelloway, Liam Byrne, Onagh Bishop via Dominique Ottobre, Dominique Ottobre Taylor Kendall and Dan Musil (7)

AGAINST: Goldie Pergl, Jesse Overton-Skinner, Kyle Dadleh, James Smith via Clinton Markwell, Clinton Markwell, John Shipp (6)

ABSTENTIONS: Brendan Thomas-Noone, Sisi Ying via Goldie Pergl and Rudolph Hosri (3)

CARRIED

1st August 2024 – Special Meeting 2(24)

Action:

- UMSU supports an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.
- This means stopping the bombing, a permanent withdrawal of Israeli troops, an end to the 18-year long blockade, and reparations to be paid for the reconstruction of Gaza.
- UMSU is constitutionally opposed to all forms of violence and/or hatred through

militarism, accordingly, we condemn all violence committed against civilian populations by Hamas and the IDF.

Moved: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Kevin Li

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

22nd August 2024 – Meeting 12(24)

Platform:

UMSU condemns the targeted killings of journalists by Israel.

Moved: Lola Bowers

Seconded: Reema Ababneh

CARRIED

10th October 2024 – Meeting 14(24)

Platform:

- UMSU opposes Israel’s twelve months long genocidal terror campaign on Gaza 10
- UMSU opposes the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank
- UMSU supports the anti-war and anti-genocide protests that were organised on Oct 6 as a national day of action for Palestine

Action:

- UMSU will promote the Oct 13th Sunday protest against the genocide in Gaza called by Free Palestine Melbourne on social media and via a Presidents email

Moved: Jaan Schild

Seconded: Penelope Scacciante

CARRIED

22 September 2025 – Meeting 9(25)

Platform:

- That UMSU endorses the October 12th nationwide day of action for Palestine

Action:

- The UMSU President will encourage students to attend the October 12th nationwide day of action for Palestine via an all-students email.

Moved: Yasmeen Atieh

Seconded: Bella Beiraghi

For: Bingchan, Lushy, Marc, Kevin, Anndrya, Oskar, Yashesvi, Ethan, Daniel, Maria, Amaya, Yasmeen, Lottie, Bella, Joseph, Kerry, Junaid, Toby

19th January 2026 – Meeting 2(26)

Platform:

- UMSU condemns the Australian Labor government’s invitation of Isaac Herzog to address the Australian parliament.
- UMSU upholds the United Nations’ Independent Commission of Inquiry which found that Herzog’s statements regarding the Israeli occupation amounted to “direct and public incitement to commit genocide” under the Genocide Convention.

Action:

- UMSU will endorse and encourage students to attend a forthcoming protest against Herzog’s visit
- The UMSU president will repost content relating to this motion, including encouraging students to attend the aforementioned protest.

Moved: Amaya Castro Williams

Seconded: Aidan Wujanto-Hawe

CWD

19th January 2026 – Meeting 2(26)

Platform:

- UMSU endorses the National Day of Action for Palestine on March 11th.
- UMSU condemns the Australian Government for its ongoing complicity in the genocide in Gaza.
- UMSU demands the Australian government sanction Israel.

Action:

- UMSU will encourage students to attend the National Day of Action protest in Melbourne on Wednesday March 11.
- The UMSU president will repost social media content by the National Union of Students relating to this motion, including encouraging students to attend the aforementioned protest and the UniMelb student contingent to said protest.
- The UMSU president will send this information to UMSU members via the President’s News at the beginning of Semester One.

Moved: Aidan Wujanto-Hawe

Seconded: Amaya Castro Williams

CWD

Lebanon

10th October 2024 – Meeting 14(24)

Platform:

- UMSU opposes Israel’s war on Lebanon
- UMSU condemns the Australian government for supporting Israel’s war on Lebanon
- UMSU opposes the media’s attacks on anti-genocide, anti-war, pro-Palestine protests

Action:

- UMSU will release a statement opposing Israel’s war on Lebanon and in support of anti-war protests in Melbourne

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Oskar Martin

CARRIED

Myanmar

5th February 2021 - Meeting 3(21)

- UMSU affirms its solidarity with the citizen led government of Myanmar.
- UMSU stands against the military coup executed by Myanmar’s army and any form of militaristic and anti-democratic governments.
- UMSU urges the military to follow the rule of law, and to release those detained.
- UMSU supports all the civil servants who are participating in civil disobedience protest in Myanmar.

Moved: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Muskaan Hakhu

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Sudan

5th May 2023 – Meeting 9(23)

- UMSU stands in solidarity with the Sudanese community and calls for an end for the war in Sudan.
- UMSU maintains that this is not a civil war as this is a conflict between military and militia.
- UMSU calls on the Australian government to provide safe passage for citizens in Sudan as well as provide humanitarian-based visas for noncitizens.
- UMSU calls on the government to work with NGOs to provide medical aid and essential items for people in Sudan.

- UMSU condemns the military and rapid support forces militia and their attempts to destabilize civilian rule and maintains that the only legitimate Sudanese government is a civilian led one.

Moved: Hiba Adam

Seconded: Mohamed Hadi

CARRIED

Canada

4th March 2020 – Meeting 5(20)

UMSU recognises that the fight for environment is tied up with the fight for indigenous struggles particularly land rights.

UMSU recognises that the environment is an important mobilising issue for young people all around the world and commits to supporting and promoting climate activism in Melbourne.

UMSU stands in solidarity with the Wet-suwet-en struggle.

Moved: Nick Reich

Seconded: Emma Dynes

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT