

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Students’ Council**

**Minutes**

**Monday 8 July 2024, 12pm**

**Special Meeting 1(24)**

**Location: Zoom**

[**https://unimelb.zoom.us/s/85161767235**](https://unimelb.zoom.us/s/85161767235)

**Meeting opened at 12:10pm**

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

Motion 1: That Kevin Li be elected as Chair

Moved: Kevin Li

CARRIED

* 1. **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians**

So acknowledged.

* 1. **Attendance**

*Councillors*

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| **Representatives on Students’ Council** | **Full name** | **Attended?** |
| **Students of Colour Representative on Students’ Council** | Wen Hao (Clement) Wu | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council Indigenous Representative** | Oskar Martin | *Yes* |
| **Students with Disabilities Representative on Students’ Council** | Sameeksha Mudigere Keshav | *Yes* |
| **Queer Representative on Students’ Council** | Tianyi Yu | *Proxy requested* |
| **International Student Representative on Students’ Council** | Navyaa Jain | *No* |
| **Graduate Student Representative on Students’ Council** | Yashica Mishra | *Yes* |
| **Southbank Student Representative on Students’ Council** | Hugh Collins | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Harrishman Shobanan | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | vaibhav girdhar | *Proxy requested* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Mehul Gopalakrishnan | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Lucy Kelly | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Alessandra Grace Baggio Ward | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Leon Paratz | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Yash Sah | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Kunal Dewani | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Penelope Scacciante | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Pranav Gupta | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Anndrya Chua | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Ibrahim Muan Abdulla | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Rachael Hynds | *Yes* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Natalie Sinicka | *Resigned* |
| **Students’ Council (General Representative)** | Labdhi Gandhi | *Yes* |

*Office Bearers*

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| **Department** | **Full name** | **Attended?** |
| **President** | Disha Zutshi | *Yes* |
| **General Secretary** | Enzhe (Kevin) Li | *Yes* |
| **Activities Officer** | Amy Peters | *No* |
| **Creative Arts Officer** | Shravya Akkapeddi | *Yes* |
| **Creative Arts Officer** | Jiajie Zheng | *No* |
| **Clubs & Societies Officer** | Azalea Rohaizam | *No* |
| **Clubs & Societies Officer** | Chatarina Hanny Angelita Teja | *Yes* |
| **Disabilities Officer** | Anishaa Jeyakumar | *No* |
| **Education (Academic Affairs) Officer** | Julian De Marco | *Yes* |
| **Education (Academic Affairs) Officer** | Lucy Rachman Vascotto | *Yes* |
| **Education (Public Affairs) Officer** | Raphael Duffy | *Yes* |
| **Education (Public Affairs) Officer** | Bella Beiraghi | *Yes* |
| **Environment Officer** | Emma Dynes | *Yes* |
| **Environment Officer** | Jaan Schild | *Yes* |
| **Indigenous Officer** | Hamish Rose | *Yes* |
| **Media Officer** | Joel Duggan | *Yes* |
| **Media Officer** | Gunjan Ahluwalia | *Yes* |
| **Media Officer** | Kien-Ling Liem | *Yes* |
| **Media Officer** | Jessica Fanwong | *Yes* |
| **People of Colour Officer** | Denzil Minnaar | *No* |
| **People of Colour Officer** | Ying Kwan Jania Lam | *No* |
| **Queer Officer** | Binderiya Batzorig | *Yes* |
| **Queer Officer** | Ryan Mittal | *Yes* |
| **Welfare Officer** | Joshua Stagg | *Yes* |
| **Welfare Officer** | Divyanshi Sati | *Yes* |
| **Women’s Officer** | Akanksha Agarwal | *N/A* |
| **Women’s Officer** | Micaela Rynne | *Apology* |
| **Burnley Campus Coordinator** | Jake Duyvestyn | *N/A* |
| **Southbank Campus Co-ordinator** | Ariel Teo | *No* |
| **Southbank Activities Officer** | Justine Light De Guzman | *No* |
| **Southbank Education Officer** | Felicity Patrice Liston | *No* |

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Mary Kin Chan (minute taker), Natasha Lee (EA to CEO)

* 1. **Apologies**

*Office Bearers:* Micaela Rynne

* 1. **Proxies**
     1. Vaibhav Girdhar to Kunai Dewani
     2. Clement Wu to Tianyi Yu

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| Motion 2: To accept the proxies for this Council en bloc.  Moved: Chair  CARRIED |

* 1. **Leave of Absence Requests**
  2. **Membership**
  3. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1. **Conflicts of Interest Declaration**
2. **Correspondence**
   1. **Council Briefing Paper**

The Chair spoke to the procedure on amending Electoral Regulations. Council may only make recommendations to the Electoral Tribunal regarding the amendment of the Electoral Regulations. Council does not have the power to amend the Regulations itself. Changes to the Regulations may only be made by a vote in the Electoral Tribunal.

The Chair went through each proposed change outlined in the Briefing Paper

Mehul Gopalakrishnan proposed an amendment:

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| **Proposed Amendment:**  That the council endorses the following changes to the electoral regulation for the consideration of the electoral tribunal:  R6.3 & R6.4 changes to Restrictions on Standing;  R26.3(b) to endorse RO recommendation to ban multiple pieces of posters;  R26.3(e) to endorse RO recommendation to ban postering against uni policy;  R17, R18.3(a), (b), (d), (e), (f), R19.4, R19.5, R19.9, R19.10 to refer to business days as opposed to Academic days to recognise that the business of UMSU continues outside of the Academic period;  R44 Proposed addition of a mechanism to improve enforcement of R44.5(ee) through student id checks; and  R49 proposal to add a definition of “Business Days” to support the proposed amendments to RR17, 18 and 19.  Mover: Mehul Gopalakrishnan Seconder: Anndrya Chua |

Julian supported Mischief’s amendment, noting a risky Constitutional implication if the proposed Front Page Voting provisions were recommended in this Council.

Sara noted a correction to the Briefing Paper, which noted “These proposals have been considered by the Constitution, Regulations and Policy Working Group which reconvened for the first time in 2024 on the 31st of May”. Sara clarified that only the proposed changes circulated in the last Council [the inquorate 9(24)] papers were considered by the CRPWG.

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| Motion 4: To recommend changes to the Electoral Regulations to the Electoral Tribunal as per the proposed amendment.  Moved: Mehul Gopalakrishnan Seconded: Anndrya Chua  CARRIED |

Kunal Dewani proposed an amendment:

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| **Proposed Amendment:**  That the recommended change to the electoral regulations under R6.5, R6.8, R9, R22, R23, R25, R35 and the parts of the change to R49 regarding "Front Page Voting" be deferred to further discussion in the CRPWG.  Mover: Kunal Dewani Seconder: Anndrya Chua |

Disha expressed that it is a necessity that UMSU endorses a Front Page Voting (FPV) clause for accessibility purposes.

Julian noted that having a consultative process to such changes within the union is key. FPV is a huge change to the way UMSU conducts its elections, as it will exacerbate big tickets “stacking” elections and excluding independent tickets from the process. He noted a need to ensure equal treatment to autonomous groups and special interest tickets.

Joel expressed that he is glad to see FPV deferred as there is issue with its constitutionality. He added that C15.5 of UMSU’s Constitution stipulates that separate ballots are required in the election. Beyond the Constitution this is also a matter of principle.

Ibrahim agreed with Joel, FPV was not discussed at the most recent CRPWG. FPV will not enhance accessibility of current voting system, as students have a right to be exposed to all competing tickets and candidates.

Lucy Chapman Kelly suggested that UMSU needs to maintain and support political activity, Clubs and Societies, and tickets of various sizes in the election process. FPV will force smaller tickets to affiliate with a larger group, which affects their independent voice.

Bella noted that what makes UMSU impactful is diversity and plurality in representing the voices of students at the University of Melbourne. She wants to see UMSU continue such diversity with grassroots tickets.

Disha clarified that FPV will not remove pre-existing tickets or smaller tickets from the election process.

Alessandra agreed with other members on the speaking list. FPV will make minor parties invisible, undermining UMSU’s diversity and accessibility to student politics.

Jaan expressed that the proposed FPV is undemocratic, not in spirit of the Purposes of UMSU and goes against the spirit of political contestation. He added that Students’ Council should constitute members holding different political ideas.

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| Motion 5: That the recommended change to the electoral regulations under R6.5, R6.8, R9, R22, R23, R25, R35 and the parts of the change to R49 regarding "Front Page Voting" be deferred to further discussion in the CRPWG.  Moved: Kunal Dewani Seconded: Anndrya Chua  CARRIED |

* 1. **Proposed Amendments to the Electoral Regulations**

Discussed with item 3.1 above.

1. **Close**

**Meeting closed at 12:37pm**