



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

Tuesday August 11, 11:00am

Meeting 14(20)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/96518529809?pwd=QUNvMVNpSHZxOGg4aUNXY1dDQU1KZz09>

Password: 736932

Meeting opened at 11.00am by Jack Buksh

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Jack Bush be elected Chair

Mover: Jack Buksh Seconder: Matt Harper

CARRIED

Xavier ??????? Abstained?

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged

1.3. Attendance

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: A'bidah Zaid Shirbeeni, Amber Meyer, Sarah Peters, Jordan Di Natale, Kaitlyn Hammond

Councillors: Andie Moore, Lachlan Hinds, Nich Riech

Leave of Absence Requests:

Office Bearers:

- Sarah Peters 14(20) (class)
- Kaitlyn Hammond (10th Aug – 17th Aug)
- Ciara O'Sullivan (10th Aug – 17th Aug)

Councillors:

- Andie Moore (until August 30)

Motion 2: to approve all leave of Absence Requests

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

1.5. Proxies

Lachlan Hinds to Harry Black, Thonya Deverall to Hannah Krasovec (when not in the room), Joshua Bruni to David Colliss (when not in the room). Nick to Bri

1.6. Membership

No membership change

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Request to change order to put 10 and 11 to right after OB reports

Motion 3: To move items 10 and 11 after the OB reports

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

MOTION FAILED

Motion 4: To adopt the Agenda as presented

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 13(20)

Motion 5: To confirm the minutes of meeting 13 as a true and accurate record.

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Nil

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

5. Correspondence

Nil

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>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>LATE</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>Submitted</i>
	Noni Bridger	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Sophie Kerrigan	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Hope Kuchel	<i>Submitted</i>
	Shanyisa McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media	Bethany Cherry	<i>Submitted, with recommendations</i>

*Also see a report regarding Radio Fodder	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>LATE</i>
Welfare	Natasha Guglielmino	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's	Naomi Smith	<i>Submitted</i>
	Aria Sunga	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank	Verity Crane	<i>LATE</i>
	Hayden Williams	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>

The following OBs spoke to their reports:

Jordan Di Natale wished to update the council on his work regarding Disabilities, and the IGM's that are occurring – including the UniMelb Love Letters Club which Jordan is paying homage to by having a Rocky Balboa Zoom background.

Thonya had a question for Disabilities – have they had the meeting with Lee Papworth? Could they provide an update to Council?

Hue Man indicated that she's about the schedule it – we're waiting to see when Lee is free.

Thonya asked Creative Arts how the Disabilities and Creative Arts Collab went.

Liv Bell said that it went well and had about 25 participants – check the Instagram page for some of the creations.

Brianna asked Environment about their meeting with the Director of Divestment, and the Associate Director for Sustainability – were they pushing for full transparency on the investments?

Liv said that they had no strategy but it was something they were working towards. It sounds like the sustainability executive are very interested in it, so we're hopeful that pushing it won't be too hard.

Brianna asked if Enviro had considered an FOI request?

Liv said that they were open to that

Thonya asked the Indigenous OBs how their information session went?

The OBs said that there were 2 events – one for new students with Murrup Barak and another one to see who would be interested in coming into the Indigenous Committee.

Question to Media regarding their report regarding changing print companies – their report states it's too hard to change – and that Print Graphics would be asked for a better deal.

Bethany Cherry said that it's not feasible to change right now due to the pandemic and the amount of publications in play right now.

Hannah Krasovec asked what the \$5000 payment was for?

Gurpreet indicated that someone from 3 years ago had not been paid, and this was their bill.

Motion 6: To approve all OB reports

Mover: Jack Bucksh (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move in camera

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 11:24am

7. CEO Report

7.1. Financial Statements 2019

7.2. UMSU P&L July

7.3. UMSU Balance Sheet July

Council moved out of camera at 11:36am

8. Other Reports

8.1. Media: Unionised Print Company Investigation Report

Hannah Buchan said that this process showed that UMSU has been using an actively hostile, non unionised printshop for quite some time now. She indicated that there are cheaper, unionised print shops that are available – we should be using them now.

Bethany Cherry indicated that Hannah had some really good points but that the conclusion was that they would negotiate with Print Graphics. She asked for more conversation about it.

Sarah Peters indicated that a transitional period would be really good – if there's any parameters that Council can suggest for that period that would be great.

Hannah K indicated that negotiating with PrintGraphics was going to be difficult – they're hardly likely to cut 50% of their price off and become unionised.

Josh Bruni talked about his sadness that this discussion was still occurring. He said Media was his favourite UMSU Department – but we need to change as soon as possible, and that this discussion has been going on for years.

Thonya suggested that the next edition (Ed 4) be printed with someone else.

Bethany suggested that Ed 3 is 4 days away from going to the printer. She indicated it would work to have Eds 4, 5, 6 and Above Water to be printed elsewhere. She indicated that Media want to change companies, but it's not practical to do it in Edition 3, and that there may be consequences in quality etc

Hannah K asked Justin Bare if UMSU Staff can assist with this process.

Justin indicated that they would be able to do that.

Jordan asked how much time Media needed for the transition from one company to another.

Sarah Peters wanted to add that the timeline that Thonya has suggested would work well.

Motion 8: To direct the Media Department to use Half Price printing for Edition 4 onwards, as well as Above Water, noting that UMSU staff can provide assistance

Mover: Felix Sharkey

Seconded: Hannah Krasovec (51mins in)

CARRIED

2 Abstentions

8.2. Media: Radio Fodder Engagement

No discussion

Motion 9: That Council accepts report 8.1 and 8.2 en bloc

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

9. Operational Business

9.1. Student Initiative Grant 'Manasa'

Motion 10: To approve the Student Initiative Grant 'Manasa'

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

9.2. Student Initiative Grant 'Indoor Yachting'

Discussion about paying students – UMSU can provide advice direct to students as well, and UMSU will require evidence that they've paid people correctly.

Motion 11: To approve the Student Initiative Grant 'Indoor Yachting'

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. Endorsment of Life Campaign

Preamble

Living Incomes For Everyone (LIFE) is a new and urgent campaign to stop the government's September snap back to the bad old days of \$40 a day for the unemployed. We must #Keeptherate at \$550 a week, and extend JobKeeper, leave no-one behind (aged pensioners, disability support, youth allowance, carers, non-residents), and End harassment including work for the dole and income management, for social security with dignity.

This is important and vital to all workers and households, whether employed or not.

As the risk of unemployment is real to more people, including many who have never experienced living on \$40, or \$50 or \$75 a day, there is more support than ever to stop the government from making people struggle in hardship, and from treating people out of work with disrespect.

The more miserable life is and the lower the incomes of people not in work, the more downward pressure there is on wages and conditions for those who are in work.

The campaign has been endorsed by over 70 labour movement organisations.

Multiple Councillors spoke of their support for the motion. An amendment was requested to condemn both Labor and Liberal Governments at their lack of action on this matter.

Motion 12:

Platform

UMSU supports the following list of demands of the LIFE campaign:

1. Keep the Rate!

NO cuts to JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments.

JobKeeper direct to workers.

2. No-One Left Behind

Raise all other allowance payments and pensions (Aged Pension, Disability Support Pension, Youth Allowance and Carers Pension) to a minimum \$1100 per fortnight.

Extend the JobSeeker and JobKeeper allowances to recent migrants, overseas workers and international students.

Increase the minimum wage.

Keep free childcare.

Massive new investment in public and affordable housing.

3. End Harassment! For Social Security with Dignity.

Abolish Mutual Obligation. End the Community Development Program (remote Work for the Dole) and forced income management provisions such as the Cashless Welfare Card and Basics Card.

No return to Robodebts.

Stop harassment by dodgy Job Providers.

Public ownership and control of Social Security and Employment Services.

Action

UMSU will communicate with LIFE its endorsement of the campaign and its demands. UMSU will post on its social media its endorsement of the LIFE campaign

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Noni Bridger

CARRIED

11. Motions Without Notice

11.1. No Job Cuts! Students Support Staff Fighting back against Redundancies

On Wednesday it was announced that the University of Melbourne will be cutting 450 jobs across academic and non-academic staff, comprising a 5% cut to the overall workforce. The University has blamed this on a predicted revenue shortfall of up to \$1 billion over the next three years. These job cuts are additional to the estimated 1000 lost jobs as a result of stand downs and hiring freezes put in place by faculties.

Make no mistake. These job cuts are a choice.

A leaked internal report runs contrary to the narrative that the university has run dry, showing that university has maintained a budget of \$4.2 billion for capital works expenditure, cutting this budget by only 8% or \$330 million. The university receives billions of dollars in alumni endowments and remains the richest university in the sector despite the downfall in the economy. Melbourne Uni's VC, Duncan Maskall, is the richest VC in the country raking in an annual salary of over a million dollars. The top 26 executives all make a combined amount of \$13 million a year. These grossly overpaid parasites, who have spent their time exploiting International students, underpaying and casualising the workforce, and cutting courses, should be the ones taking pay cuts and face stackings, not staff!

This attack on staff is also an attack of students and higher education as a whole. Less staff means fewer subject options, bigger class sizes, overworked and stressed staff and a degradation in the quality of our education. Students must stand in solidarity with staff against their exploitation by university management.

The paid model of education is encouraging universities to always put profit before staff and students. As long as the business model of universities is continually perpetuated, higher ups in management will always resolve to cut labour to cut costs, which runs contrary to the intended purpose of public institutions. University needs to be fully funded and free for all students. We need to emphatically reject the neoliberal model and move towards a democratic, transparent, and staff and student centric free university.

Motion 13:

Platform:

UMSU rejects the neoliberal model of higher education.

UMSU expresses its support for staff members who will be affected by these cuts and resolves to fight for their continued employment at the university.

UMSU rejects the assertion that the University of Melbourne does not have the funds to maintain current staffing levels.

Action:

UMSU will release a statement supporting staff and condemning the University over these job cuts and other stand downs that have occurred through the university's mismanagement of the COVID 19 crisis.

UMSU commits to supporting the NTEU's Financial Transparency campaign regarding the University of Melbourne's finances in its own right and through the No Cuts campaign.

UMSU commits itself to organising for a restructure of the tertiary education system that upholds democracy, transparency, and the prioritisation of student and staff needs over profits. Only a confrontational, and militant campaign against The VC and uni management can win this.

Moved: Noni Bridger

Seconded: Emma Dynes

CARRIED

11.2. Supporting the AUWU (Australian Unemployed Workers Union) Mutual Obligations Strike

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic the issue of financial support for those affected by stand downs and job cuts has remained consistent. Jobseeker requirements prior to the pandemic forced job seekers to search for a minimum of 20 jobs a month, despite there being 17 job seekers for every position advertised. These are part of a set of 'mutual obligations' that job seekers and job agencies are required to complete to continue accessing payments. These requirements are often dealt out punitively and with little regard for the personal situation of job seekers, while they are kept on a payment well below the poverty line. Mainstream media loves to cast the unemployed as lazy, dole bludgers who would rather sit at home than work, while the CEO's of job agencies do just that. There have been numerous stories of job agencies threatening welfare recipients with withdrawing payments when they assert their rights. Through the pandemic, Minister Michaelia Cash has moved towards pushing job agencies to reopen and force job seekers to risk their health for short appointments that can be conducted over the phone. It took a pandemic and unprecedented economic collapse for welfare recipients to receive a payment over the poverty line. People have been able to buy fresh food for the first time in years, access medication and therapy they have had to go without on the normal level of payment. This pandemic has also shown the limitations and cruelty of Australia's welfare system. The limitation of welfare payments to only Australian citizens has left many permanent residents and international students with very restricted access to financial support.

Numerous students access government financial assistance through their education. There is a problematic romanticisation of the student lifestyle throughout Australian media. Living at a subsistence level should never be a goal of public policy, yet that is exactly what normal welfare payments do to those living on them. They are then further brutalised by a system that is geared towards profiting off of job seekers, and not finding them employment and support services that will improve quality of life and may result in employment. The mutual obligations strike asks Job Seeker recipients to refrain from engaging in non-mandatory mutual obligations to bring light to the abuse perpetuated by job agencies and point out the hostility of the welfare system to people already in a vulnerable position.

Motion 14:

Platform:

UMSU supports maintaining the current rate of Job Seeker, Youth Allowance, and other payments accessed by students.

UMSU supports the extension of welfare payments to permanent residents and international students permanently.

UMSU rejects the model of employment services in Australia as one dominated by for profit businesses who have no interest in providing employment services to those on welfare payments.

UMSU condemns the decision by the federal government to lower the rate of payments at the end of September.

UMSU condemns classism and the portrayal of welfare recipients in Australian media.

UMSU encourages other student and industry unions to support the campaigns of the AUWU and encourages them to fight for unemployed workers.

Action:

UMSU endorses the AUWU Mutual Obligations strike and will release a statement on their social media.

Moved: Noni Bridger

Seconded: Felix SHarkey

CARRIED

12. Other Business

Motion Without Notice

Motion 15: UMSU will protect Emergency Financial Support for students

UMSU Will Protect Emergency Financial Aid For Students

Preamble:

As outlined by the UMSU CEO report on 11 August, Emergency Financial Aid for students may be cut at a time when students are facing less employment opportunities due to COVID-19 than before. The University of Melbourne is an extremely wealthy institution with billions of dollars in assets and endowments, and a VC that is paid over a million dollars a year. The Student Union should not accept any cut to financial aid for students and should fight for students facing hard times.

Platform

UMSU rejects cuts to Emergency Financial Aid for students.

Action

UMSU Will Find out how much is being cut for financial aid services and will inform the student body.

UMSU will campaign against any cuts to financial aid for students, and let the student body know about the state of the University's financial aid services.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne

Secunder: Hannah Buchan

CARRIED

13. Next Meeting

Monday August 24, 1:00pm

14. Close

Meeting closed at 12:25pm