


<p>University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Students' Council Minutes Monday 19 January, 12pm Meeting 2(26) Location: William McMahon Ball Theatre, Old Arts; Zoom (on request)</p>	
--	---

Meeting opened at 12:22 pm

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Lushy Chinganya be elected as Chair
 Moved: Daniel Motika Seconded: Ethan McNeil
 CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT (CWD)

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Councillors

Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Marc Khor	Yes
Students' Council Indigenous Representative	<i>Vacant</i>	
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Catherine Duong	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Binderiya Batzorig	Yes
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Prayag Sethia	No
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Chengmin Shi	Yes
Southbank Student Representative on Students' Council	Matteo Bonson	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Dominic Lam Xan Jun	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Bhavin Garg	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Amaya Castro Williams	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Shrreyas Saluja	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Hannah Roseman-Gannon	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Siddhanth Subbaiah Belliappa	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	James Duncan	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Toby Putland	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Khush Shah	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Sophie Conlan	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Holly Kalns	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Somaya Qasimi	<i>Leave of Absence</i>

Students' Council (General Representative)	Devashree Kathale	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Felicity Bayne	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Mathilda Stewart	Yes

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Lushomo Chinganya	Yes
General Secretary	Daniel Motika	Yes
Activities Officer	Saaisa Vohra	Yes
Activities Officer	Chuanqing (Louis) Huang	No
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Ian Adams	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Ethan McNeil	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Yashesvi Verma	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Seamus Donnellan	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Alex Gwynn	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Maehula Datta	<i>Leave of Absence</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Corbin Afanasyev	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Hesheya T Anandan	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Hridey Kapoor	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Rutvi Tolani	Yes
Environment Officer	Bella Beiraghi	Yes
Environment Officer	Kay Pritchard	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Noah Kellett	No
Media Officer	Maria Carolina Lourenco Quartel	Yes
Media Officer	Ruby Weir-Alarcon	Yes
Media Officer	Sabine Pentecost	Yes
Media Officer	Chiaki Chng	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Anyang Wal	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Chengyang (Eason) Gu	Yes
Queer Officer	Lyton Namawanda	Yes
Welfare Officer	Tsun Ying (Cynthia) Wong	Yes
Welfare Officer	Alexander Hams	Yes
Women's Officer	Manika Birmiwai	No
Women's Officer	Eya Takrouni	<i>Leave of Absence</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Caleb Jarcevic	Yes
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Charlotte Dickinson	Yes
Southbank Activities Officer	Tirion Luff-White	Yes
Southbank Education Officer	Elizabeth Victoria Pardallis	Yes
UMSU International President	Momoka Honda	Yes

Others: Sara Pheasant (UMSU CEO), Lachie James (Head of Student Impact), Phoebe Churches (Div Manager – Advocacy & Legal), Lachlan McCallum (UMSU CFO), Fiona Sanders (Project Lead, Student Governance & Reporting), Alyssa Shaw (Div Manager – Student Representation), Nathan Ben-David (observer; President of MUJSS), Aidan Hawe (observer), Emily MacFarlane (observer), Corey Perkins (MUJSS representative), Emma Dynes

(observer), Hugh Collins (observer), Deniz Daymen (observer), Zainab Kazmi (observer), Zuhair Mobasshar (observer), Aidan Wujanto-Hawe (observer), Lottie Jenkins (observer)

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Maehula Datta

Councillors: Felicity Bayne

1.5. Proxies

- 1.5.1. Felicity Bayne to Emily MacFarlane
- 1.5.2. Sophie Conlan to Aidan Hawe
- 1.5.3. Hannah Roseman-Gannon to Emma Dynes
- 1.5.4. Shreyas Saluja to Zuhair Mobasshar
- 1.5.5. Somaya Qasimi to Zainab Kazmi
- 1.5.6. Prayag Sethia to Deniz Daymen

1.6. Leave of Absence Requests

1.6.1. For this Council:

- 1.6.1.1. Maehula Datta (19/01/2026)
- 1.6.1.2. Somaya Qasimi (19/01/2026)
- 1.6.1.3. Eya Takrouni

Motion 2: To accept Eya Takrouni's leave of absence request for this Council.

Moved: Ethan McNeil

Seconded: Daniel Motika

CWD

Motion 3: To accept the leave of absence requests for Maehula Datta and Somaya Qasimi.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Marc Khor

CWD

1.7. Membership

- 1.7.1. Jinyan (Vivan) Chen has resigned
- 1.7.2. Cinrey Liu has resigned
- 1.7.3. Marc Khor has been appointed to council
- 1.7.4. Devashree Kathale has been appointed to council
- 1.7.5. Bhavin Garg has been appointed to council
- 1.7.6. Amaya Castro Williams has been appointed to council

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 4: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Chair
CWD

Seconded: Marc Khor

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 10(25)

2.2. Minutes 1(26)

Motion 5: That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of these meetings.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Daniel Motika

CWD

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Daniel (General Secretary) spoke to the conflict of interest register, stating that it is being prepared as this has not been provided to Council. Encouraged everyone to declare conflicts.

No conflicts declared in the room.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

5.1. Appeal against C&S Committee decision lodged under C16.2 (Pacific Islands Student Association)

Chair noted that the paper on appeal has been provided to Council and took it as read.

Chair asked for representatives of the Pacific Islands Student Association present, no one identified themselves as belonging to the Club.

Chair asked C&S Officers to speak to the appeal. Alex Gwynn outlined a few points, and spoke to questions raised by the General Secretary who was contacted by the Club, asking for leniency. This included:

- C&S office bearers have provided a summary of issues to Council. This mainly concerns disaffiliation of the Pacific Islands Students Association due to activities reporting requirements not being met.
- The Pacific Islands Students Association was previously on probation.
- Concerns from Pacific Islands Student Association around reporting timeframes were noted by the C&S Committee, and timeline around the disaffiliation have been provided to Council. The grounds for the appeal by the Club are largely around timelines.
- An additional concern was also highlighted: that the Pacific Islands Students Association also has an outstanding AGM, which raises broader concerns around Club governance, that needs to be followed up. This additional issue would mean that a decision around disaffiliation, based on not fulfilling AGM requirements, could also be brought back to Council – indicating that there are multiple issues, and this could be an ongoing issue for Council to concern should the appeal not be upheld today.

- Alex noted that the C&S Committee has given considerable time and attention to consider this issue, and this decision to disaffiliate is in line with the Clubs regulations. Concerns were raised as to the Council not supporting the decision of the Committee, and stepping outside of regulations.
- The Pacific Islands Students Association would have a period of 1 year before they could reaffiliate.

Motion 6: To uphold the appeal.

Moved: Daniel Motika

Seconded: Alexander Hams

CWD

6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Lushomo Chinganya	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Daniel Motika	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Saaisa Vohra	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Chuanqing (Louis) Huang	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Ian Adams	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Ethan McNeil	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Yashesvi Verma	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Seamus Donnellan	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Alex Gwynn	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Maehula Datta	<i>Submitted Late</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Corbin Afanasyev	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Hesheya T Anandan	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Hridey Kapoor	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Rutvi Tolani	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Bella Beiraghi	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Kay Pritchard	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Noah Kellett	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Maria Carolina Lourenco Quartel	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Ruby Weir-Alarcon	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Sabine Pentecost	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Chiaki Chng	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Anyang Wal	<i>Not Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Chengyang (Eason) Gu	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Lyton Namawanda	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Tsun Ying (Cynthia) Wong	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Alexander Hams	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Manika Birmiwai	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Eya Takrouni	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Caleb Jarcevic	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Charlotte Dickinson	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Tirion Luff-White	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Elizabeth Victoria Pardallis	<i>Submitted</i>
UMSU International President	Momoka Honda	<i>Submitted</i>

Clarification made that reports marked as 'submitted late', have no bearing for this vote or the receiving of honoraria, but officers are asked to submit reports on time in future.

Motion 7: To approve the Office Bearer Reports.

Moved: Ethan McNeil

Seconded: Alexander Hams

CWD

7. CEO Report

7.1. CEO Report 2(26)

7.2. Approved 2026 Budget

7.3. Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee Terms of Reference

7.4. Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group Terms of Reference

7.5. Impact Strategy Working Group Terms of Reference

CEO took report as read, and provided a summary of key report points:

- EOI call to students for working groups, these working groups are largely internal to UMSU
- Updates on reporting to University of Melbourne
- CEO explained there was already over \$50k anticipated variance in the salary budget, which would be managed through cost savings where possible at this early stage of the year.
- CEO undertaking further discussions with UoM for additional resourcing for Advocacy and SHRC team to ensure compliance with the new National Code implementation, and to meet the demand of students.
- CEO placed a strong emphasis on needing to break even this year, and ensure resourcing is prioritised to supporting students

Points from following discussion:

- Questions from Media that the Media budget currently reflected \$80k, rather than \$85k agreed to in Budget– referred to CFO to investigate.
- General Secretary has not had the opportunity to review information regarding the FAR subcommittee, and will be asking that this not be considered as part of the motion.

Motion 8: To accept the CEO's report with the exception of references to the FAR subcommittee.

Moved: Daniel Motika

Seconded: Marc Khor

CWD

Motion 9: To accept the CEO's report.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Ethan McNeil

CWD

Daniel noted that he has put out an EOI for appointments to the FAR subcommittee, and only received a few applications.

Motion 10: To accept Catherine Duong to sit on the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

Moved: Daniel Motika
McNeil
CWD

Seconded: Ethan

8. Other Reports

9. Operational Business

9.1. Welfare Department motion

Motion withdrawn by Alexander.

Motion 11: To allocate \$1100 from capital expenditure line for union mart trolleys.

Moved: Alexander Hams

Seconded: Cynthia Wong

WITHDRAWN

9.2. Activities Department motion

Saisha spoke to the following points as mover of the motion:

- Raised concerns with funding not expended last year due to timing and operational processes
- Outlined financial position for Activities for 2025 FY emphasising that there has been appropriate management of funds and no over-spending
- This year's Activities OBs are asking for additional money to the Activities Budget that represents money that was passed at the Activities Committee in 2025, but not expended before the end of the year.
- Understood that this additional amount of money should not impact budget for 2026 and that the money should be in UMSU reserves.
- Saisha raised concerns that the 2026 Activities budget has been reduced by half, and money redistributed to Environment Department. The value of Activities in supporting new students, providing food and events.

The original seconder of the motion, Louis Huang, was not present at the meeting. Ethan agreed to second the motion but waived speaking rights.

Summary of discussion:

- CFO addressed the motion and discussed with the Activities Officer:
 - CFO raised concerns around audit and that this motion would be effectively asking to accrue costs from 2025 to 2026
 - Activities Officer is comparing budgets from last year to this year which shows a difference in spend. CFO response is that the forecast changes regularly and clarifies that the money from last year is not in reserves, and deficit from 2025 will end up being closer to \$550,000.
 - Activities Officer open to speaking to CFO further outside of Council.

- CEO addressed the motion and discussed with the Activities Officer:
 - Staff undertook a thorough investigation for quotes from last year to see if this money was expended, but this was not found.
 - Noted discussion last year around trying to find savings from Department underspend.
 - CEO highlighted opportunity for further funding at mid-year review, and encourages spending within current budget rather than adjust current budget at the start of year.
 - There is a current shortfall for 2026 and greater need to support staffing that directly supports students.
 - Approving this change in budget will mean moving to a budget deficit.
- Other aspects of discussion noted the importance of prioritising fundings to support students with advocacy needs.

Chair called for a vote on the motion.

Motion 12: To amend the Activities Department Budget to increase the allocation to \$175,000.

Moved: Saaisha Vohra

Seconded: Ethan McNeil

FAILED

9.3. Media Department delegation to Operations Sub-Committee

Ruby spoke to the motion, asked Council to move media operating budget to Op Sub in order to manage media budget more effectively, rather than bringing motions to Council.

Chair called for a vote on the motion.

Motion 13: To pass \$1,400 from budget code ending in 3264, \$2,700 from 3231, \$1,320.62 from 3744, \$7,200 from 3840, \$3,150 from 3846, \$252 from 3774, from the Media Department to the Operations Sub-Committee.

Moved: Ruby Weir-Alarcon

Seconded: Sabine Pentecost

CWD

9.4. Media Department motion

Ruby and Sabine spoke to the motion. Purpose of the motion is to ensure this cost can be covered, as this is a new cost previously covered by the UMSU Communications Team.

Chair called for a vote on the motion.

Motion 14: To approve \$1,440.00 from Subscriptions & literature (account code: 03-60-3774) to cover costs for four Adobe Creative Cloud Student Subscriptions needed to design Farrago editions.

Moved: Ruby Weir-Alarcon

Seconded: Sabine Pentecost

CWD

Chair moves a procedural motion –

Motion: To cede the Chair to Daniel Motika.

Question raised re Chair needing to be a woman for every second meeting. New Chair, Daniel Motika, clarifies that the requirements have been met.

10. Motions on Notice

10.1.

Preamble:

On 14 December 2025, Australia witnessed the deadliest act of terrorism in its history, when 15 people were murdered at Bondi Beach following an attack on a community gathering to celebrate the first night of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. The attack took place in a climate where many members of the Australian Jewish community, including many Jewish university students, were already feeling increasingly unsafe, vulnerable, and unwelcome.

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 against a backdrop of two years of escalating rhetoric (written and spoken) and violence (abuse and vandalism) that has left many people in the Australian Jewish community feeling vulnerable, unsafe and insecure,
- c. Acknowledge that actions (physical and virtual) have occurred on University of Melbourne campuses that have caused many Jewish students to feel vulnerable, unsafe, insecure and unwelcomed on campus,
- d. Affirm that Jewish students are entitled to attend the University of Melbourne without having to feel vulnerable, unsafe, insecure and unwelcomed,
- e. Affirm the right to free speech on campus is attended by an obligation to have regard to the effect (and not just the purpose or intention) of any action when exercising the right to free speech - in this case, the effect on the right for all University of Melbourne students and staff to feel safe, secure and welcomed,

and in response to clauses (a) and (e),

- f. Call upon the entire University of Melbourne community - students, clubs and societies, academic staff, and administration - to commit to the physical and psycho-social safety, security and well-being of Jewish students attending the University of Melbourne.

Nathan, President of the Jewish Students Society, exercised speaking rights as the mover:

- Aim of the motion to acknowledge harm and ensure safety.
- The motion acknowledges lived experience and current climate where students feel unsafe.
- Discrimination should not be tolerated, and there is a need to uphold safety of students - both psycho-social and physical.
- Rights need to be balanced - they are not absolute - and both history and environmental context should be considered.
- Discussions of sensitive issues, such as hatred, have limits based on law and common decency.
- It is important to feel free from harassment and intimidation when exercising free speech and consider the impact of free speech.
- Motion is intended to consider and have regard for fellow students. Not aimed to suppress free speech, but to ensure safety.
- The motion aims to ensure the obligation of UMSU to care for, and ensure safety for, fellow students - not aimed to be a political statement.

Seconded Cassie Spanger was not present, Corey Perkins was happy to second and waived speaking rights.

Kay and Mathilda proposed an amendment.

Proposed Amendment: To amend the motion as follows:
--

Original motion 10.1	Amendments to motion 10.1
<p>This motion calls on UMSU to:</p> <p>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</p> <p>b. Acknowledge this act of terror occurred against a backdrop of two years of escalating rhetoric (written and spoken) and violence (abuse and vandalism) that has left many people in the Australian Jewish community feeling vulnerable, unsafe and insecure</p> <p>c. Acknowledge that actions (physical and virtual) have occurred on University of Melbourne campuses that have caused many Jewish students to feel vulnerable, unsafe, insecure and unwelcomed on campus</p> <p>d. Affirm that Jewish students are entitled to attend the University of Melbourne without having to feel vulnerable, unsafe, insecure and unwelcomed</p> <p>e. Affirm the right to free speech on campus is attended by an obligation to have regard to the effect (and not just the purpose or intention) of any action when exercising the right to free speech - in this case, the effect on the right for all University of Melbourne students and staff to feel safe, secure and welcomed</p> <p>and in response to clauses (a) and (e),</p> <p>f. Call upon the entire University of Melbourne community - students, clubs and societies, academic staff, and administration - to commit to the physical and psycho-social safety, security and well-being of Jewish students attending the University of Melbourne.</p>	<p>This motion calls on UMSU to:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 organised by the neo-Nazi National Socialist Network, and the assault of an Imam and his wife in Melbourne.</p> <p>c. We reject any assertion or 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.</p> <p>d. Affirm that Jewish students are entitled to attend the University of Melbourne without facing racial or religious discrimination.</p> <p>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 criticises ideologies or states.</p> <p>and in responses to clauses (a) and (c),</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Moved: Kay Pritchard</p>	<p>Seconded: Mathilda Stewart</p>

Kay spoke to the amendments:

- Condemned Bondi attack and asserted the need to make changes and take action given the climate.
- Comfort and safety are distinct concepts - emphasised there is also a difference between antisemitism and being uncomfortable. Called for the need to be more explicit with motions to address issues and address antisemitic activity.
- Acknowledged evidence of recent attacks and current Neo-Nazi activity, including sharing their own lived experience of discrimination.
- Raised concerns about conflating issues to limit the pro-Palestinian movement

Mathilda spoke to the amendments:

- UMSU should condemn the Bondi attack, antisemitism, and racism
- Raised concerns that aspects of the current motion can set up a framework that could diminish free speech and could conflate issues to limit pro-Palestinian support.
- Asked for support for amendment.

Chair opened the speaking list on the amendment. Summary of 3 additional speakers who made comment on the motion:

- Clear unification around racism and antisemitism being unwelcome
- Drawing distinctions between concepts is important so that political disagreement can exist. The distinction between safety and discomfort is raised and parallels drawn to other issues and groups that could feel this way, such as abortion
- This motion is being considered within the current environment, which includes politicisation of recent attack which has led to comments from Federal politicians that link the pro-Palestinian Bridge Protest and the Bondi terror attack
- Concerns around attacking free speech, and the pro-Palestinian movement in particular
- Need to consider the specificity of the motion - around antisemitism, rather than racism more broadly
- One speaker shared their lived experience of being near the Bondi attack site and the impact of this
- Support expressed for the amendments communicating more clearly the intent of the original motion.
- Concerns raised that Bondi is not reflecting racism, so much as terrorism by extremist groups such as ISIS, and this is not clearly considered in the discussion.

Chair closed the speaking list. Called for a vote to amend the motion.

Motion 15: To amend motion 10.1.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Ethan McNeil

CWD

Chair called for speakers to the amended motion

Mover and seconder of original (unamended) motion confirmed they wish to withdraw motion.

Motion 16: To adopt motion 10.1 as presented.

Moved: Nathan Ben-David

Seconded: Corey Perkins

WITHDRAWN

Motion 17: To adopt the amended motion for 10.1

Moved: Kay Pritchard

Seconded: Mathilda Stewart

CWD

10.2. UMSU opposes the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion

Preamble:

The Royal Commission into Antisemitism & Social Cohesion is a cynical attempt to politically weaponise the tragic Bondi terror attack in order to repress the Palestine movement and crackdown on our civil liberties. This rightwing campaign has been spearheaded by pro-Israel government appointed Envoy for Antisemitism Jillian Segal, other far right figures such as One Nation's Pauline Hanson and the others in the Australian political and business class.

The Royal Commission campaign attempts to manufacture charges of antisemitism against those who protest against Australia's complicity in Israel's genocide in Gaza. The United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and two Israeli NGOs, B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, have all determined Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. Those leading these charges against the Palestine movement aim to curtail civil liberties including the right to free speech and the right to protest.

One glaring example of this was the decision by the Board of the Adelaide Writers' Week to disinvite prominent Palestinian author and spokesperson, Randa Abdel-Fattah, on the basis that her opposition to Israel's genocide and apartheid policies against her people would be "culturally insensitive" in light of the Bondi tragedy. It has been heartening to see over 180 writers withdraw in protest over this cynical conflation of opposition to genocide and war by Israel with Antisemitism, and in opposition to a clear attack on free speech. Another example was Chris Minns' government's decision to massively expand the police commissioner's ability to deny the right to protest, which has resulted in the complete criminalisation of all protests for weeks in Sydney.

A key objection of the Commission is an attempt to push major institutions of society, including trade unions, courts, cultural institutions and the universities, to further crackdown on the anti-genocide, anti-racist Palestine movement. The Palestine movement opposes genocide, war and all forms of racism. The Bondi terror attack was carried out by two individuals radicalised by ISIS, which does not support Palestine.

The government has also announced it will implement all the recommendations of Jillian Segal's Trumpian report on antisemitism which will empower university Vice Chancellors to crack down on Palestine solidarity campaigns on campus.

This includes a recommendation to defund broadcasters, universities and the other public institutions which allow criticism of the state of Israel and Israel's genocide, conflating such criticisms of Israel with Antisemitism.

The Envoy to Antisemitism's recommendations are not about opposing racism, but are a cynical attempt to weaponise accusations of antisemitism against the Palestine movement. Segal was shockingly silent when a prominent Nazi organisation took centre stage at mass racist protests in Melbourne only a few months ago. She failed to issue a statement. Her husband also donates to a far right organisation, Advance Australia which highlights the complete opportunism and cynicism of her role.

If the government follows through on adopting these recommendations, it means a raft of measures which would facilitate a severe crackdown on freedom of speech in universities. Segal advocates widespread adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Association's definition of antisemitism, including mandating that it be taught in schools. The definition dangerously conflates antisemitism with criticism of Israel and opposition to the political ideology of Zionism.

Segal has also proposed that she be given the right to block funding to universities and arts organisations which "facilitate, enable or fail to act against antisemitism." This would mean placing control over public funding in the hands of one unelected, politically motivated individual. If introduced in tandem with the IHRA definition, this would make funding contingent on institutions preventing staff and students from opposing Zionism or criticising Israel. Segal also sits on a new Education Taskforce which will likely recommend the implementation of more severe restrictions on academic freedoms and harsher disciplinary measures for those staff and students, Jewish or otherwise, opposing Israel's attacks on Palestine.

The political establishment, business class, far right and pro-Israel figures are lining up to opportunistically exploit the massacre at Bondi. It was a tragedy that should be mourned, but instead is being used to crack down on Palestine solidarity campaigners, on our free speech and our right to protest. For those reasons the Royal Commission must be opposed.

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 weeks after council
- UMSU will collaborate with any free speech campaigns organised by the National Union of Students.

Bella exercised speaking rights as the mover and raised the following points:

- Spoke to preamble, highlighting concerns around recent media, and proposed limits to free speech.
- Noted aspect of the motion is to oppose the report from the Special Envoy for Antisemitism.
- Raised concerns regarding the flow on impact of current environments and asks Council to support motion.

Mathilda exercised speaking rights as the seconder. She raised concerns around social cohesion being used to undermine and limiting civil rights and liberties, such as free speech. Affirmed the right to peaceful protest.

Lushy proposed an amendment.

Proposed Amendment: To amend the motion as follows:

- To add to the end of paragraph 6 of the Preamble: "Other recommendations concern bolstering the powers of the Minister of Home Affairs to revoke visas and tighten migration conditions; implementing the controversial IHRA definition of antisemitism across all civil society institutions."
- To remove from the final paragraph of the Preamble: "For those reasons the Royal Commission must be opposed."
- To add an additional point to Platform: "Students' Council commits to reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission when they are made."

Moved: Lushy Chinganya

This was amenable to the mover.

The Chair opened the speaking list.

A lengthy discussion on the motion followed with 10 additional speakers making remarks on the motion, and asking questions of each other. Summary of the discussion:

Support for the motion:

- Support for condemning the Bondi terrorist attack, as well as antisemitism and racism

- Recent concerns on free speech with Adelaide Writers Festival and other arts programs referenced. Reflects on recent media commentary that safety can be used as a way of shutting down opinions.
- In the context of the curtailing of free speech on campus, the student union needs to take action – which reflects historical action and the role of the union.
- Reiterating previous discussions on the need to ensure issues are not being conflated and draw distinctions between concepts e.g. conflating anti-Zionist with being antisemitic; the actions of the State of Israel is separate from the views of Jewish people. UMSU is against antisemitism.
- Concerns around the Special Envoy report that could lead to issues playing out in the USA where Uni funding is linked to the suppression of expression, and this could be applied to pro-Palestinian action. Concerns raised around accusations of the Special Envoy being baseless regarding Universities supporting antisemitism. This could lead to courses coming under attack and create unsafe environments for students where knowledge is restricted.
- Various concerns were raised around the Royal Commission as a process. Such as it being lead by conservative voices who support limitations on freedom of speech, and undermining the pro-Palestinian movement; that Royal Commissions are not always effective e.g. black deaths in custody
- Concerns raised around current hate speech legislation in Federal Parliament which currently drafted provides unprecedented power for current government to disband and discipline groups.
- Immigration Minister may revoke visas for extremism, but in the context of Palestine, concerns about powers to be used to silence supporters

Against the motion:

- UMSU has a minimum standard of care to support the safety of Jewish students. Opposing the Royal Commission sends the message that safety is negotiable, because of the response to looking at antisemitism and those who raises concerns with antisemitism.
- Treats concerns as cynical and political motivated. In the wake of the Bondi terrorist attack which targeted Jewish people, this framing impacts Jewish students. It is not reflecting or speaking to lived experience, but speaking over this experience.
- People need to be believed – the current motion is contrary to this and will impact a vulnerable groups.
- Safety is a precondition for speech to take place and this will signal hostility and scepticism to Jewish students.
- Council only needs to accept that safety needs to be listened to and act to uphold safety, dignity and sense of belonging.
- The Royal Commission is designed to combat the problem of antisemitism, and the motion opposes the Royal Commission. It is negative, critical and offers nothing constructive to address the issues of antisemitism facing students.

Discussion between UMSU President and President of the Jewish Students Society:

- The UMSU President thanked the Jewish Students Society President, and the Jewish students in attendance, and reiterated the importance of council to listen and respond to safety concerns.
- The UMSU President suggested amendments that reflected the need for UMSU to listen to concerns, support student safety, and combat antisemitism.
- The President of the Jewish Society believed that such amendments would be symbolic, and that this has already been demonstrated with the amendment to the previous motion.

Other points of discussion:

- The Jewish community, and Jewish students are not a monolithic – there is a diversity of experience and a broad spectrum of views
- Many Jewish people, including Jewish students, are pro-Palestinian and Jewish leaders were also represented in the Bridge march
- Many Jewish students have felt unsafe on campus – which is a key consideration
- Issues of terrorism are not being addressed

Chair closed the speaking list.

Motion 18: To adopt the motion as amended.

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Mathilda Stewart

CWD

10.3. Condemn Labor government's invitation of war criminal to Australia

Preamble:

Albanese's formal invitation of Isaac Herzog, the Israeli president, to address the Australian federal parliament represents an intolerable whitewashing of his role in justifying, facilitating and inciting the illegal occupation and genocide in Gaza and the West Bank.

Herzog has been Israel's head of state during the ongoing Israeli invasion and genocide. Herzog's public statements validated the collective punishment and mass murder that Israel has carried out against civilians. Following Israel's invasion, Herzog asserted that "an entire nation" bears responsibility, further stating that "it isn't true, this rhetoric about civilians not involved".

Australian legal figures like Monique Cormier, an associate professor at Monash University have recognised that hosting Herzog could represent a breach of its obligations under the Genocide Convention to prevent and punish genocide.

The decision to invite Herzog, despite it being credibly found that he is guilty of the direct incitement of genocide, must be opposed by students across Australia. By tolerating figures like Herzog and giving war criminals platforms in Australian

society, the government normalises and excuses Israel's continued genocide and occupation in Gaza.

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 release a statement to this effect, including encouraging students to attend the aforementioned protest.

Amaya exercised speaking rights as the mover.

Aidan ceded speaking rights to Hugh Collins, Hugh addressed the following:

- In the context of the international and national climate, it is important to show resistance
- Australian Govt actions are indicating that protest is not welcome, anti-democratic, which is opposed by a range of organisations including Jewish organisations
- Action point calling on students to protest is important - urge to support motion against government duplicity

Lushy proposed an amendment.

Proposed Amendment: To amend Action point 2 such that it reads "The UMSU president will repost content relating to this motion, including encouraging students to attend the aforementioned protest."

Moved: Lushy Chinganya

This was amenable to the mover.

Chair called for speakers to the amended motion.

Discussion summary:

- Important to consider historical context, such as protest action that took place in response to the Vietnam War and protesting visitation of foreign leader, or demonstrations against groups that represented racism – boycott of apartheid team from South Africa.
- Called for UMSU as a student union to take a strong stance this issue.

Motion 19: To adopt the motion as amended.

Moved: Amaya Castro Williams

Seconded: Aidan Wujanto-Hawe

CWD

10.4. UMSU supports the National Union of Students endorsed national day of action for Palestine

Preamble:

The genocide in Gaza continues. Israel has violated the supposed ceasefire over 1000 times in less than three months. Over 400 Palestinians have been directly murdered by Israel, and more than 95,000 children remain in conditions of starvation; and almost the entire remaining population suffer from acute food insecurity. Amidst this, Israel continues its illegal blockade which prevents the entry of critical resources for recovery and humanitarian aid.

The Australian political establishment has maintained their defense and complicity in the Gaza genocide. The Labor government continues to assist in arming Israel, supplying parts for their F-35 fighter jets. Further, the government has refused to comply with the demands of the Palestine movement, including placing sanctions on the state of Israel and breaking all economic ties with the state of Israel.

It is therefore of vital importance that institutions that represent students like UMSU continue to give their support to the movement for peace and justice in Palestine. Support for an end to the genocide and occupation remains a key political issue for students, and UMSU must play its part in promoting the NUS endorsed national day of action in March.

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 release a statement to this effect, 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.

Aidan withdrew his moving rights and transferred it to Yasmeen Atieh. Yasmeen highlighted Israel's actions and continued attacks on civilians in Gaza since ceasefire was implemented, and noted that it is important to take action on this issue

Amaya waived speaking rights as the seconder.

Chair opened the speaking list.

Summary of discussion:

- People in Gaza are suffering due to a lack of resources and the ongoing prevalence of death
- Students have a history of opposing genocide, war etc. and NUS Day of Action will be important opportunity to take a stand against this.
- Calls for endorsement of motion as an important part of being part of the student body

Lushy proposed an amendment.

Proposed Amendment: To amend Action points 2 and 3 such that they read as follows:

- 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: Lushy Chinganya

This was amenable to the mover.

The Chair closed the speaking list and moved to a vote.

Motion 20: To adopt the motion as amended.

Moved: Aidan Wujanto-Hawe

Seconded: Amaya Castro Williams

CWD

11. Other Business (Motions Without Notice)

11.1. Club lockers motion

Preamble:

With the increase in the number of clubs these past few years, the demand for more locker space has become apparent as many of the 230+ clubs miss out on one of the 88 available spaces. After moving the lockers to the new space on level 4 at the end of last year, space has become available for 12 more lockers, which would bring the total number of available lockers to 100.

This motion proposes to:

1. Pay for the new lockers from the Capital Expenditure budget.

The Chair accepted this motion without notice given the urgency of need.

Alex exercised speaking rights as mover of the motion. This motion has been discussed with UMSU regarding finances.

Seamus was not present at the time the motion was being discussed, so Lottie Jenkins agreed to second the motion, and spoke to the importance of supporting students on campus.

Chair opened speaking list.

CEO spoke to the motion:

- Clarified that this cost will come out of capital expenditure – which is UMSU reserves - it does not impact breakeven operational position.
- Important for C&S groups to know UMSU supports them
- Under financial regulations cap ex expenditure needs 2/3 majority vote from Council
- The proposed expenditure is sensible use and investment in long-term assets – so she is supportive of the motion.

Motion 21: To allocate \$5018 from the Capital Expenditure budget (03-00-100-7301) for the purchase lockers for the Clubs and Societies locker room.

Moved: Alex Gwynn

Seconded: Lottie Jenkins

CWD

12. Next Meeting

Scheduled for 12/13 February 2026.

Chair asked for feedback on Council schedule.

Question raised as to the ability to move future meetings from Thursday to Friday, Chair clarifies that based on feedback majority of people are free on Thursday and so Council meetings will be scheduled for that day.

13. Close

Lushy asked Officers to connect with events regarding O-week.

Meeting closed at 2:35 pm