



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

Wednesday July 8, 1:00pm

Meeting 13(20)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/93617527287?pwd=SWxabUNWd1N2d0VPRGZNC01oQVdHUT09>

Password: 561004

Meeting opened at 1309 by Hannah Buchan

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Hannah Buchan be elected Chair

Mover: Hannah Buchan

Second: Chris Melenhorst

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged

1.3. Attendance

◇

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Noni Bridger, Bethany Cherry, Felix, Catriona Smith

Councillors:

Leave of Absence Requests:

Office Bearers:

- *Noni Bridger 13(20)*

- *Bethany Cherry 13(20)*

Councillors:

- *Catriona Smith*

Motion 2: to approve the noted Leave of Absence Requests

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

1.5. Proxies

1.6. Membership

Declan terminated as Welfare officer due to non attendance at Welfare Committee

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: That the Agenda as presented be adopted
 Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)
 CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 12(20)

Motion 4: That the minutes of 12(20) be accepted as a true and accurate record
 Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)
 CARRIED

Natasha Guglielmino (Welfare) would like it noted that she was on leave from council, and that the Welfare Department has not received any correspondence from the Disabilities Department at all.

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

None

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Office Bearer Reports

President	Hannah Buchan	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities	India Pinkney	<i>Submitted</i>
	Hayley Stanford	<i>Not submitted</i>
Clubs and Societies	Jordan Di Natale	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts	Emily White	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Bell	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities	Hue Man Dang	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs)	Georgia Walton Briggs	<i>Submitted</i>
	Joshua Munro	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs)	Charlie Joyce	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Noni Bridger	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Sophie Kerrigan	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Hope Kuchel	<i>Not Submitted</i>
	Shanysa McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media <i>*Also see a report regarding Radio Fodder</i>	Bethany Cherry	<i>Submitted, with recommendations</i>
	Amber Meyer	<i>Submitted</i>
	Sarah Peters	<i>Submitted</i>

	Tharidi Walimunige	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour	Gurpreet Singh	<i>Submitted</i>
	Nicole Nabbout	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer	Ciara O'Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
	A'Bidah Zaid Shirbeeni	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare	Natasha Guglielmino	<i>Submitted</i>
	Declan Kerger	<i>Not submitted</i>
Women's	Naomi Smith	<i>Submitted</i>
	Aria Sunga	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank	Verity Crane	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Hayden Williams	<i>Not submitted</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Not submitted</i>

Hayley Stanford forgot to send her report in (but did write it!). India and Hayley have been meeting with Events, and have finalised the Semester 2 bands. All the Winterfest planning is done – looking for a comedian still. There will additionally be a talent show and a comedy show.

Amber Meyers would like to add that Submissions for Edition 4 of Farrago are now open

Hope Kuchel apologised for not submitting a report – they had the wrong date in their calendar

Charlie Joyce also apologised for submitting a report.

Hayden Williams (VCA) didn't submit a report as he prioritised other things. He told the Council that he was undertaking work on behalf of Advocacy. He reiterated that it's not reasonable to be doing this, and he has received advice about this from UMSUs EAP that he's undertaking Social Work and needs a supervisor

Kaitlyn Hammond also apologised for submitting a report as well- she's been on field trips

Hannah Buchan pre-empted questioning regarding COVID19 – mentioning that she doesn't know how the recent lockdown affects the Uni yet but will update people as we find out

Chris Melenhorst to Hannah Buchan – are you going to talk to the Uni about continuing COVID19 WAM measures for Semester 2?

Hannah said that that was on the Agenda

Chris Melenhorst to Education Academic – are you also campaigning on the WAM changes?

Georgia Walton Briggs said that they were but through internal channels at this point.

Hannah Krasovec requested that it be noted that Josh Munro's report was really short and not of an acceptable standard

Anneke wanted an update on the work that departments were doing with the No Cuts stuff

Georgia Walton Briggs said that they'd been working with students on committees regarding getting the data re: what if any subjects will be cut. Charlie Joyce has said that he's working with the NTEU on a possible FOI request regarding the cuts.

Andie Moore asked how often the course committees are meeting at the moment?

Georgia Walton Briggs indicated that they meet once a month, but not all the cuts are being discussed via the course standing committees.

Andie asked if this is a way to bypass students on committees?

Georgia Walton Briggs indicated that it depends on the reason why the course/subject was being discontinued – different reasons can go through different channels.

Chris Melenhorst asked Welfare about the engagement levels of Stress Less Week?

Natasha Guglielmino said she'd have to check with comms – a Red Bull giveaway had about 300, roughly 70 sign ups for other things. She said she thought engagement was good.

Motion 5: To approve all OB reports en bloc

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

7. CEO Report

Procedural Motion: To move in camera

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

Students Council went in camera at 1329

During this time, the electoral regulations were discussed.

Council moved out of camera at 1605

Procedural Motion: Suspend standing nick Reich's proxy to Anneke Demanuele

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

8. Other Reports

9. Operational Business

9.1. Student Initiative Grant 'When We Were Very Young'

Motion 11: To approve the Grant Application

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

9.2. Nominations for UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group

Hannah Krasovec, Thonya Deverall and Hayley Kebbell

Motion 12: to accept the election of Hannah Krasovec, Thonya Deverall and Hayley Kebbell to the UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. No Cops V2.0 – Dignity for Public Housing Residents Now!

Preamble:

In the latest development of Victoria's gradual slide into a police state, the Andrews government has seen fit to blockade nine public housing blocks in Flemington as part of its Covid-19 response. Residents who have migrant or disadvantaged backgrounds were given as little as half an hour's notice before 500 armed police – one for every six residents, occupied the building to enforce a total lockdown for at least five days, possibly for up to a fortnight. Although the Andrews government has ceded some token assurances, such as supplemental payments and a suspension of rent, these guarantees ultimately ring hollow. Reports at the time of writing indicate communication inside the building is very poor (a long withstanding problem with the broader Covid-19 response). Groceries and other essentials are also yet to be distributed throughout the buildings despite an incredible community response willing to provide these supplies, which unsurprisingly have been turned away by the police.

This action should be contextualised within the framework of Victoria's response thus far; suburbs have been given days' notice about impending restrictions which are considerably lighter, allowing even shopping malls to remain open as 'essential' services. These tower blocks are instead subject to abject degradation and aggression from law enforcement, sealing them inside their cramped apartments that were the very reason that this 'intervention' was necessitated! More broadly, the rank elitism on display by a so-called progressive government is likewise concerning. The deployment of the defence force to Northern suburbs like Broadmeadows and Epping contrasts sharply with the milquetoast reprimand of wealthy Southeastern suburbs which were the hotbed for infections in the onset of the pandemic, or the provision of hotel quarantine for returned travellers. Such a response is sadly not unprecedented given the toxic "tough on crime" rhetoric that played into the last state election, disproportionately targeting working class migrant communities. It is indicative of a continued acquiescence to the far-right in mainstream politics, lazily appeasing reactionaries for votes rather than finding more innovative ways of keeping our communities safe and healthy. The sheer mental gymnastics of attempting to present a conciliatory and data-driven public health response whilst announcing an invasion of marginalised communities surely deserves a gold medal to be remembered in years to come.

The revelation of these violent state apparatuses to the broader Victorian public, previously invisible in 'conventional' life, represents the rapidly evaporating illusion that our society is immune to the coming crises of the 21st century which are direct consequences of its own excesses. As students with the privilege of a tertiary education, it is our duty to act and educate ourselves and others on these oppressive mechanisms and find ways to reconstruct them anew, lest they perpetuate the barbarity upon which they were founded.

Platform:

- UMSU stands in solidarity with these residents, whose mistreatment is reprehensible given that they are themselves the frontline workers hailed as heroes in a more naïve time.
- UMSU advocates for more public housing, especially given the fact that the high incidence of transmission in these blocks was due to the cramped conditions and poor maintenance of facilities (a consequence of overcrowding) in the first place.
- UMSU (once again) affirms that ACAB. Thuggery should not be the go-to response for public crises and we instead call for the abolition of the police whose functions would be better performed by social workers in this case.

Action:

- UMSU shall issue a statement expressing support for these residents and deplore this needlessly hostile response, signed and shared by every department. Just as we condemned cops for invading our campus so too shall we defend the communities on our doorstep.
- Students Council shall allocate \$5000 out of Whole of Union expenses to The Venny, a “free communal backyard” for vulnerable children in Kensington and is working directly with the families affected by the lockdown.
- Students Council encourages all departments to find meaningful ways to take action on this issue – a union is nothing if it does not find ways to engage with and enrich its community.

Moved: Max Dowell.

Seconded: Tejas Gandhi

Josh Bruni suggested that we need to support the Daniel Andrews Labor Government in their fight against COVID19 and that not all cops are bastards. He suggested it was disheartening that people in council support Labor but would vote for this motion. He indicated that he would not be supporting the motion.

Briana said that she was for this motion and that the Andrews Government have been terrible at supporting community housing for years.

Thonya suggested that if you support the BLM motion at the last council and you are voting against this one now that you're a hypocrite.

Anneke said that marginalised communities feel the effects of COVID19 more. She said that Josh was fucking pathetic at making this motion a weird Labor power move.

Jordan asked where the money was going.

Max indicated that it's a community garden for vulnerable children in the area.

Gurpreet indicated that ACAB and that all governments should be open to criticism. He asked all people to look at a map of the towers and their proximity to other private housing towers that weren't picked on. He highlighted the differences in responses to COVID19 outbreaks depending on the suburbs. He asked to amend this motion to say that “All Cops and their supporters are bastards”

Hannah indicated she believed that ACAB is about a collective reform of the police force and that there are good police out there, but they're not able to make the changes they need. The amount of cops at the towers is excessive, there needs to be more focus on social workers. Bill Shorten is donating food to this – that's how fucked up it is.

Noni said that what is happening is inherently racist and that all members of the Labor party need to call it out.

Tejas said that the money would go towards online forum and children in need in the towers, as well as basic supplies for people in the towers. The bigger picture is a bipartisan issue – if the previous governments had provided better housing then we wouldn't be in such a dire situation.

Srishti indicated that the price they pay for trusting the wrong cop is violence, trauma and death. They indicated that the tower situation was unacceptable and people are not getting the food and supplies they need.

Max said he almost put in there that they appreciated the Andrews public Health response but its been really poor, and lockdowns have been seemingly racist and attacking marginalised communities.

Andie said that Josh was being a bit inflammatory, and that everyone is free to critique their own party. They also recommended other organisations to check out and support.

Motion 13

Platform:

UMSU stands in solidarity with these residents, whose mistreatment is reprehensible given that they are themselves the frontline workers hailed as heroes in a more naïve time.

UMSU advocates for more public housing, especially given the fact that the high incidence of transmission in these blocks was due to the cramped conditions and poor maintenance of facilities (a consequence of overcrowding) in the first place.

UMSU (once again) affirms that ACAB and all those who support them are too. Thuggery should not be the go-to response for public crises and we instead call for the abolition of the police whose functions would be better performed by social workers in this case.

Action:

UMSU shall issue a statement expressing support for these residents and deplore this needlessly hostile response, signed and shared by every department. Just as we condemned cops for invading our campus so too shall we defend the communities on our doorstep.

Students Council shall allocate \$5000 out of Whole of Union expenses to The Venny, a “free communal backyard” for vulnerable children in Kensington and is working directly with the families affected by the lockdown.

Students Council encourages all departments to find meaningful ways to take action on this issue – a union is nothing if it does not find ways to engage with and enrich its community.

Moved: Max Dowell.

Seconded: Tejas Gandhi

MOTION CARRIED

10.2. No Support for Hong Kong's Brutal Police Force

CW: Police brutality, hospitalisation of individuals, human rights violations, weapons manufacturing, imperialism.

Preamble:

Recently, the University of Melbourne and other Australian universities have been promoting jobs for the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) - the role of “Probationary Inspector”. After

backlash, both the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) removed the job listings, however Unimelb has kept theirs up.

The university advertising jobs for any police or military is wrong. Currently, the HKPF have been using brutal tactics to crush pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong. The pro-democracy mass protests started and escalated over proposed legislative amendments that would have allowed for extradition to mainland China. In response, the HKPF have embarked on mass arrests, with mistreatment and even incidents comparable to torture occurring in custody. In research conducted by Amnesty International (AI), "*in more than 85% of cases investigated... (18 out of 21), the arrested person was hospitalized as a result of their beating, with three of them spending at least five days in a hospital*" (Amnesty International, 2019). According to AI, the brutality used by the HKPF is violating international human rights law (Amnesty International, 2019).

This is not the only time the university has platformed violent institutions, with it having clear links to weapons manufacturers and being an anti-police and anti-imperialist organisation, UMSU must call it out and act against it until the diseases of police and imperialism are eradicated.

When contacted by SBS News, Unimelb's response was as follows;

"The student careers website is used by employers to post job advertisements for students at the University of Melbourne. These include job advertisements, like the one posted by the Hong Kong Police Force, which may interest international students who are considering returning home after they complete their studies" - a university spokesperson.

However, there are estimates by Hong Kong advocacy groups in Australia that HKPF applications have dropped by half since the protests began, due to the brutality displayed.

It is clear that the University of Melbourne should not be supportive of any regime that engages heavily in police brutality and the violation of human rights against pro-democracy movements, especially by advertising for the Hong Kong Police Force.

Hannah reiterated that other Uni's had taken the advertisement for this down. The University should be making a pro-democracy stand. She indicated that any councillor feeling the need to abstain from this due to safety issues is totally fine and understandable.

Gupreet spoke to his seconding rights, saying that supporting this motion is similar to not supporting arms dealers on campus.

Multiple councillors spoke in favour of the motion.

Motion 14: Platform:

UMSU condemns the University of Melbourne for advertising the Probationary Inspector job for the Hong Kong Police Force.

UMSU condemns the police brutality and crushing of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. UMSU reaffirms its commitment to the freedom to protest, and opposition to all police brutality.

UMSU reaffirms its position of ACAB.

Actions:

UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to remove the job listing, as it acts against the interests of democracy and human rights.

UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to not advertise jobs in foreign police forces or militaries in the future.

Moved: Hannah Krasovec

Seconded: Gurpreet Singh

CARRIED

10.3. UMSU Opposes Outrageous Military Spending

Last week Scott Morrison announced that the federal government is committing to pouring \$270 billion into Australia's military budget over the next decade. \$800 million of this funding will be spent on one Long Range Anti-Ship missile, while another \$9.3 billion will be put aside for the research and development of weapons and surveillance systems.

In his announcement, Morrison explicitly stated that these were measures intended to prepare for, in his words, the "poorer, more dangerous and more disorderly" post-COVID-19 world. This was a sentiment met with support by Labor's defence spokesman, Richard Marles who agreed that it was necessary for Australia to create a "strong defence resilience" going forward. The proposed military budget, and the framing of it by both the Liberal and Labor parties, lays bare the Australian government's priorities when it comes to dealing with the current crisis and the fallout from it.

These increases to military spending come at a time when the government is simultaneously making cuts to the already inadequate welfare system. As unemployment rates are skyrocketing, masses of workers and students are increasingly finding themselves in situations of financial precarity, and yet the government continues to cry poor when it comes to welfare. Indeed Morrison has flagged that he intends to begin slashing the recently raised Job Keeper and Job Seeker payments, because apparently the government can't afford them. However, you don't have to be a mathematician to work out that \$270 billion could well and truly maintain the current welfare rates, if not raise them substantially.

Moreover, the cynicism of this bloated military spending is thrown into sharp relief by the crisis closest to home for us, in the university sector. It was recently announced that the university sector would experience a \$9 billion shortfall due to the coronavirus crisis. In the wake of this, Dan Tehan announced a plan for Australian Higher Education that involves massive cuts to government funding for the sector. For a fraction of the cost of the proposed military budget, the government could fully fund and expand the higher education sector, ensuring everyone had access to free higher education.

Motion 15:

Platform:

UMSU opposes the government's proposed military spending.
UMSU recognises that the University of Melbourne is complicit in the research and development of weapons manufacturing, and demands that the university terminates all programs and projects of this nature.

Actions:

UMSU will state their opposition to the government's military spending announcement on their social media and in their email correspondence with students.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne

Seconded: Sophie Kerrigan

CARRIED

10.4. UMSU Will Fight Any Cuts to its Budget in Semester 2

UMSU has already seen a 14% decline in SSAF funds since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis in Australia. The University has indicated that UMSU should expect a further drop in its budget, from decreasing in SSAF as well as non-SSAF income as specified in Jacks' OB report from late May.

The current SSAF agreement is that USMU receives 38% of SSAF from enrolled students. As enrolments have gone down so has the amount of SSAF for the Union. This deal is insufficient when the economic situation is such that uni administrations and governments are looking to further neo-liberalise and corporatise higher education, UMSU needs to be able to resist these attacks regardless of the numbers of students enrolled.

The Student Union is a vital body for student life on campus, it is there to ensure democratic representation of student interests against attempts to damage learning conditions for the sake of profit. The Union must be well funded and fully capable of defending students. While the VC's are finding ways to make students and staff pay for the Covid-19 crisis and the government is looking to impose fee hikes and funding cuts to tertiary education across Australia, this function of the Union is more important than ever.

While the decline of International students due to Covid-19 has seen a shortfall in revenue for the university for the coming years, the University of Melbourne remains an extremely wealthy institution. Our university currently holds over \$7 billion in assets, \$3 billion of which is held in reserve precisely for extraordinary circumstances like the one we are in at the moment. UMSU cannot accept a decline in the student unions budget because of Covid-19 when the university has many other means to make up its revenue shortfall.

UMSU needs to reject any further attempt by the University of Melbourne to slash its budget in order to maintain its independence from the administration and its ability to fight for students.

Motion 16:

Platform:

UMSU will resist further declines to its budget in Semester 2.

UMSU recognises that less budget for the union compromises its ability to fight for students.

UMSU rejects the idea that the impact of the Covid-19 crisis and fewer student enrolments necessitates less budget for the union.

Action:

The President and General Secretary will relay any notice of budget cuts to the nearest student council for open discussion on how the union should respond.

UMSU will do what it can to fight a drop in its budget for the duration of the Covid-19 crisis and reiterates its position of universal student unionism.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Maree
CARRIED

Seconded: Anneke Demanuele

11. Motions Without Notice

Nil

12. Other Business

Aria would like to bring up the thinly veiled sexism in the council – mainly towards Hannah as a chair.

Noni Bridger would like to reiterate that point and encourage all men to realise who they're talking over.

Thonya said that when you behave in a casually sexist way like this, you're signalling to all women and gender diverse women are second class citizens when it comes to politics. This is really toxic.

Ciara encouraged everyone to do better at engaging and being respectful.

Many councillors echoed this statement.

13. Next Meeting

TBD

14. Close

Meeting finally closed at 4:58pm