# University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Students' Council Minutes Friday 26 April 2024, 10am



Friday 26 April 2024, 10am Meeting 7(24)

Location: G02 Activity Room, Market Hall; Zoom (on request)

# Meeting opened at 10:08am

## 1. Procedural Matters

## 1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Kevin Li be elected as Chair

Moved: Kevin Li

**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'	Wen Hao (Clement) Wu	Yes
Council		
Students' Council Indigenous Representative	Oskar Martin	Yes
Students with Disabilities Representative on	Sameeksha Mudigere Keshav	Yes
Students' Council		
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Tianyi Yu	Yes
International Student Representative on	Navyaa Jain	Yes
Students' Council		
Graduate Student Representative on Students'	Yashica Mishra	Yes
Council		
Southbank Student Representative on Students'	Hugh Collins	Yes
Council		
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	Yes
	Ward	
Students' Council (General Representative)	Leon Paratz	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Yash Sah	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Kunal Dewani	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Penelope Scacciante	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Pranav Gupta	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Anndrya Chua	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ibrahim Muan Abdulla	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rachael Hynds	Proxy request
Students' Council (General Representative)	Natalie Sinicka	No

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Disha Zutshi	No
General Secretary	Enzhe (Kevin) Li	Yes
Activities Officer	Amy Peters	Yes
Activities Officer	Mehul Gopalakrishnan	Resigned
Creative Arts Officer	Shravya Akkapeddi	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Jiajie Zheng	No
Clubs & Societies Officer	Azalea Rohaizam	Apology
Clubs & Societies Officer	Chatarina Hanny Angelita Teja	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Adam Whitehead	Resigned
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	No
Environment Officer	Emma Dynes	Yes
Environment Officer	Jaan Schild	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Hamish Rose	Yes
Media Officer	Joel Duggan	Yes
Media Officer	Gunjan Ahluwalia	Yes
Media Officer	Kien-Ling Liem	Yes
Media Officer	Jessica Fanwong	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Denzil Minnaar	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Ying Kwan Jania Lam	No
Queer Officer	Binderiya Batzorig	Yes
Queer Officer	Rahul (Ryan) Mittal	No
Welfare Officer	Joshua Stagg	Yes
Welfare Officer	Divyanshi Sati	Yes
Women's Officer	Akanksha Agarwal	Apology
Women's Officer	Micaela Rynne	Apology
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Jake Duyvestyn	No
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Ariel Teo	Apology
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Amy Rogers	No
Southbank Activities Officer	Justine Light De Guzman	Yes
Southbank Education Officer	Felicity Patrice Liston	Apology

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Lachlan McCallum (CFO), Natasha Lee (EA to CEO), Deanna Yong (Finance Manager), Sam Eggleston (observer), Yasmeen Atieh (observer), Gursagar Singh Sekhon (observer), Lola Bowers (observer), Paterson Lewis (observer)

# 1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Micaela Rynne, Akanksha Agarwal, Felicity Liston, Ariel Teo, Azalea

Rohaizam

Councillors: NA

## 1.5. Proxies

## 1.5.1. Rachael Hynds to Alessandra Ward

No motion required, as the proxy request was received exactly an hour prior to Council.

## 1.6. Leave of Absence Requests

#### 1.7. Membership

# 1.7.1. Adam Whitehead has resigned

## 1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair CARRIED

#### 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

## 2.1. Minutes 6(24)

Mary reminded OBs to fill in P10: Leave of Absence form if approved by Council or OpSub. The online form can be found on LMS page 'A Guide to Taking Leave'.

Motion 3: To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Chair

**CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT** 

#### 3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

#### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

## 5. Correspondence

## 5.1. OpSub Minutes & Update

Chair noted that there were two OpSub meetings between previous and current council, both regarding spending by the People of Colour Department.

# 6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission
		Status?
President	Disha Zutshi	Not Submitted
General Secretary	Enzhe (Kevin) Li	Submitted
Activities Officer	Amy Peters	Submitted
Activities Officer	Mehul Gopalakrishnan	Submitted
Creative Arts Officer	Shravya Akkapeddi	Submitted
Creative Arts Officer	Jiajie Zheng	Not Submitted
Clubs & Societies Officer	Azalea Rohaizam	Submitted
Clubs & Societies Officer	Chatarina Hanny Angelita Teja	Submitted
Disabilities Officer	Adam Whitehead	NA
Disabilities Officer	Anishaa Jeyakumar	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Julian De Marco	Submitted*
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Lucy Rachman Vascotto	Not Submitted
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Raphael Duffy	Not Submitted

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

Chair reminded OBs to submit their reports via Teams OB chat, as emailing the General Secretary runs risk of missing the report, and subsequent distribution during council. Deadline is consistent at the Wednesday (12nn) prior to Council.

Motion 4: To accept the OB Reports en bloc

Moved: Chair

**CWD** 

Procedural Motion: To allow Deanna, Tash, and Lachlan attend the meeting in

camera

Moved: Chair

CWD

Procedural Motion: To move in camera for the CEO Report and other in camera

reports

Moved: Chair

**CWD** 

## Council moved in camera at 10:13am

Lola Bowers, Yasmeen Atieh, Paterson Lewis, Rhoda Louis Miller left the meeting at 10:13am

# 7. CEO Report

- **7.1.** 7(24) CEO Report
- 7.2. The Hue Report; UMSU Justice, Equity and Inclusion Review

Raphael Duffy joined the meeting at 10:19am

Kunal Dewani joined the meeting at 10:21am

Muan entered the meeting at 10:23 am

Amy Peters entered the meeting at 10:27am

Anishaa Jeyakumar and Raphael Duffy entered the meeting at 10:34am

Julian De Marco joined the meeting at 10:35am

7.3. UMSU 2023 Financial Statements

## 7.4. Business Plan - Bar

Lucy Rachman entered the meeting at 10:52 am

Raphael Duffy left the meeting at 11:06am

7.5. Health and Safety Incident Report Form

Procedural Motion: To move out of camera

Moved: Chair

**CWD** 

Motion 5: To endorse the CEO's report.

Moved: Chair

**CWD** 

## Council moved out of camera at 11:09am

Lola Bowers, Yasmeen Atieh, Rhoda Louis Miller, Raphael Duffy, and Gursagar Singh Sekhon returned to meeting at 11:10am

#### 8. Other Reports

## 9. Operational Business

## **9.1.** SIG Applications

Chair spoke to the nine applications received prior to Council. He noted that there is \$4000 left in SIG pool for Semester 1. All 9 applicants asked for the maximum grant amount of \$1000. Council can accept, reject, or amend the amount requested by applicants. Chair recommended to leave at least \$1000 for the remaining two councils before exam time. Council could also defer decision to current applications to Semester 2. A lot of bigger events will run regardless of SIG, Chair recommended putting priority to events that will not be able to run without SIG.

Chair gave everyone five minutes to read the applications from 11:14am

Shravya Akkapeddi left the meeting at 11:19am

Chair invited comments and questions on specific grant applications.

Leon suggested not funding graduation dinners other than the rural one, in consideration of the relatively high costs for food transport. Chair clarified that grant money will subsidise ticketing costs only.

**Procedural Motion:** To go on a five-minute break

Moved: Chair

**CARRIED** 

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am

Meeting resumed at 11:42am

Leon suggested allocating the remaining \$3000 to the SIG applicants as follows: \$1000 for rural dinner, \$250 each for the remaining two medical graduation dinners, \$500 each for the remaining applicants.

Harrishman suggested allocation as follows: Podcast \$250, rural dinner \$850-1000, BIPOC collective \$300-500.

Justine suggested a higher allocation for the VCA BIPOC collective, as it likely for film/fine arts students exclusively, thus may have only received very limited support from Southbank staff.

Allocation for each applicant was discussed as follows:

#### VCA BIPOC Collective Exhibition + Initiatives

\$500

#### Parasite Project Exhibitions

Venue costs takes up the majority – UMSU can address this with them without spending grant money

\$500

The Time Out Surgical Podcast

\$250 to cover subscription costs

St Vincent's Clinical School 2024 Graduation Dinner

\$250 for tickets

Sara left the meeting at 11:45am

#### Rural Medical Ball

\$1000 considering that they haven't had the opportunity to receive alternative funding sources

MDSC Special Wellness Events Program

250

Austin Clinical School Doctors Graduation Dinner

\$250

Chair will approve final batch of Semester 1 SIG applications in the final Council meeting of Semester 1, unless there are time-sensitive events that require urgent review and subsequent approval / rejection.

Motion 7: To accept all SIG applications, with amount varied as discussed above, totalling \$3000 spent from the budget line.

Moved: Leon Paratz Seconded: Kunal Dewani

CWD

#### 10. Motions on Notice

#### **10.1.** UMSU AGM

Motion 8: That Students' Council direct the general secretary to begin the process for calling the UMSU AGM. (sending notice within 5 days, 12 academic days from this council 14 may)

Moved: Kevin Li Seconded: Harrishman Shobanan

**CWD** 

**10.2.** UMSU stands against the Victorian Police Commissioners calls for new anti protest legislation

#### Preamble:

Last week Shane Patton, the Police Chief Commissioner renewed calls on the government to introduce new anti-protest laws in Victoria. Patton formally requested that the Police Minister consider introducing a protest permit system similar to the one operating in New South Wales, whereby organisers of protests must obtain a permit from police before holding a street demonstration.

The Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) urged the Victorian Government to reject any proposal that would require protestors to obtain a permit to rally. "Requiring a police permit to participate in democracy will undermine the ability of every person in Victoria to exercise their right to peacefully protest" the statement said.

It is no coincidence that Patton's comments come just after Melbourne held a week of action for Palestine that included a series of rallies, blockades, student strikes and occupations. In an exclusive interview with Channel 7 and Channel 9 following the student strike, Patton argued that the introduction of a permit system is needed to combat "disruptive demonstrations."

Bella and Sam were not present at the meeting. Mover and seconder of the motion was changed to Lola and Rhoda respectively.

Lola spoke to moving rights.

Rhoda spoke to seconding rights.

Raphael, Alessandra, Joshua spoke in support of the motion.

Motion 9: That UMSU rejects calls for the introduction of permit protest legislation as an attack on civil liberties and human rights. Where permit laws do exist in Australia, they are routinely used to suppress and even criminalise protests, whether that be for Palestine, climate justice or any other progressive political issue.

Moved: Lola Bowers Seconded: Rhoda Louis Miller

CARRIED WITH DISSENT

# **10.3.** UMSU Stands in Solidarity with pro-Palestine student activists at Columbia University

#### Preamble:

As it stands, over 100 student activists from the University of Columbia in the United States have been arrested for setting up a 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' on their campus.

The University president Minouche Shafik and her administration have worked alongside state police and campus law enforcements to try and put a lid on pro-Palestine activism on the campus.

This has looked like the disciplining of protesters, prohibiting demonstrations, surveillance of student emails, considering whether or not to fire professors who have been accused of being overly zealous in their support of Israel or Palestine and now the arresting of over 100 students.

Student-led solidarity actions with Gaza are a key part of the pro-Palestine, anti-war movement all across the world. Universities have always been sites of political activism and it is important that in this moment, with Israel's war on Palestine, that they remain so. While governments from America to Australia support Israel's genocide, students must continue the fight to hold them to account.

Student union's, including UMSU, have a responsibility to defend democratic freedoms and the right to protest and to stand against any attack on these rights.

#### Platform:

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

**Procedural Motion:** Delay this motion to next Council, so that Jewish students may be offered an opportunity to speak to the motion.

Moved: Leon Paratz

Leon noted that it is Passover today, a Jewish religious holiday.

Raphael, Paterson, Lola, Alessandra disagreed with the procedural motion.

Julian De Marco supported deferring, being respectful to Jewish community is important.

Chair reminded Councillors that they cannot abstain on a procedural motion.

**Procedural Motion:** Delay this motion to next Council, so that Jewish students may be offered an opportunity to speak to the motion.

Moved: Leon Paratz

**FAILED** 

Chair raised a Point of Order relating to Motion 10. Councillors cannot force people to be in a photo without their consent. OBs cannot name people in Council. Any photos and accompanying text that has been produced and publicised in one's capacity as Councillor must go through the Publisher of UMSU (General Secretary). No-one is allowed to speak on behalf of Students' Council, as the spokesperson of UMSU is the President.

Yasmeen spoke to her moving rights.

Penelope spoke to her seconding rights.

There was extensive discussion over the motion.

**Procedural Motion:** To close the speaking list and directly move to a vote on the motion

Moved: Harrishman Shobanan

**CARRIED WITH DISSENT** 

Motion 10: UMSU Students' Council will take a solidarity photo with students at Columbia University.

Moved: Yasmeen Atieh Seconded: Penelope Scacciante

**CARRIED WITH DISSENT** 

#### **10.4.** UMSU backs University of Melbourne students in the Gig Economy

#### Preamble:

That Students' Council:

Recognizes all students should be paid their minimum standards in any job they work to help meet the pressures of the cost of living crisis.

Nearly 4 in 5 gig economy workers are reliant on the sector to make ends meet, and over half of gig economy workers have said that they feel pressured to complete their deliveries at the expense of their own safety, per a report from the McKell Institute.

Many students rely on gigs from companies like Uber to pay rent or other bills on time. Students working in the gig economy are regularly under-paid, with no minimum standards, face frequent abuse and routinely risk personal safety.

#### Action:

- That UMSU supports students at the University of Melbourne who are Gig Economy workers, recognizing the higher rates of International Students who go into Gig Economy work to relieve cost-of-living pressures.
- That UMSU will make a public statement of support for students who are Gig Economy workers and encourage them to reach out to the TWU for representation and support.

Julian De Marco spoke to his moving rights.

Gursagar ceded his speaking rights.

Lola and Rhoda spoke in support for the motion.

There was extensive discussion over the motion.

Joshua Stagg proposed an amendment:

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

Amend the motion to remove the action item 'That UMSU will make a public statement of support for students who are Gig Economy workers and encourage them to reach out to the TWU for representation and support'.

Moved: Joshua Stagg

**Procedural Motion:** To move to a vote on the amendment.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Hamish Rose and Denzil Minnaar left the meeting at 12:50pm

Motion 11: To accept the motion as amended.

Moved: Julian De Marco Seconded: Gursagar Singh Sekhon

CARRIED

## 11. Other Business (Motions Without Notice)

- 12. Next Meeting
  - **12.1.** Friday 10 May 2024, 10am
- 13. Close

Meeting closed at 12:51pm