

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes**



Friday 12 April 2024, 10am
Meeting 6(24)

Location: Room 208 (VIEPS Intensive Room), McCoy Building; Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83813033338?pwd=SSStCZUhHSWh5ZnAzXJWL3RnaHV4dz09>

Meeting opened at 10:08am

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Disha Zutshi be elected as Chair.

Moved: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Harrishman Shobanan

CARRIED

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	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	Yes
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	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Inderpreet Singh	Resigned
Students' Council (General Representative)	Lucy Kelly	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Alessandra Grace Baggio Ward	Yes; Proxy requested after 11am
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	Proxy requested
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	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Labdhi Gandhi	Yes

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Disha Zutshi	Yes
General Secretary	Enzhe (Kevin) Li	Yes
Activities Officer	Amy Peters	Yes
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	Adam Whitehead	No
Disabilities Officer	Anishaa Jeyakumar	Yes
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	Apology
Media Officer	Gunjan Ahluwalia	Yes
Media Officer	Kien-Ling Liem	Yes
Media Officer	Jessica Fanwong	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Denzil Minnaar	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Ying Kwan Jania Lam	Yes
Queer Officer	Binderiya Batzorig	Yes
Queer Officer	Rahul (Ryan) Mittal	No
Welfare Officer	Joshua Stagg	Yes
Welfare Officer	Divyanshi Sati	Leave of Absence
Women's Officer	Akanksha Agarwal	Yes
Women's Officer	Micaela Rynne	Apology
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Jake Duyvestyn	Apology
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Ariel Teo	Yes
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Amy Rogers	No
Southbank Activities Officer	Justine Light De Guzman	Yes
Southbank Education Officer	Felicity Patrice Liston	Yes

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Mary Kin Chan (minute taker), Natasha Lee (EA to CEO), Lola Bowers (observer), Angus (observer), Reema (observer), Yasmeen Atieh (observer), Caitlin (observer), Gevindu Wickramanayake (proxy)

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Jake Duyvestyn, Micaela Rynne, Joel Duggan

Councillors: N/A

1.5. Proxies

1.5.1. Alessandra Ward to Rachael Hynds (After the first hour 11am)

1.5.2. Pranav Gupta to Anndrya Chua

1.5.3. Natalie Sinicka to Gevindu Wickramanayake

Motion 2: To accept the proxies of Alessandra and Pranav for this Council en bloc.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.6. Leave of Absence Requests

1.6.1. Divyanshi Sati from 12th April until 19th April

Motion 3: To accept Divyanshi's leave of absence from 12th April until 19th April.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.7. Membership

1.7.1. Ibrahim Muan Abdulla has been appointed General Representative on Council

1.7.2. Inderpreet Singh has resigned from Council

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 4: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 5(24)

Mary noted that staff members Sara and Phoebe were present in this meeting, minutes should be amended to reflect their attendance.

Lucy Rachman noted that motion 10.5 should reflect herself speaking for the motion, rather than against.

Motion 5: To accept the minutes with amendments as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Harrishman Shobanan

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

Disabilities Officer	Anishaa Jeyakumar	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Julian De Marco	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Lucy Rachman Vascotto	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Raphael Duffy	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Bella Beiraghi	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Emma Dynes	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Jaan Schild	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Hamish Rose	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Joel Duggan	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Gunjan Ahluwalia	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Kien-Ling Liem	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Jessica Fanwong	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Denzil Minnaar	<i>Not Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Ying Kwan Jania Lam	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Binderiya Batzorig	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Rahul (Ryan) Mittal	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Joshua Stagg	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Divyanshi Sati	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Akanksha Agarwal	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Micaela Rynne	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Jake Duyvestyn	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Ariel Teo	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Amy Rogers	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Justine Light De Guzman	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Felicity Patrice Liston	<i>Not Submitted</i>

7. CEO Report

Procedural Motion: To defer the CEO Report to the final agenda item.

Moved: Chair

8. Other Reports

9. Operational Business

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. UMSU condemns the Alice Springs Youth Curfew

Preamble:

On the 27th of March the Northern Territory Labor government implemented a two week 'Youth Curfew' that bans people under the age of 18 from entering the Alice Springs town centre between 6pm-6am. The curfew, originally meant to expire on Wednesday April 10th, has now been extended by another six days, till the end of the school holidays on Tuesday April 16th.

The NT Labor party's response to an increase in 'civil unrest' has been to trap children inside. The 'High Risk' area spans 4km from one end of town to the other. Children who live inside this zone are locked inside for 12 hours of their day and if they come out, face the possibility of being charged by police. If children do not have a home - which is a situation that many face as the NT has the highest rates of

youth homelessness in the country - they are taken to a bail house or worse, prison. Furthermore, this curfew has disproportionately affected Indigenous youth who, due to years of government neglect, are much more likely to be without stable housing and subject to police harassment.

Rather than condemning Indigenous children in Alice Springs to a life of homelessness, police abuse, army deployments and prison sentences, the NT Labor Government needs to massively expand its access to welfare and social services in the region. The Melbourne University student union should be appalled by the Labor Party's increase of police powers and call for the immediate removal of the 'Youth Curfew' and a ban on any more punitive measures in the Territory.

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.

The Chair invited Oskar to speak to the motion.

Hamish spoke to seconding rights.

Procedural Motion: To suspend the Standing Orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 7: To accept Gevindu Wickramanayake as Natalie Sinicka's proxy for this Council.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To resume the Standing Orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Reema spoke to the motion. Acknowledgment to indigenous people goes beyond an Acknowledgement to Country, therefore Council should support this motion.

Jaan noted recent news reports about systematic racism and mistreatment towards indigenous people.

Chair reminded speakers to not name people.

Raphael named once at 10:33am.

Penelope spoke for the motion.

Penelope named once at 10:35am.

Bella has been named once, then twice.

Lucy Kelly named twice.

Lucy Rachman and Rachael agreed with the motion.

Hamish expressed that setting curfew without consulting communities in Northern Territory will have dangerous repercussions.

Procedural Motion: To move directly to a vote.

Moved: Amy Peters

CARRIED

Chair reminded speakers that those who pressure Councillors to vote will be named.

Oskar asked to be on the speaking list for the motion, this was rejected by the Chair, as the procedural motion has already been moved.

Motion 8: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Penelope Scacciante

Seconded: Hamish Rose

AGAINST: 2

ABSTAIN: 1

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

Raphael attempted to move a procedural motion to directly discuss Motions Without Notice. There was a lot of subsequent shouting.

Mary raised Point of Order at 10:41am, clarified that there was a previous procedural motion to discuss items in the following order: Motions on Notice > OB reports > Motions Without Notice > CEO report.

11. Office Bearer Reports

Oskar spoke to his OB report.

Bella spoke to her OB report.

Motion 9: To accept the OB Reports.

Moved: Harrishman Shobanan

Seconded: Kunal Dewani

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

12. Other Business (Motions Without Notice)

12.1. UMSU condemns Labor's attacks on refugees in its recent deportations bill

Preamble:

The highest moral test of any government is how it treats those who flee to our shores with nothing except their humanity, reasonably expecting to find safety and stability in one of the wealthiest nations in the world. The Labor party has proved itself to be hell bent on failing this test as it pursues legislation to further persecute refugees.

The Labor Party is proposing an amendment to Australia's already draconian refugee policy that criminalises refugees who refuse to willingly return to regimes that are persecuting them; to sign their own death sentence. Under the proposed law, any refugee who does not voluntarily deport themselves once exhausting "all legal means", would face up to 5 years in jail and/or up to \$92,300 in fines. The Labor party's own national platform recognises that the legal means currently available are not "fair, thorough and robust", with refugees often arbitrarily denied visas with no reason given. While they acknowledge there may be valid reasons to resist deportation, they refuse to consider fear of persecution in your origin country as one of them.

This new law is especially hideous in light of the ongoing case against a refugee known only as ASF17, which will conclude in May. Facing persecution in Iran as a bisexual man and as a women's rights activist, he was forced to flee to Australia where he has been held in indefinite detention. If he wins his case, the government will be forced to release him and provide a bridging visa. The release of a queer, women's rights activist into Australia has clearly sent a shiver up the Labor party's already negligible spine, providing an impetus for Labor to rail against those fleeing almost certain execution.

Labor is also implementing an outright ban on accepting immigration from whole countries giving the government power to refuse visas to anybody fleeing persecution in Iran, Iraq, South Sudan, and many other states who do not accept involuntary deportations from Australia. It is abundantly clear that if you are one of the unfortunate people fleeing persecution by a regime who might refuse to take you back, the Labor party doesn't want you coming here at all.

UMSU must condemn this most recent attack on the rights of refugees by the Labor party and endorse the upcoming protest organised by the Tamil Refugee Council and Victorian Socialists, to oppose the bill. Student unions in Australia oppose the persecution of refugees by our government and extend our solidarity to those like ASF17 who are fleeing extraordinary violence and persecution.

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.

Motion: To accept the motion as presented.

Mover: Lola Bowers

Seconder: Yasmeen Atieh

The original motion was previously rejected by the General Secretary, and the amended motion (as currently presented) was rejected as it was submitted 10 minutes after the deadline.

The Chair advised that Motions Without Notice are for extremely urgent matters, mostly around financial motions and operational urgencies, but will have this an exception just for this Council. The Chair urged Councillors to read the regulations and adhere to them.

Chair gave Councillors five minutes of reading time from 10:55am.

Meeting resumed at 11:06am.

Lola spoke to motion, spoke to the background history that motivated this motion.

Yasmeen Atieh spoke to her seconding rights, replacing the original seconder (Samuel Eggleston) as he is unwell.

Caitlin (observer) also spoke to the motion.

Penelope named once at 11:06am after inviting Harrishman to speak on the motion.

Harishman expressed that he's glad this motion was put to this Council and supported its principles.

Raphael named for a second time at 11:07am.

Lucy Rachman spoke in favour of the motion; questioned why the motion was not initially accepted in its original form.

Chair noted that the motion was originally rejected as one of the action points was unconstitutional and illegal. The one being presented has been amended to remove the unconstitutional action points.

There was extensive discussion over the motion.

Several people left from the zoom meeting during the discussion.

Raphael was named for a third time and was asked to leave the meeting by the Chair.

Raphael Duffy left the meeting

Procedural Motion: To move directly to a vote.

Moved: Leon Paratz

CARRIED

Motion 10: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Lola Bowers

Seconded: Yasmeen Atieh

CARRIED WITH TWO DISSENTING VOTES

Bella named for a third time

Procedural Motion: To move in camera for the CEO Report.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 11:35am

Tash Lee, Reema, Yasmeen Atieh, Lola Bowers, Angus, Caitlin left the meeting at 11:35am

Procedural Motion: To go into a ten-minute break from 11:35am.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Council adjourned at 11:36am

Council re-adjourned at 11:46am

13. CEO Report

Kien-Ling Liem left the meeting at 11:46am

Hanny Teja left the meeting at 12:00pm

Bella Beiraghi left the meeting at 12:11pm

Lucy Kelly left the meeting at 12:34pm

Justine Light De Guzman left the meeting at 12:41pm

14. Next Meeting

14.1. Friday 26 April 2024 10am

15. Close

Meeting closed at 12:55pm