

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Friday 4 August 2023, 3pm
Meeting 12(23)
Location:

Meeting opened at 3:12pm

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Disha Zutshi be elected as Chair

Mover: Disha Zutshi

Seconded: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

CWD

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	N/A
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Sameeksha Mudigere Keshav	No
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Edison Wei Long Ngu	No
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Luv Pravin Golecha	Yes
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Nan Jiang	Yes
Southbank Student Representative on Students' Council	Caitlin Wessner	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rose Power	No
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	No
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	
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raphael Duffy	Yes

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

Other: Sara Pheasant (CEO), Ciara Griffiths (Coordinator, Student Representation), Lucas Spaleta (VCESS Director), Patrick Irwin (Observer).

1.4. Apologies

- 1.4.1. Inderpreet Dhillon
- 1.4.2. Sameeksha Mudigere

1.5. Proxies

- 1.5.1. Inderpreet Dhillon to Rahul Mittal
- 1.5.2. Sameeksha Mudigere to Kevin Li

1.6. Leave of Absence Requests

1.6.1. For this Council: Carmen Chin, Helen Shen, Zodie Bolic, Yashica Mishra, Rhys Browning, Leslie Ho

Motion 2: To accept the leave requests as presented.

Moved: Chair

CWD

1.7. Membership

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Josh Davis noted discrepancy in agenda, that Item 10.1 should be amended from "Media Motion" to "NUS Affiliation" in title.

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented, with noted amendment.

Mover: Chair

CWD

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 11(22)

Not yet available

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Chair raised Conflict of Interest with NUS Motion, as she is a member of the NUS Executive.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

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>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Arya Kushwaha	<i>Not 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>Not Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Alice Zhao	<i>Not 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>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Josh Davis	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Carmen Chin	<i>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>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Ishita Ganeriwala	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Yashica Mishra	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Ngaire Bogemann	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Alessandra Soliven	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Rhys Browning	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Annalyce Wiebenga	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Jack Doughty	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Helen Shen	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Zodie Bolic	<i>Not Submitted</i>

Carlos spoke to Education Public report. UMSU is continuing to support the NTEU and their industrial action on August 20th. Will be attending the next rally in solidarity.

Chair reminded Office Bearers that they must post their committee minutes to the UMSU Website.

Motion 4: To accept the OB Reports.

Moved: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

Seconded: Enzhe Li

CWD

7. CEO Report

Procedural Motion: To move in camera for the CEO's report.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 3:18pm

Weiting Chin arrived at 3:23pm

Mohamed Hadi arrived at 3:34pm

Weiting Chin left at 3:45pm

Motion 5: To accept the CEO's report and endorse its recommendations.

Moved: Chair

CWD

Council moved out of camera at 3:50pm

8. Other Reports

9. Operational Business

9.1. Child Safety Policy

Motion 6: to endorse the Child Safety Policy

Moved: Chair

CWD

9.2. SIG Applications

Chair noted that there is only \$2,408 remaining in the SIG budget.

9.2.1. Austin Clinical School Graduation Dinner

Councillors noted that this event has been previously funded, will prioritise other applications first before consideration.

Application rejected.

9.2.2. Valedictory Dinner for Final Year Medical Students at the Royal Melbourne Hospital

Councillors noted that this is the same applicant as 9.2.1.

Application rejected.

9.2.3. Impromptu Performance

Harley raised that there is not as much detail provided for this application as other applications.

MDB noted that the applicant could also apply for a Creative Arts or Theatre Board grant.

Chair noted that she will recommend Theatre Board and Creative Arts as potential sources for grants.

Application rejected.

9.2.4. Music Video

Councillors noted the applicant is not a student.

Application rejected.

9.2.5. 2023 The University of Melbourne MDHS Honours Student Conference

Councillors noted that the advised caterers are either closed or on UMSU's rejected list of the Ethical Register.

Mary Chin noted that as this is an annual dinner, the applicant should perhaps consider seeking additional regular funding from the MDHS.

Application rejected.

9.2.6. **Universal Design Sprint**

Application approved for \$500.

9.2.7. **Western Health Final Year Medical Student Valedictory Dinner**

As with 9.2.1 Councillors noted that this event has been previously funded, will prioritise other applications first before consideration.

Carlos also raised a note on perhaps Council should prioritise applications that have the broadest reach and benefit to the most students.

Application approved for \$500.

9.2.8. **The Effect**

Chair noted that she will recommend Theatre Board and Creative Arts as potential sources for grants.

Application rejected.

9.2.9. **Change x Unzipped 2023 Global Health Conference**

Watey Diep noted she appreciated the level of detail, budgeting, and reasoning for the amount requested that came from this request. MDB agreed.

Application approved for \$500.

Motion 7: That the Students' Council reject applications 9.2.1-9.2.5 and 9.2.8.

Moved: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

Second: Enzhe Li

CWD

Motion 8: The Students' Council grants applications 9.2.6, 9.2.7, and 9.2.9 \$500 each.

Moved: Marcie Di Bartolomeo

Second: Enzhe Li

CWD

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. **NUS Affiliation**

Motion: To pass \$88,000 from the National Union of Students budget line (03-70-710-3847) for affiliating UMSU to NUS.

Mover: Luv Golecha

Secunder: Kevin Li

Stefan Gavrilov raised why an organisation facing financial difficulty and has been running off a large deficit in the last two years is paying \$88k for an affiliation fee to the NUS.

Chair corrected that the deficit of the past two years was strategically employed due to reduced SSAF funding and in effort to spend down UMSU's reserves that had built up during the lockdowns.

Raphael Duffy and two other Councillors offered to explain the role of the NUS.

Stefan Gavrilov and Patrick Irwin left at 4:09pm

Raphael noted that "we're for student unionism".

Motion 9: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Luv Golecha

Seconded: Kevin Li

CARRIED (1 Dissent)

10.2. Enhancing Transparency, Governance, and Student Well-being in National Union of Students (NUS) Conferences

Preamble:

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) acknowledges the importance of the National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference in fostering student unionism and advocating for students' rights and well-being. However, concerns have been raised about the NUS's organization and conduct during the 2023 Education Conference, particularly regarding communication, venue confirmation, registration procedures, financial transparency, workshop processes, and code of conduct enforcement. These issues have a significant impact on UMSU's budget processes, grant distribution, and equity concerns. Lack of financial transparency raises concerns about accountability and decision-making within the NUS.

Actions:

In light of the above concerns, UMSU proposes the following actions to address and improve transparency, governance, and student well-being within NUS conferences:

Enhance communication and governance:

1. Plan the conference three months in advance of the chosen date.
2. Regularly update the NUS website with conference updates.
3. Distribute all conference information ten days prior to the conference dates.
4. Evaluate the workshop processes at the conference to encourage quality workshops that align with the aims of the conference.

5. Establish comprehensive union registration for all conferences.
6. Prepare a report summarizing key takeaways and goals after each NUS conference.
7. Establish a key contact person for all questions and concerns.
8. Publish NUS annual NUS financial reports detailing all funding streams and costs for financial transparency on NUS website.
9. Organise feedback surveys for all attendees of conferences that determine composition of conference (university, age, degree etc)

Foster student wellbeing:

1. Provide an overview of the reporting and enforcement procedures for student complaints.
2. Provide safe spaces for students and clearly mention where these are in all conferences.

Council requests all Factions:

1. Ensure all members are aware of the code of conduct and its consequences for violations.

To be considered by UMSU:

1. Improve the budgeting process by increasing UMSU office bearers' awareness of their department's objectives and how these objectives should guide their budgetary decisions.
2. To require the Education Department, provide post conference reports to council.

In presenting this motion, UMSU aims to foster an inclusive, transparent, and respectful environment within the NUS and its conferences, promoting the best interests and well-being of all students across Australia. We hope that by implementing these actions, the NUS will be better equipped to serve its constituents effectively and responsibly.

Moved: Carlos Lagos Martin

Seconded: Mary Chan

CWD

11. Other Business (Motions Without Notice)

12. Next Meeting

When2meet will be sent.

13. Close

Meeting closed at 4:15pm