

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Friday 22 September 2023, 3pm
Meeting 15(23)
Location: Level 4 Lecture Theatre, Building 168
Meeting opened at 3:13pm

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Disha Zutshi be elected as Chair.

Mover: Luv Golecha

Seconded: 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' Council	Reham Elzeiny	Yes
Students' Council Indigenous Representative	N/A	
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Sameeksha Mudigere Keshav	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Edison Wei Long Ngu	Terminated
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Luv Pravin Golecha	Yes
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Nan Jiang	No
Southbank Student Representative on Students' Council	Caitlin Wessner	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	N/A	
Students' Council (General Representative)	Divyanshi Sati	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rahul Mittal	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Enzhe (Kevin) Li	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Evelyn Thompson	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Inderpreet Singh	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Isabella Beiraghi	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Isioma Ogwu	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Mohan Kwatra	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raphael Duffy	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	N/A	
Students' Council (General Representative)	Watey Diep	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Stefan Gavrilov	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Kunal Dewani	Yes

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Hiba Adam	<i>Yes</i>
General Secretary	Disha Zutshi	<i>Yes</i>
Activities Officer	Tvisha Purswani	<i>No</i>
Activities Officer	Arya Kushwaha	<i>On Leave</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Savier D'Arsie-Marquez	<i>Yes</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Renee Thierry	<i>Yes</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kimmy Ng	<i>Yes</i>
Disabilities Officer	Adam Whitehead	<i>Yes</i>
Disabilities Officer	Alice Zhao	<i>Yes</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Carlos Lagos Martin	<i>Yes</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Mary Kin Chan	<i>Leave Request</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Taj Takahashi	<i>Yes</i>
Environment Officer	Emma Dynes	<i>Yes</i>
Environment Officer	James Gallagher	<i>Yes</i>
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	<i>No</i>
Media Officer	Weiting Chin	<i>No</i>
Media Officer	Xiaole Zhan	<i>Leave Request</i>
Media Officer	Josh Davis	<i>Yes</i>
Media Officer	Carmen Chin	<i>On Leave</i>
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	<i>Yes</i>
Queer Officer	Mehul Gopalakrishnan	<i>Yes</i>
Queer Officer	Sum To Leslie Ho	<i>Yes</i>
Welfare Officer	Ishita Ganeriwala	<i>Yes</i>
Welfare Officer	Yashica Mishra	<i>Yes</i>
Women's Officer	Ngaire Bogemann	<i>Yes</i>
Women's Officer	Alessandra Soliven	<i>No</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Rhys Browning	<i>No</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Annalyce Wiebenga	<i>Yes</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Jack Doughty	<i>No</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Helen Shen	<i>No</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Zodie Bolic	<i>Yes</i>

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Phoebe Churches (Divisional Manager, Advocacy & Legal), Priyanka Pandey (Divisional Manager, People & Community), Tim Lippis (minute taker), Lucas Spatela, Caitlin Kane, Bethany, Rose Power, Hamish Rose.

1.4. Apologies**1.5. Proxies**

1.5.1. Kunal Dewani to Kevin Li (from 4pm)

1.5.2. Isi Ogwu to Divyanshi Sati (from 3:45pm)

Motion 2: To accept all proxies requests en bloc.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.6. Leave of Absence Requests

1.6.1. For this Council: Mary Kin Chan, Xiaole Zhan

1.6.2. For Council 15(23) – Inquorate: Renee Thierry, Kimberly Ng, Helen Shen, Rahul Mittal, Enzhe Li, Divyanshi Sati, Kunal Deewani, Sameeksha Mudigeree, Luv Golecha, Nan Jiang, Watey Diep, Inderpreet Dhillon, Isi Ogwu, Mohan Kwatra, Reham Elzeiny

1.6.3. Attendance Waiver: Carmen Chin, Arya Kushwaha

1.6.4. Retrospective Leave: Mohan Kwatra (Council 13(23) and 14(23)), Isi Ogwu (Council 14(23)), Rose Power (Council 12(23))

Motion 3: To accept the leave requests for this council and for Council 15(23) – Inquorate.

Moved: Chair

Seconded:

CARRIED

Adam spoke briefly on the matter of Rose Power's retrospective leave requests and recommends review of the standing orders to better accommodate the needs of people requiring greater accessibility.

Rose Power briefly spoke to the reason for zir previous absences from Council and their circumstances for the past months. Noted previous attendance record and was disappointed by the absence of concern for zir wellbeing, and noting the need for consideration of accessibility requirements.

Annalyce noted that welfare checks on those missing attendance were routine in the past.

Motion 4: That Council retrospectively approves leave from Council for Rose Power for Council 12(23). That Council directs the CEO to speak to the Electoral Tribunal about whether Rose Power can be reinstated to Council.

Moved: Adam Whitehead

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED

1.7. Membership

1.7.1. Edison Wei Long Ngue has been terminated from Council.

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Renee Thierry noted that the agendas and papers were not circulated within the notice period required in the standing orders. Disha noted that the delay was owing to a technical glitch and requirements for assignments.

Lucas Spaleta spoke to the proposal to defer particular agenda items and requested that VCESS items are not deferred.

Brittney Henderson noted that the item regarding the Indigenous OB has been deferred multiple times, and there are time critical issues that cannot be deferred again.

Motion 5: To go to motion 10.2 immediately after correspondence and accept the remainder of the agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 14(23)

Motion 6: To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Chair Seconder: Rahul

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

5.1. Open Letter

Hope (mover) from MB and a member of the Gundi Bunjil editor team introduced themselves, and they spoke to the content of the open letter and provided some further background to the motion.

The open letter has been co-signed by multiple members of the MB community.

Hamish Rose (secorder) noted that the issues raised are not confined to the Gundi Bunjil publication, or the specific issues mentioned in the letter and extend into many areas.

6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Hiba Adam	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Disha Zutshi	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Tvisha Purswani	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Arya Kushwaha	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Savier D'Arsie-Marquez	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Renee Thierry	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kimmy Ng	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Adam Whitehead	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Alice Zhao	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Carlos Lagos Martin	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Mary Kin Chan	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Taj Takahashi	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Emma Dynes	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	James Gallagher	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Weiting Chin	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Xiaole Zhan	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Josh Davis	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Carmen Chin	<i>Not Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Mehul Gopalakrishnan	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Sum To Leslie Ho	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Ishita Ganeriwala	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Yashica Mishra	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Ngaire Bogemann	<i>Submitted</i>

Raphael Duffy noted his support for the motion and support for UMSU taking a clear YES stance.

Motion 8: On the 14th of October Australia will vote in a yes/no referendum to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution of Australia, giving First Nations Peoples a permanent platform in policy making and legislation.

UMSU as a student union and an activist organization acknowledge that not all First Nations Peoples will be voting yes in the upcoming referendum, and the shortcoming of the Voice to Parliament. However, we also acknowledge the Uluru Statement from the Heart and First Nations Peoples who are voting yes.

UMSU is taking the position of 'Yes, but...'. While the Voice to Parliament is a step towards the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the heart and ensuring First Nations Peoples' voices are included into legislation, we recognize that this is not enough.

Moved: Hiba Adam

Seconded: Mohamed Hadi

CARRIED

10.2. Indigenous Officer

Phoebe Churches asked if, if the council votes to suspend Harley, what is the plan for the office with a casual vacancy?

Brittney Henderson noted that there would be no practical difference with no person in the office. Further, with recent changes to the electoral regulations,

Phoebe clarifies that a suspension may not trigger a casual vacancy in the department, and therefore may not achieve the intention of the motion and letter.

Brittney responds by agreeing that the intention of the letter was a termination, not a suspension and agrees to amend the motion to reflect a termination.

Phoebe notes that, with the new electoral regulations in place it may be appropriate to speak to Harley and see if they would prefer to resign.

Hiba further clarifies this point and mentions that Harley does not mind if they resign or are terminated but defers to the Indigenous Student representatives and motion movers to choose whether to continue with the termination or to approach Harley first.

The mover and seconder of the motion noted that communicating with Harley may not be possible, based on recent attempts.

Hope requested a motion to be moved to pay the Gundi Bunjil team, however Disha requested that be taken out of council to be organised.

Motion 9: That Council suspends Harley Lewis as UMSU Indigenous Office Bearer, due to their inability to support indigenous Students Voice.

Amendment: changing "suspension" to "termination".

Moved: Hope Constable

Seconded: Hamish Rose

CARRIED WITH AMENDMENT

Council returned to Item 7.

7. CEO Report

Procedural Motion: To move in camera.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 3:58pm

Procedural Motion: To take a 5-minute break.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 10: To accept the CEO's report.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To allow VCESS Directors & Priyanka Pandey into Council to speak to 8.1.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Isi Ogwu left at 4:48pm

Divyanshi Sati left at 4:49pm

8. Other Reports

8.1. VCESS

Stefan Gavrilov left at 5:03pm

Quorum lost at 5:03pm.

Motion 11: To direct the VCESS Directors to share with the Volunteering Manager the following documents:

- Volunteer database
- Timetabling system
- Key documents (Lesson plans, activity plans, etc)
- Training materials
- Key stakeholder contact info (all participating schools, students, parents, etc)
- Visual assets (videos, photos, etc)
- Folder access (need all files from previous years, etc)

Moved: Hiba Adam

Seconded: Mohamed Omer

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move out of camera.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved out of camera at 5:17pm

9. Operational Business

11. Other Business (Motions without Notice)

Motion 12: To pass \$900 from the NUS Budget line (03-70-710-3847) for NUS Ethno-cultural conference which is being held in Adelaide.

Moved: Hiba Adam

Seconded: Mohamed Omer

CARRIED

12. Next Meeting

13th October 2023

13. Close

Meeting closed at 5:17pm