



<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Maria Carolina Lourenco Quartel	Yes
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*Office Bearers*

<b>Department</b>	<b>Full name</b>	<b>Attended?</b>
<b>President</b>	Joshua Stagg	Yes
<b>General Secretary</b>	Luv Golecha	Yes
<b>Activities Officer</b>	Amy Peters	Yes
<b>Creative Arts Officer</b>	Tianyi Yu	Yes
<b>Creative Arts Officer</b>	Riya Gupta	No
<b>Clubs &amp; Societies Officer</b>	Esther Luk	Yes
<b>Clubs &amp; Societies Officer</b>	Ewan Bezzobs	Yes
<b>Disabilities Officer</b>	Nabia Rauf	No
<b>Education (Academic Affairs) Officer</b>	Harrishman Shobanan	No
<b>Education (Academic Affairs) Officer</b>	Rhea Sankar	Yes
<b>Education (Public Affairs) Officer</b>	Viraj Patel	Yes
<b>Education (Public Affairs) Officer</b>	Sonika Agarwal	Yes
<b>Environment Officer</b>	Jayde East	Yes
<b>Indigenous Officer</b>	Noah Kellett	Yes
<b>Media Officer</b>	Mathilda Stewart	Yes
<b>Media Officer</b>	Sophie He	Yes
<b>Media Officer</b>	Ibrahim Muan Abdulla	Yes
<b>Media Officer</b>	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Yes
<b>People of Colour Officer</b>	Wenhao (Clement) Wu	No
<b>People of Colour Officer</b>	Divyanshi Sati	No
<b>Queer Officer</b>	Ivy Pierlot	Yes
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Filia Cahyadi	Yes
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Kunal Dewani	Yes
<b>Women's Officer</b>	Eya Takrouni	No
<b>Women's Officer</b>	Khwaish Jadeja	No
<b>Burnley Campus Coordinator</b>	Ian Adams	Yes
<b>Southbank Campus Co-ordinator</b>	Caleb William Jarcevic	Yes (Zoom)
<b>Southbank Campus Co-ordinator</b>	Tirion Luff-White	Yes (Zoom)
<b>Southbank Activities Officer</b>	<i>Vacant</i>	N/A
<b>Southbank Education Officer</b>	Joobon Kim	Yes (Zoom)
<b>UMSU International President</b>	Momoka Honda	Yes

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Mary Kin Chan (minute taker; Student Representation Coordinator), Lachlan McCallum (CFO), Alyssa Shaw (Divisional Manager of Student Representation), Lachie James (Head of Student Impact), Fiona Sanders (Project Lead, Governance & Reporting), Jesslyn Andriono (Student Representation Officer), Kay Pritchard (observer), Cynthia Wong (observer), Ethan McNeil (observer), David Trevorrow (observer), Chris Vassiliadis (observer), Alex Gwynn (observer), Aidan (observer), Max Fitzpatrick (observer), Madeline Foster (observer), 3 unnamed observers.

**1.4. Apologies****1.5. Proxies**

1.5.1. Sam Park to Ethan McNeil

1.5.2. Om Deshpande to Kevin Li

Proxies were submitted at least 1 hr before the meeting, hence do not require to go to a Council vote.

### **1.6. Leave of Absence Requests**

1.6.1. Om Deshpande

1.6.2. Sam Park

1.6.3. Riya Gupta

1.6.4. Khwaish Jadeja

1.6.5. Divyanshi Sati

Motion 2: To approve Leave of Absence requests for this Council en bloc.

Moved: Chair

CWD

### **1.7. Membership**

1.7.1. Justine Light De Guzman has resigned as Southbank Activities Officer.

1.7.2. Helena Mücke has resigned as the Environment Officer.

1.7.3. Zoriana Stephanie Krupa has been terminated.

1.7.4. Niya Chopra has been terminated.

1.7.5. Rachael Hynds has been terminated.

1.7.6. Cornelius Salim has been terminated.

1.7.7. Lushomo Chinganya has been ticket appointed to Council.

1.7.8. Marc Khor has been ticket appointed to Council.

1.7.9. Tobias Putland has been ticket appointed to Council.

1.7.10. Maria Quartel has been reinstated to Council.

### **1.8. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Luv Golecha

CWD

## **2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

### **2.1. Special Council 5(25)**

Mary raised errors to the minutes:

- Daniel Motika voted against the motion in the named vote, whereas right now his vote is not listed.
- On page 8 of PDF minutes, it reads "that there is a genocide going on, which is a stance that the University has not taken". This should be "UMSU", not the "University".

Motion 4: To accept the minutes as amended.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Yashesvi Verma

CWD

### 3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

### 5. Correspondence

#### 5.1. Pakistani Society – Appeal against the disaffiliation by Clubs and Societies Committee

The appeal was not distributed as part of Council papers prior to the meeting. Luv spoke to the appeal email from the Society by presenting it to the meeting room and on Zoom, as well as reading out the entire email. The email explained that the reason for the club not having held at least two members' events or activities last semester was due to the recent military escalation in Pakistan, which made it insensitive to hold celebratory events.

Ewan spoke to the disaffiliation decision on behalf of the C&S Department, which was made based on activity reports presented from the club. Ewan noted that the reasoning provided in the email is compelling, and that hopefully the club is committed to running future events.

Motion 5: To uphold the appeal regarding the disaffiliation of the Pakistani Society.

Moved: Luv Golecha

Seconded: Kunal Dewani

CWD

### 6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
<b>President</b>	Joshua Stagg	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>General Secretary</b>	Luv Golecha	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Activities Officer</b>	Amy Peters	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Creative Arts Officer</b>	Tianyi Yu	<i>Not Submitted</i>
<b>Creative Arts Officer</b>	Riya Gupta	<i>Not Submitted</i>
<b>Clubs &amp; Societies Officer</b>	Esther Luk	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Clubs &amp; Societies Officer</b>	Ewan Bezzobs	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Disabilities Officer</b>	Nabia Rauf	<i>Not Submitted</i>
<b>Education (Academic Affairs) Officer</b>	Harrishman Shobanan	<i>Not Submitted</i>
<b>Education (Academic Affairs) Officer</b>	Rhea Sankar	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Education (Public Affairs) Officer</b>	Viraj Patel	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Education (Public Affairs) Officer</b>	Sonika Agarwal	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Environment Officer</b>	Jayde East	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Indigenous Officer</b>	Noah Kellett	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Media Officer</b>	Mathilda Stewart	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Media Officer</b>	Sophie He	<i>Submitted</i>





**9.2. Media motion**

Motion 9: To approve \$11,000 from Printing (account code: 03-70-700-3713) for Edition 6 Print.

Moved: Ibrahim Muan Abdulla

Seconded: Sophie He

CARRIED

**9.3. Media motion**

Motion 10: To approve \$1000 Events (account code: 03-70-700-3840) for Edition 5 Launch Party.

Moved: Ibrahim Muan Abdulla

Seconded: Sophie He

CARRIED

**9.4. Media motion**

Motion 11: To approve \$1000 Events (account code: 03-70-700-3840) for Edition 6 Launch Party.

Moved: Ibrahim Muan Abdulla

Seconded: Sophie He

CARRIED

**9.5. Media motion**

Motion 12: To approve \$600 Events (account code: 03-70-700-3840) for Media Collectives (Catering Costs).

Moved: Ibrahim Muan Abdulla

Seconded: Sophie He

CARRIED

**9.6. Media motion**

Motion 13: To approve \$2500 from Events (account code: 03-70-700-3840) for Radio Fodder 10 Year Anniversary Celebration.

Moved: Ibrahim Muan Abdulla

Seconded: Sophie He

CARRIED

**9.7. Media motion**

Motion 14: To move money earned from ticket sales from the Farrago Centenary Gala into OpSub under Events budget Line.

Moved: Ibrahim Muan Abdulla

Seconded: Sophie He

CARRIED



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

Bella exercised moving rights.

Joshua exercised seconding rights.

Motion 18: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

Seconded: Joshua Stagg

CWD

**10.2. UMSU endorses the October 12th nationwide day of action for Palestine**

Preamble:

Palestine activists across the country are organising a nation-wide mobilisation in solidarity to mark two years since Israel's genocide in Gaza began. A new report titled *Skewering History: the Odious Politics of Counting Gaza's Dead*, calculated that as many as 680,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel since October 2023. Based on studies carried out on non-violent deaths in previous wars, the report details how Israel has erased 33% of Gaza's entire population.

As students living in the Western world, we have a special responsibility to oppose this genocide and our own government's complicity in it.

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.

Yasmeen exercised moving rights.

Bella ceded speaking rights to Aidan.

Lottie spoke in support of the motion.

**Procedural Motion:** That the motion be a named vote.

Moved: Chair

CWD

Motion 19: To accept the motion as presented.

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

CWD

### **10.3. UMSU condemns the repression of pro-Palestine voices on campus**

Preamble:

UMSU's "Stance on the War in Gaza" passed by Students' Council in August 2024 supported an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, 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.

An Independent Commission of the United Nations Human Rights Council has recently declared what students on this campus and millions of people around the world have clearly recognised for nearly 2 years, that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

There is ongoing student, staff and community activism opposing the University of Melbourne's complicity in this genocide. This includes partnerships with weapons manufacturers directly involved in Israel's genocide, including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, BAE systems, Rafael and many others. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 released a report in July detailing companies complicit in the genocide. It highlights Lockheed Martin and the indispensable role of their F-35 fighter jets in the Israeli decimation of Gaza. In 2023 alone the University received \$3.5 million from Lockheed Martin. The University works with Lockheed Martin to research and design weapons at the defence manufacturer's "Advanced Systems & Technologies" facility.

The University's complicity also extends to relationships with Israeli academic institutions such as the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which helps support the genocide by training the IDF soldiers committing it, as well as supporting settlement expansion in the West Bank.

Rather than addressing the concerns raised by these activists, two consecutive Vice Chancellors have opted to paint student opposition to genocide and

apartheid as antisemitism, and implement unprecedented restrictions on protest and free speech on campus.

On 16 May 2024 Vice Chancellor Rule made by Duncan Maskell titled "Prohibition on attending protests on Melbourne University grounds" banned protests by members of the broader community. As a public institution, barring the public from engaging in protests on university grounds, where hundreds of protests have occurred before, is shameful and reinforces an atmosphere of limited freedom of expression.

On 3 March 2025, the first day of the Academic Calendar, Emma Johnston brought in rules to ban indoor protesting and protests which 'unreasonable disrupt University activities', a vague definition that has made many students fearful of sanctions.

There is a growing culture of fear on campus, posing a threat to academic freedom and freedom of expression. Student activists and protestors are now regularly harassed by security. The University has called or threatened to call the police on student protesters multiple times this year. Staff have reported being told by the University to not allow students to make announcements in their classes about Palestine. Earlier this year a casual tutor in the School of Social and Political Sciences was fired, in part for naming Israel's genocide in a class on state crimes.

University campuses have long been a place for voicing opposition to the status quo and calling for the changes we want to see in the world. Students should not be punished for peaceful protest on their own campus.

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.

David exercised moving rights. Summarised amendments to the motion as follows:

- Added title for the motion
- Provided context to what students have been protesting against – including but not limited to issues like weapons ties, collaborations with Israeli

universities, growing fear on the UniMelb campus with regards to expressing opinions on contentious issues

- Amendments to the Platform section: moving things around to make the motion read less long with less dot points
- Adding Action point giving the UMSU President latitude to action as he sees fit

Lottie exercised seconding rights.

**Procedural Motion:** That the motion be a named vote.

Moved: Lottie Jenkins

CWD

Viraj exercised speaking rights. Acknowledged efforts of David and Lottie in coordinating this motion. UMSU should have a coordinated stance about the protest restrictions. Spoke in support of this motion.

Luv spoke in favour of motion. Suggested that Action point 3b should be amended because Students' Council is unable to direct an UMSU staff department (Advocacy).

David agreed to change 3b to "directing the UMSU CEO and requesting UMSU Advocacy".

Amaya spoke in favour of the motion.

Bella waived speaking rights.

Sara promoted the workshops that UMSU Advocacy is running with Melbourne Activist Legal Support: "Know Your Protest Rights" workshops on October 8<sup>th</sup>, where up to 50 students can attend for free to know more about the university's protest restrictions.

Aidan waived speaking rights.

Motion 20: To accept the motion as amended.

Moved: David Trevorrow

Seconded: Lottie Jenkins

CWD

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

Abstain: Kevin

**Procedural Motion:** To go on a 10-minute break.

Moved: Chair (per R14.4 of Standing Orders)

#### **10.4. Plant Based Treaty**

Preamble:

The Plant-Based Treaty is a global movement to combat Climate change by addressing how our current food systems are driving catastrophic environmental destruction. There is a grassroots initiative creating bottom-up pressure for the negotiation of a global Plant-Based Treaty as a companion to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. Modelled on the Fossil Fuel Treaty, the Plant-Based Treaty aims to put food systems at the forefront of combatting the climate crisis to halt the widespread degradation of critical ecosystems caused by animal agriculture and to promote a shift towards healthier, sustainable plant-based food systems.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the EAT- Lancet Commission have made it clear that substantial reductions in the demand for animal-based foods are essential in order to achieve climate targets and keep food production within planetary boundaries.

This recognition of the damage caused by our current animal-based food systems has seen a wave of Universities and Student Unions across the world leading sustainable change by committing to plant-based catering. UMSU can follow on the success of the Plant-Based University campaign in Europe which has seen organisations such as the National Union of Students UK endorse a motion for all universities to transition to 100% plant-based catering to address the climate crisis.

The importance of our food systems as an essential part of tackling climate change has already been recognised by the University. The Sustainable Campus team officially recommends that catering for university events be at least 80% Vegetarian but fully Vegan/Plant Based is ideal.

As a generation learning and growing up under the threat of climate collapse, we must recognise the urgency of shifting our food systems in a way that is just and in line with science. This Student Union needs to take every measure to provide nutritious, sustainable food for all students.

Platform:

- UMSU endorses the Plant Based Treaty, and commits to default plant-based catering for UMSU department or whole of union events above 50 students.

Action:

1. The UMSU President will announce the support for the campaign in the UMSU President News and work with the UMSU Communications team to ensure that departments clearly highlight that UMSU event endorse the Plant Based Treaty.
2. Students Council directs the CEO to oversee the implementation of the campaign into the operations and regulation of student department activities and events.

3. Students Council directs the CEO, with the Environment Office Bearers, to start a working group aimed at implementing the aims of the campaign in the Ida Bar, which is open to all members of UMSU.

*Meeting resumed at 12:08pm*

Tobias exercised moving rights.

Marcie waived speaking rights.

Luv joined the speaking list, highlighting that plant-based options might not work for all cultures, as some meat dishes have cultural significance.

Ewan generally endorsed the motion, that departments can take actions to reduce wastefulness. Ewan also sought clarification regarding the scope of the motion, whether the motion applies to the clubs and societies that are affiliated with UMSU. Ewan expressed that it will be difficult to enforce.

Jayde commented that Council is inaccessible. Jayde addressed Ewan's question and states that clubs are not enforced to participate. Jayde highlighted that the motion applied to events with more than 50 students and only meant for UMSU student department and Whole of UMSU events. The intention was to set an example of reducing emissions at large events. Jayde sought clarification from Luv regarding his concerns.

Luv reiterated that due to the wording that 'UMSU commits to default to plant-based catering' is against the Purposes of UMSU. Luv lists Diwali as an example – milk products as part of rituals and celebrations.

Jayde acknowledged Luv's concern. Plant-based options act as a first choice, but other food options can be considered in extenuating circumstances. UMSU Events is supportive and willing to offer flexibility to engage with a wide variety of cultures. Jayde encouraged student departments to work with caterers that offer plant-based options.

Bella raised that not all plant-based caterers are environmentally sustainable. Bella also recognised cultural needs, so "default" on the platform is difficult to enforce and that would be difficult to make sure that the caterer is in line with the sustainable purpose of the motion.

Bella proposed an amendment:

**Proposed amendment:**

Amend the Platform so that it reads "Default" to "Facilitating"

Moved: Bella Beiraghi

*This was amenable to the mover.*

Lottie acknowledged that there is danger in making individual actions responsible for emissions over large corporations. Lottie stated that the motion is a form of divestment by UMSU. The University itself recommends that events should be 80% vegetarian. Lottie reclarified that the word "default" is not a

mandated change, it is rather to work with UMSU environment and encouraging people to use plant-based options.

Motion 21: To approve the proxies of:

- Marc Khor to Cynthia Wong
- Joseph Z Y Li-Sculli to Alex Gwynn

Moved: Luv Golecha

CWD

Sara acknowledged that the debate today had been especially cordial. Sara expressed that if the motion is passed, there should be a working group to campaign around Ida Bar. The tenancy agreement is a commercial license for 7 years, which means that the University reserves the right to decide the menu and the price – any change that UMSU makes requires approval from the University.

Viraj questioned whether there is a bargaining agreement with the University.

Sara responded that UMSU can always request a change anytime, but change requires permission from the University.

Jayde expressed that the Environment Department would like to be part of the working group Sara mentioned. Jayde also expressed that there is a gap in communication between the environment department and advocacy at the University, where the department does not have a direct platform to communicate with university executives.

Jayde emphasizes that eating beef is more harmful than regular AI-use. Jayde expressed hope to make it easier for students to switch to a plant-based diet. Jayde also highlighted that the western diet is particularly meat-centric, and that it is necessary to be more open-minded regarding the diversity of plant-based options across cultures.

Joshua agrees that the motion should not be applied to cultural events like the Night Market but also agrees that UMSU is lagging behind the University a lot in terms of sustainability.

Lushy shared that she runs a POC collective where 50+ people attend and meat is integral to a lot of cultural dishes and that food plays a significant role in linking people back to home.

Muan agreed that a lot of celebrations involve meat products, stating that it would be difficult to police.

**Procedural Motion:** That the motion be a named vote.

Moved: Chair (per R14.4 of Standing Orders)

Jayde proposed an amendment to avoid affecting collectives:

**Proposed Amendment:**

Amend the event attendee threshold (in Platform) to be 75 students, instead of 50 students.

Moved: Jayde East

*This was amenable to the mover.*

Motion 22: To approve the proxy of Anndrya Chua to Lushomo Chinganya.

Moved: Luv Golecha

CWD

Viraj also proposed an amendment:

**Proposed Amendment:**

Amend to clarify that cultural events and plant-based options are to be considered in the event planning stage. If not feasible, because the food for the event holds cultural importance, alternatives to plant-based options can be used.

Moved: Viraj Patel

*This was amenable to the mover.*

Motion 23: To accept the motion as amended.

Moved: Tobias Putland

Seconded: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

For: Yasmeen, Lottie, Tobias, Kerry, Maria, Bella, Amaya, Alex Gwynn (proxy for Joseph Li-Sculli)

Against: Lushy (and proxying Anndrya), Yashesvi, Ethan (proxy for Sam), Daniel, Bingchan, Cynthia Wong (proxy for Marc), Kevin Li (and proxying for Om)

Abstain: Junaid

FAILED

### 10.5. Unnamed motion

Preamble:

It is becoming common knowledge that The University of Melbourne is dropping in global rankings, and one reason is that it performs poorly in Student Experience. In the QILT Student Experience Survey 2024, this University had the lowest rating in the country for Overall Educational Experience by undergraduate students. This demonstrates a lack of the quality of education, and support for students wellbeing.

The University needs to deliver the experience students deserve. A bare minimum display of compassion from the Uni would be to change the Academic Calendar to have a Mid-Sem Break that is actually in the middle of the 12 weeks of the Semester 2.

Victorian Universities like La Trobe have their break after 6 weeks of Semester. In WA, Curtin Guild is pushing for semester breaks to be earlier. This is being implemented by pushing the break one week earlier every year until 2028 when it will be in Week 5.

Students deserve a break before burnout happens, not after. A more compassionate Academic Calendar will materially improve students' wellbeing, and ultimately their enjoyment of university.

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 the week after Week 6
3. The campaign and petition are to be advocated for by the Union across all platforms until it reaches University Council

Jayde waived moving rights.

Viraj exercised seconding rights.

Luv asked Viraj whether the University of Melbourne is the only university in Victoria with such a late mid-semester break.

Viraj replied that to his knowledge, it is only the University of Melbourne and Monash University.

Rhea added that the reason for the mid-semester break being so late is to have it overlap with school holidays, which is also recommended by Universities Australia. Rhea expressed that she is unsure whether the University will be receptive to an UMSU campaign, questioning whether this is an effective use of resources.

Jayde exercised speaking rights, highlighting that the University ranked last in the Quality Indicators in Learning and Teaching's (QILT) Student Experience Survey and encouraged UMSU to use this to push the University to improve students' experience.

Joshua questioned how an earlier mid-semester break would affect UMSU's election week.

Lottie exercised speaking rights in favour of the motion.

Joshua proposed an amendment:

**Proposed amendment:**

To change the wording in the petition (Action point 2) to instead call that the mid-semester break happens before week 8.

Moved: Joshua Stagg

*This was amenable to the mover.*

Motion 24: To accept the motion as amended.

Moved: Jayde East

Seconded: Viraj Patel

CWD

## 10.6. CRPWG

Preamble:

The Constitution, Policy and Regulation Working Group (CPRWG) exists to review, clarify, and strengthen UMSU's governance and consultation frameworks. Council has often struggled to operate effectively, with limited space for proper discussion, and CPRWG has reflected similar challenges. This lack of effectiveness has already hindered UMSU's ability to deliver, such as in the delayed review of the internal budget. A more consistent approach is needed, with CPRWG convened regularly and empowered to consider whether our standing orders and Council structures enable meaningful discussion, or whether alternative spaces, such as informal Office Bearer meetups, may better facilitate these conversations. Without reform, UMSU risks continuing to be constrained in its organisational capacity.

Platform:

1. Convene a CPRWG in October 2025 to discuss consultation and election processes, Council consistency, and the effectiveness of current structures.
2. Require CPRWG to meet at least once every four months, with additional meetings as needed.
3. Task CPRWG with reviewing whether Council standing orders and structures allow for meaningful discussion, and to provide recommendations for reform where necessary.



semester 1. However, the grant cap is decided by the C&S department, not Students' Council, and to his knowledge, there had been an increase in clubs being affiliated to C&S.

Ewan thanked the Film Society club representatives for bringing forth this motion. Regarding the grant cap, it is set by the C&S Committee, which in turn is set by the budget council in the beginning of the year. The "extra money" in semester 2 for clubs is not a result of extra money from council, but from an underspend from the clubs themselves. This year, clubs are anticipated to reach that without increasing the grants cap. As such, regarding this motion, Students' Council has the power to find more money to give to C&S. That said, based on UMSU's mid-year budget discussion this is not possible.

Lottie thanked the representatives for coming forward and highlighted that the financial situation is largely unforeseen. Clubs are important and Lottie agreed that the campus culture situation is quite dire.

Motion 26: That the Students' Council reconsider the budget allocation for the C&S Department at the next Council meeting.

Moved: Max Fitzpatrick

Seconded: Madeline Foster

CWD

### **11.2. General Secretary's note**

Luv noted that he had given out Zoom links without much supporting evidence in the past. However, starting from now, to better adhere to the Standing Orders, reasons will be required as per Standing Orders RR2.5 and 2.7.

Luv noted Ewan's point on finding a bigger room.

Rhea asked Luv to clarify regarding what evidence is required.

Luv elaborated that evidence need to relate to accessibility and inclusion reasons, such as having to attend a doctor's appointment. The Zoom link will not be given for reasons such as having to attend a friend's birthday.

Luv clarified that he does not require a GP's letter and will take the reasons on good faith and trust. Though, he emphasized that emails require a valid reason and cannot just contain "need Zoom link".

### **12. Next Meeting**

**12.1.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of October 2025

### **13. Close**

**Meeting closed at 1:13 pm**