



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

Friday March 12th 2021 3:00PM

Meeting 4(21)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/89932908654?pwd=dERDWGIEWIEwT3VWwGV1UTdpZjQwZz09>

Password: 051228

Meeting opened at 1503 by Ciara O'Sullivan

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Ciara O'Sullivan be elected Chair

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

Second: Srishti Chatterjee

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged

1.3. Attendance

2. Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Kevin Mao	Y	4
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Clea Porteus Borthwick	Y	3
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Georgia McCourt	Y	4
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Janise Sam Qian Yee	N	1
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Shreya Bhutani	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raymond Wu	Y	4
isaStudents' Council (General Representative)	Andoni Fischer	Y	4

Students' Council (General Representative)	Devindee Nugawela	Y	2
Students' Council (General Representative)	Jennifer Lui	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Xinling Lu	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rubina Smith	N	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joanna Guelas	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Catriona Smith	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Xavier Dupe	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Alex Wood	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Charlotte Macpherson	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Tejasvi Madan	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Sian Tjia Hennessy	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ethan Alex Georgeou	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Harry Black	Y	1
Students' Council (Indigenous Representative)	Brittney Henderson	Y	4

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
President	Jack Buksh	Y	3
General Secretary	Ciara O'Sullivan	Y	4
Activities Officer	Christos Prevolos	N	3
Activities Officer	Phoebe Chen	Y	4

Clubs & Societies Officer	Muskaan Hakhu	Y	4
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kalyana Vania	Y	4
Disabilities Officer	Brigit Doyle	Y	3
Disabilities Officer	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	Y	4
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Tejas Gandhi	Y	4
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Hannah Krasovec	Y	4
Environment Officer	James Park	Y	4
Environment Officer	Ann Nguyen	Y	4
Media Officer	Lauren Berry	Y	4
Media Officer	Pavani Ambagahawattha	Y	4
Media Officer	Ailish Hallinan	Y	4
People of Colour Officer	Emily AlRamadhan	Y	4
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	Y	4
Queer Officer	Amy Bright	Y	3
Queer Officer	Laura Ehrensperger	Y	3
Welfare Officer	Allen Xiao	Y	4
Welfare Officer	Hue Man Dang	Y	4
Women's Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	Y	3
Women's Officer	Mickhaella Ermita	Y	4
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Planning Jay Vyn Saw	Y	4
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Jennisha Arnanta	Y	4
Creative Arts Officer	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	Y	4
Creative Arts Officer	Merryn Hughes	Y	2
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	N	2
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	William Hall	Y	2
Indigenous Officer	Shanysa Jayde McConville	Y	3

2.1. Apologies

Officers: Tejas Gandhi, James Park, Amy Bright, Jamie Jungwoo Kim

Councillors: Jan Sam, Rubina Smith

2.2. Proxies

Jan Sam to Archit Agrawal, Rubina Smith to Andoni Fischer

2.3. Membership

Hope Kuchel has resigned as Indigenous Office Bearer

Harry Black and Tejasvi Madan have been appointed as General Representatives on Council

2.4. Adoption of Agenda

Jack Buksh raised that 2 motions regarding the UMSU EBA were only circulated 1.5 hours prior to council, and suggested that one of the motions was a clear breach of the UMSU Financial Regulations.

Andoni Fischer indicated that they were on a tight schedule and therefore had to do this at the last minute.

Council Members noted their disappointment in procedural process at getting these motions so late

Procedural Motion: To defer 10.9 and 10.10 to the next meeting of Students' Council
 Mover: Hannah Krasovec
 MOTION FAILS

Xavier Dupe asked to speak against the procedural.

Ciara named Xavier Dupe

Procedural Motion: To move to the motion to adopt the agenda.
 Mover: Archit Agrawal
 CARRIED

Motion 2: That the Agenda as presented be adopted.
 Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)
 CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 3(21)

Motion 3: That the minutes of meeting 3/21 be adopted as a true and accurate record.
 Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)
 CARRIED

4. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts of interest declared

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

6. Correspondence

Ciara O'Sullivan noted that she, Jack Buksh and Amy Bright received correspondence from Duncan Maskall regarding the Trans protest.

Srishti Chatterjee requested a copy of the correspondence.

7. Office Bearer Reports

President	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Ciara O'Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities	Christos Preovolos	<i>Submitted</i>
	Phoebe Chen	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs and Societies	Kalyana Vania	<i>Submitted</i>
	Muskaan Hakhu	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	<i>Submitted</i>

	Merryn Hughes	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	<i>Submitted</i>
	Brigit Doyle	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs)	Jennisha Arnanta	<i>Submitted</i>
	Planning Jay Vynn Saw	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs)	Hannah Krasovec	<i>Submitted</i>
	Tejas Gandhi	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Ann Nguyen	<i>Submitted</i>
	James Park	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Hope Kuchel	<i>Submitted</i>
	Shanysa McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media	Lauren Berry	<i>Submitted</i>
	Ailish Hallinan	<i>Submitted</i>
	Pavani Ambagahawattha	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour	Mohamed Hadi	<i>Submitted</i>
	Emily AlRamadhan	<i>Late</i>
Queer	Amy Bright	<i>Submitted</i>
	Laura Ehrensperger	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare	Hue Man Dang	<i>Late</i>
	Allen Xiao	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Submitted</i>
	Mickhaella Ermita	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank	William Hall	<i>Late</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>

Laura Ehrensperger read out an update from Amy Bright – provided here in full: Since submitting my report, the Queer Political Action collective has provided feedback regarding the Trans Pride Rally. The summary of the feedback is that we need to promote more BIPOC voices and make further action to suppose accessibility in protest. The key mistake when it comes to the diversity of our speakers was that for the most part, we did not invite people to speak, rather, we let people ask to speak. This saved us some time on a time crunch but ultimately meant that the selection of speakers was from a smaller and less diverse pool of people. This was an oversight on my part as a first time rally organiser. In future rallies we will also have more time to make live streaming arrangements, which, in addition to providing an Auslan Interpreter, will go a long way in making our actions more accessible.

Ailish Hallinan asked council to note financial recommendations in their OB report – Edition 1 printing costs, Adobe Suite, Workshops for students, and a new publishing platform as well.

Mikhaella Ermita asked C&S why they had only drafted content modules for Queer, PoC and Indigenous Departments and why they hadn't updated the Womens module, and expressed disappointment that they were only finding out about this through Students' Council.

Kalyana Vania said that the Indigenous, PoC and LGBTIQ modules were really general, and the Womens one isn't finalised. Muskaan wanted to help out in that area as well.

Ciara O'Sullivan gave a report back on the Elected reps – reduced library hours were raised as an issue, as well as Transphobia, returning to campus

Alec Ferguson asked if there were any updates on Climate Activism and if UMSU was supporting the Global Climate Strike next Friday.

Ann Nguyen said they had a contingent going and that this was on facebook.

Shirley Killen asked the Womens Officers about the Christian Porter issue, and if the Womens Department were going to use this to promote events about it, like the March for Justice on Monday.

Srishti Chatterjee replied that as the Department, they've been focusing on students and the Safety on Campus issues, and that students could get in contact with the department if they wanted to promote an event.

Motion 4: To accept the OB reports

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To discuss 11.2 and 11.3 prior to the CEO's report.

Mover: Andoni Fischer

CARRIED

11.2. EBA Bargaining Team

Preamble:

UMSU expects to commence negotiations with the NTEU for a new enterprise agreement in 2021. This agreement will govern the conditions under which staff are employed at UMSU. UMSU is an organisation that supports the union movement and the process of collective bargaining. It is critical to the success of this process that all parties to this negotiation are properly represented to ensure that the organisation meets its strategic objectives whilst supporting its staff.

In light of the significance of the impact of these negotiations on UMSU's ability to achieve its strategic objectives, it is critical that Students' Council establish a bargaining team that effectively represents the interests of the organisation.

Actions:

1. That Students' Council delegates a Sub-Committee under 17.1 (a) of the Constitution to be UMSU's Bargaining Team for the negotiations that are anticipated to take place with the NTEU regarding a new enterprise agreement;
2. That this Sub-Committee will engage in all negotiations with the NTEU or other bargaining agents relevant to UMSU;
3. That this Sub-Committee will administer the processes required of UMSU in the Enterprise Bargaining process, including developing a log of claims and in revising the agreement;
4. That this Sub-Committee will update Students' Council on the progress of negotiations at each meeting of Student's Council and when there are material changes to the process;
5. That this Sub-Committee will have the following members *ex officio*:
 - a. General Secretary, UMSU (Chair)
 - b. President, UMSU
 - c. Chief Executive Officer, UMSU;
6. That this Sub-Committee include a member external to the organisation appointed by Students' Council to serve as independent legal representation;
7. That in the event of a dispute between members of this Sub-Committee regarding negotiations meeting UMSU's strategic objectives this be brought to Students' Council;
8. That in the event of a dispute regarding the operational business of this Sub-Committee, a simple majority of this Committee should resolve this dispute except where the dispute regards UMSU's strategic objectives;
9. That in the event of an Impasse, three additional members of the Students' Council will be appointed by resolution of the Students' Council to resolve the impasse by simple majority.

Moved: Clea Borthwick

Seconded: Andoni Fischer

Clea Borthwick spoke to her moving rights, saying that students need more say on this issue.

Andoni Fischer apologised for the late notice, as this motion was in response to the CEO's report and needed to be acted upon quickly to avoid conflicts of interest.

Councillors discussed a need to act on this motion quickly, as the UMSU EBA was approaching negotiations soon, and Council needs to ensure no conflicts of interest in the process.

Multiple councillors asked for the motion to be deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of notice, concerns about accessibility of the motion to students with disabilities and the large amount of money included in the motion.

Jack Buksh asked that it be really clearly noted that he objects to the very clear lack of transparency with this motion and that the motion misunderstands how the EBA negotiation process works.

Andoni Fischer said that they didn't believe that staff should be a part of the EBA negotiating team at all due to conflicts of interest.

Justin Bare (UMSU CEO) indicated that UMSU puts together an UMSU Management Bargaining Team. This team bargains on behalf of UMSU and does not set bargaining positions as these are set by the CEO. Justin Bare noted significant concern regarding the exclusion of the HR manager; as they implement a huge part of the EBA – their experience is critical in understanding the impacts of the EBA, and to ensure UMSU gets the best outcome. Justin noted that there was no requirement to have a lawyer involved in the process, and that previous EBAs had not had one. UMSU has the option of receiving legal advice should it be required.

Archit Agrawal believes that the Advocacy and Legal Manager and HR Manager are covered by the EBA agreement and therefore shouldn't be in the room. Archit Agarwal said that NLS needs to take a hard look at what they've done to the union for the last 10 years.

Procedural Motion: To move directly to a vote on 10.9

Mover: Archit Agrawal

CARRIED

Motion 5: UMSU expects to commence negotiations with the NTEU for a new enterprise agreement in 2021. This agreement will govern the conditions under which staff are employed at UMSU. UMSU is an organisation that supports the union movement and the process of collective bargaining. It is critical to the success of this process that all parties to this negotiation are properly represented to ensure that the organisation meets its strategic objectives whilst supporting its staff.

In light of the significance of the impact of these negotiations on UMSU's ability to achieve its strategic objectives, it is critical that Students' Council establish a bargaining team that effectively represents the interests of the organisation.

Actions:

That Students' Council delegates a Sub-Committee under 17.1 (a) of the Constitution to be UMSU's Bargaining Team for the negotiations that are anticipated to take place with the NTEU regarding a new enterprise agreement;

That this Sub-Committee will engage in all negotiations with the NTEU or other bargaining agents relevant to UMSU;

That this Sub-Committee will administer the processes required of UMSU in the Enterprise Bargaining process, including developing a log of claims and in revising the agreement;

That this Sub-Committee will update Students' Council on the progress of negotiations at each meeting of Student's Council and when there are material changes to the process;

That this Sub-Committee will have the following members *ex officio*:

General Secretary, UMSU (Chair)

President, UMSU

Chief Executive Officer, UMSU;

That this Sub-Committee include a member external to the organisation appointed by Students' Council to serve as independent legal representation;

That in the event of a dispute between members of this Sub-Committee regarding negotiations meeting UMSU's strategic objectives this be brought to Students' Council;

That in the event of a dispute regarding the operational business of this Sub-Committee, a simple majority of this Committee should resolve this dispute except where the dispute regards UMSU's strategic objectives;

That in the event of an Impasse, three additional members of the Students' Council will be appointed by resolution of the Students' Council to resolve the impasse by simple majority.

Moved: Clea Borthwick

Seconded: Andoni Fischer

CARRIED

11.3 Legal Representation on the EBA Bargaining team

Preamble:

Given the need for the Sub-Committee established as a bargaining team to include independent legal representation that is external to the organisation, UMSU will be required to engage the services of a solicitor. This representative will be required to provide legal advice and recommendations towards an agreement that covers a small and highly specific organisation with its own unique demands. Thus, it demands specialised experience that limits relevant candidates to a narrow field.

The General Secretary has received advice from the National Union of Students that includes a recommendation to engage a specific candidate based on their experience negotiating agreements for other comparable student unions. Engaging this candidate would provide the bargaining team with the best possible level of relevant experience available that is external to this organisation.

Actions:

1. That Students' Council suspends Rules 9.1 and 9.2 of UMSU's Financial Regulations per Rule 9.3 by declaring Kelly Workplace Lawyers its preferred provider
2. That Students' Council hires independent legal representation on a contractual basis to fulfil the requirements of the Sub-Committee established as its enterprise bargaining team;
3. That this representation be Kelly Workplace Lawyers, the primary lawyer being Joseph Kelly, engaged under the included prospective Costs Agreement;
4. The Students' Council approves expenditure necessary for the costs agreement with Kelly Workplace Lawyers of \$15,000 from the unallocated funds of the 2021 budget
5. In the event of additional circumstances including but not limited to delays, additional complications or emergency an additional \$5,000 from the unallocated funds of 2021 for additional expenditure

Moved: Clea Borthwick

Seconded: Andoni Fischer

Clea Borthwick spoke to her moving rights. She said that there was such a short time frame that they didn't have time to get a tender and that the lawyer was recommended by the NUS.

Andoni Fischer said that these were the lawyers that did the RUSU EBA – they have experience in the field of negotiating Student Union's EBA's

Members asked about the rush to move this motion, given the previous motion implies that the proceedings in this one will occur.

Jack Buksh indicated that UMSU was in its strongest position that it has ever been in, so NLS mustn't have been too bad. He encouraged Council to listen to the expertise of the CEO. Jack Buksh suggested that NUS didn't suggest the lawyer – that the NUS Gen Sec suggested the lawyer. Jack requested a named vote.

Xavier Dupe said that we didn't need to pay a lawyer to try drive down staff costs.

Srishti Chatterjee said that it was appalling that people said that they weren't able to read the motions for accessibility reasons and that this was ignored.

Procedural Motion: To move to a vote

Mover: Brittany Henderson

MOTION FAILS

Ailish Hallinan noted that this recommendation came from the Gen Sec of the NUS, and therefore there is a factional relationship behind this whole motion. It was appalling that the accessibility of this motion has been dismissed, and that the information about the lawyer needs to be known prior to voting. Ailish is disgusted by the behaviour of Council and doesn't want anyone from any side to think they are above reproach and above being held accountable for their actions.

Andoni Fischer asked to amend the motion, removing all references to hiring a specific lawyer, and instead directs the CEO to open a tender process to hire external legal representation.

This is amenable to the mover, so the Actions of the motion now reads:

Actions:

1. That Students' Council hires independent legal representation on a contractual basis to fulfil the requirements of the Sub-Committee established as its enterprise bargaining team;
2. That UMSU opens a tender process to hire external legal representation

Archit Agrawal says that he doesn't care if NLS or the SDA fail, and that he's being unfairly tied down with the SDA because he's worked with them before. He says this is very traumatic as the SDA is homophobic.

Georgia McCourt asked if the amendment could include that Council can vote on the lawyer chosen

This was amenable to the mover, so the Actions of the motion now read:

Actions:

1. That Students' Council hires independent legal representation on a contractual basis to fulfil the requirements of the Sub-Committee established as its enterprise bargaining team;
2. That UMSU opens a tender process to hire external legal representation
3. That council votes on a shortlist of candidates prepared by the Gen Sec, CEO, and President.

Procedural Motion: that the vote be deferred to the next Council

Mover: Sian Tjia Hennessey

MOTION FAILS

Motion 6: Given the need for the Sub-Committee established as a bargaining team to include independent legal representation that is external to the organisation, UMSU will be required to engage the services of a solicitor. This representative will be required to provide legal advice and recommendations towards an agreement that covers a small and highly specific organisation with its own unique demands. Thus, it demands specialised experience that limits relevant candidates to a narrow field.

The General Secretary has received advice from the National Union of Students that includes a recommendation to engage a specific candidate based on their experience negotiating agreements for other comparable student unions. Engaging this candidate would provide the bargaining team with the best possible level of relevant experience available that is external to this organisation.

Actions:

That Students' Council hires independent legal representation on a contractual basis to fulfil the requirements of the Sub-Committee established as its enterprise bargaining team;

That UMSU opens a tender process to hire external legal representation

That Council confirms the tender chosen by the CEO, President and Gen Sec

Moved: Clea Borthwick Seconded: Andoni Fischer

FOR: Harry Black, Raymond Wu, Andoni Fischer, Brittney Henderson, Clea Porteous Bothwick, Kevin Mao, Georgia McCourt, Charlotte Macpherson, Shreya Bhutani, Archit Agrawal, Devindee Nugawela, Xinling Lu

AGAINST: Joanna Guelas, Ethan Georgou, Tree Smith, Xavier Dupe, Sian Tjia Hennessy

MOTION CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION: That Students' Council move into camera

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

CARRIED

Council moved into camera at 1644

Procedural Motion- to suspend standing orders to allow Tree Smith to proxy to Joanna Guelas at 1700h

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan

CARRIED

During this time the CEOs report was discussed

Council moved to include strangers at 1700h

At this point Council moved to break for 15 minutes until 1715

Council resumed at 1715

Procedural Motion: Harry Black proxied to Sophie Nguyen

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

8. Other Reports

8.1. Financial Reports February

Motion 8: To note the February financial Reports

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

8.2. Advocacy and Legal Service Report

Motion 9: To note the Advocacy and Legal Service Report

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

9. Operational Business

9.1. Council Schedule

Hannah Krasovec raised concern with the late 5pm Council sittings – concerning for students' availability, women, BIPOC students being on campus so late.

Ciara O'Sullivan amended to have these late sessions on Wednesdays at 3pm instead, pending Council availability.

Further discussion about the timetabling of Council.

Ciara O'Sullivan will send around the results of the 'when is good' poll that went out to Councillors earlier in the year.

Motion 10: To accept the proposed Students' Council schedule with caveats as discussed

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

9.2. CRPWG Recommendations

Ciara O'Sullivan explained that there have been two meetings of the CRPWG – one regarding the Southbank structure and one regarding electronic voting. 25% of students are overseas, and the previous election only had a return rate of 23% for ballots so this was an issue that needed addressing.

Recommendation 1: CRPWG RECCOMENDATIONS 1(21) & 2(21)

Recommends that Students' Council obtain legal advice for the development of regulations to pay the Campaigns Coordinator and Events Coordinator at Southbank.

Recommends that Council approve back pay as part of the regulations.

Ciara O'Sullivan ceded her speaking rights to Will Hall (Southbank Rep).

Jack Buksh clarified what an affirmative vote meant – Ciara O'Sullivan explained that if these motions get approved, they then go to lawyers to write the changes, and then bring them back to Council for approval, and then go to an SGM. For the Electoral changes, she said that these need to be additionally recommended to the Electoral Tribunal who will consider those changes and then go to an SGM.

Will Hall strongly recommended the changes to council. Southbank campus is growing and it's time to get more recognition for the Southbank campus in UMSU.

Sophie Nguyen asked about the practicalities of having an additional councillor on council.

Ciara clarified that the Standing Orders have provisions for tied votes, so it is not necessarily an issue.

Motion 11: To accept the Southbank Recommendations from the CRPWG

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

2(21)

A submission by the General Secretary on emergency voting was endorsed for council to decide a direction. Preference was expressed for Option 1, but no formal decision made. (Appendix 2)

Council was presented with 3 options regarding this change –

Option 1: Remove all sections in the constitution that require in-person voting

Option 2: Simply Adding A Clause Allowing Electronic Voting

Option 3: Allow online voting only in certain situations where a set of conditions are met.

Members discussed the need for flexibility in voting given the impracticalities of an international postal vote and the effects of COVID19 continuing to the next year. Discussion regarding student engagement with elections, and a need to retain in person elections.

Procedural Motion : To move to a vote

Mover: Andoni Fischer

CARRIED

Motion 11: To accept option 1 of the Electoral Recommendations as sent out to Councillors

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

9.3. MUHI SIG Proposal

Motion 12: To accept the MUHI SIG application for funding

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

9.4. UMSU INTL Website Proposal

UMSU INTL were not present

Procedural Motion: To move to 9.5

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

9.5. Mixed Mode Council Proposal

Georgia McCourt asked how voting would proceed with mixed mode.

Ciara O'Sullivan replied that there would be a screen with online votes that we would be able to see.

Motion 13: To endorse the proposal for mixed mode Council for future Councils

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

UMSU INTL have now returned, so Council moves back to 9.4

UMSU INTL Website Proposal

Rachel spoke to the motion. UMSU INTL have requested their own website, to increase engagement and dedicated support for international students. This was important for them to communicate directly with students and expand their brand, as well as promote their transparency and promotions with external stakeholders. The website will be designed and run by the UMSU INTL Media and Comms Team with support from the UMSU Communications Team.

Motion 14: To endorse the UMSU INTL Website Proposal

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. Park Hotel Prison Protestor Fines

Over 40 of the refugees locked up in the Park Hotel have been freed. The protests outside the Park Hotel organised by the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, Refugee Action Collective, and others, have been indispensable in forcing the government to release these people into the community. Shamefully however, Victoria Police has issued fines of thousands of dollars to activists trying to expose this crime occurring in the heart of Melbourne.

Platform:

1. Protesting is essential to winning the rights of refugees to freedom, citizenship and government support
2. As the representative of students, UMSU is an activist body that has a responsibility to organise and support left-wing protests.

Action

3. UMSU will donate \$1000 to Campaign Against Racism and Fascism to pay fines incurred through refugee protests
4. UMSU will donate \$1000 to Refugee Action Collective to pay fines incurred through refugee protests

Mover: Xavier Dupe

Xavier Dupe spoke to his moving rights. Any gains in the treatment of the refugees have come due to protests from activists in this space, and that it was important to support the campaign.

A number of councillors debated the suggestions of where the money should come from.

Sian Tjia Hennessey asked if an action point could be added instead about an UMSU campaign to assist with the protests instead of direct monetary support. This was referred to the following motion.

Procedural Motion: To move to a vote

Mover: Ciara O'Sullivan (Chair)

CARRIED

Ciara O'Sullivan noted that this motion had no seconder, and therefore lapses.

10.2. Victory for Park Hotel Refugees but the Fight to Free Them All Continue

Preamble

Last week 46 refugees were given bridging visas and after 8 years of indefinite detention, they were released from their hotel prison on Swanston street.

Mostafa Azimitabar, one of the men detained in Park Hotel, called the day he was released, "the most beautiful day of my life". "For eight years, I was under a lot of pressure, torture, trauma and sadness, Now I am completely free. I feel like a new person." He said.

While 46 of the men imprisoned in Park Hotel have been released into the community on bridging visas, there are still 12 refugees in the hotel who have no idea if they will ever be released or remain in indefinite limbo. The release of some men and not others is yet another act of cruelty in the endless torture the Australian government inflicts on refugees.

A Bridging Visa is temporary, meaning the men who have been released will face the possibility of deportation in six months which makes it very difficult to find housing and work. The next step for the campaign is to demand that all refugees be settled in Australia permanently with adequate government support.

There are a number of groups that have been organising in solidarity with the Park Hotel Refugees. With both the Liberal Party and the ALP firmly for the indefinite detention of refugees, it will require mass protests or ordinary people to push towards real change. Daily protests have been called by 'Our Daily Protest outside Park Hotel' and weekly Friday protests by the 'Campaign against Racism and Fascism.' These protests are essential for building resistance to Australia's disgusting torture regime for refugees And demanding not only are all refugees released but are provided with government support and free housing.

Platform

UMSU supports the demand to settle ALL refugees in Australia permanently.

UMSU supports the demand for financial support and free housing be made available to released refugees in Victoria by the Dan Andrews Government.

UMSU recognises building protest action as an important factor in this latest victory for refugees.

Action

UMSU will provide material support to building future refugee rallies such as printing and encourage students to attend the rallies through their official UMSU social media pages and UMSU events.

UMSU will call on Melbourne University, a billion dollar institution, to provide free education to the Men released from Park Hotel with the desire to study.

Mover: Xavier Dupe

Xavier Dupe spoke to his moving rights, affirming the success of radical protests.

Brittney Henderson said that they were in shock that previous speakers would affirm that everyone can attend a protest safely

directly involved in the production of nuclear weapons- which have the capacity to destroy the entire human population many times over.

Collaborating with weapons manufacturers is the most violent symptom of our for-profit education system, which prioritises corporate research and collaboration over quality learning. Student activist campaigns like Books not Bombs have organised in the past to attempt to force the university to cut ties. Staff members like Tilman Ruff, who has campaigned for nuclear disarmament, have spoken out about Melbourne University's role in perpetuating the production of weapons of mass murder.

Platform

1. UMSU, standing in the tradition of the student union movement, opposes all forms of militarism
2. UMSU calls on the University of Melbourne to immediately cut all ties with weapons manufacturers
3. UMSU calls for the STElarLAB to be immediately closed

Action

UMSU will release a statement condemning all links between the university and weapons manufacturers

4. UMSU will give support to staff and student activist campaign groups which attempt to sever the university's ties to arms manufacture

Mover: Xavier Dupe Seconder: Archit Agrawal

CARRIED

10.4. Sack Christian Porter

Content Warning: Discussion of Sexual Abuse, Sexism

Motion 17: The recent 4 Corners investigation into Christian Porter's long history of sexually abusing women has acted as a reminder of the inhuman and sexist culture of the capitalist class in Australia and the Liberal Party that represents them. It is a damning indictment on our political system that someone like Porter can hold high office. Porter has a documented history of demeaning women in his personal life and a career based on crushing ordinary people - gutting 1800 RESPECT, persecuting people on welfare through robotdebt, imprisoning refugees, and campaigning against equal LGBTI rights. In response, a Women's March 4 Justice has been called for 15 March. This is an important opportunity to condemn the monster that is Christian Porter and the ruling class culture he represents.

Platform

1. UMSU condemns the sexism entrenched by the Liberal Party and other institutions of the capitalist class, such as private schools and colleges
2. UMSU calls for Christian Porter to be sacked as Attorney-General for his long history of sexist behaviour
3. UMSU endorses the Women's March 4 Justice

Action

1. UMSU will publish a statement calling for protests against Christian Porter and the Liberal Party
2. UMSU will promote the Women's March 4 Justice (<https://www.facebook.com/events/469000914227363>) on Facebook pages and the weekly email

Moved: Xavier Dupe

Seconded: Sian Tjia Hennessey

CARRIED

Sian Tjia Hennessey said that she would like to second the motion, and also amend it to include content and trigger warnings.

Ciara O'Sullivan asked that it be minuted that she said "as a survivor of sexual assault, fuck Christian Porter and fuck the liberal party"

10.5. UMSU endorses the March 19 Climate Strike

Preamble: The global climate strikes in 2019 saw the largest international mobilisation of students in recent memory. Millions around the world came into the streets to demand climate action, inspired by the defiance of activists such as Greta Thunberg and outraged by government inaction.

In Australia, protests called by SS4C drew tens of thousands in every state capital, with dozens of actions seen in regional towns.

These protests marked a significant development in the climate movement. Radical, mass action challenged the dead end of individualist lifestyle politics that had dominated the climate movement for decades.

In the midst of this, Uni Students for Climate Justice was convened as an anticapitalist left wing of the climate movement. It mobilised hundreds of uni students against fossil fuel giants in 2019 and continued to organise student strikes after the moderate leadership of SS4C stopped.

In January 2020, USCJ alone called protests against government inaction on climate in the face of the bushfire crisis, with over 100,000 marching across Australia.

After a year of mass rallies being untenable due to supportable public health measures, global climate protests are being called for March 19 to put climate action back on the agenda.

Platform:

1. UMSU endorses the March 19 USCJ climate action.
2. UMSU recognises that moderate strategies such as individualist lifestyle politics and lobbying are not effective and will not bring real climate action.
3. UMSU sees mass movements, protest and activism as the only viable strategy to ending destructive industry and mitigating climate disaster.
4. UMSU opposes the role our own university plays in climate destruction by sponsoring mining conferences and partnering with fossil fuel and weapons companies.

Actions:

1. UMSU will promote the March 19 rally in the weekly UMSU email
2. UMSU OBs will share the March 19 event from Facebook pages
3. UMSU will print 200 posters to promote the rally. These will be put up by volunteers.
4. To ensure councillors can attend the strike, UMSU will not schedule a meeting on March 19

Mover: Xavier Dupe

Secunder: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna (on behalf of Ann Nguyen)

Vaishnavi asked if printing 200 posters was sustainable. They spoke on behalf of Ann (Environment OB) who also supports the motion

Motion 18: Platform:

UMSU endorses the March 19 USCJ climate action.

UMSU recognises that moderate strategies such as individualist lifestyle politics and lobbying are not effective and will not bring real climate action.

UMSU sees mass movements, protest and activism as the only viable strategy to ending destructive industry and mitigating climate disaster.

UMSU opposes the role our own university plays in climate destruction by sponsoring mining conferences and partnering with fossil fuel and weapons companies.

Actions:

UMSU will promote the March 19 rally in the weekly UMSU email

UMSU OBs will share the March 19 event from Facebook pages
UMSU will print 200 posters to promote the rally. These will be put up by volunteers.
To ensure councillors can attend the strike, USMU will not schedule a meeting on March 19
Mover: Xavier Dupe Seconder: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna (on behalf of Ann Nguyen)
CARRIED

1.. 10.6 Democracy for Myanmar

Motion 19: Since the 1st February military coup, the people in Myanmar have continuously defied the Tatmadaw military government through the Civil Disobedience Movement. This period of resistance in Myanmar is now termed the 'Spring Revolution' and has had two General Strikes, on 'Five Twos' day (Feb 22) and another kickstarted on Monday during International Women's Day called by 18 major Myanmar union federations and worker organisations, to continue indefinitely. The strikes called for a nationwide work stoppage and join the Civil Disobedience Movement in the streets indicative of the determination of the masses in Myanmar to end the coup and fight for their democratic rights. The General Strike Committee adopted the General Strike Committee of Nationalities' (GSCN) demands to the end of military dictatorship, the abolition of the 2008 Constitution and the establishment of a federal democratic union, and the release of all who are unjustly detained. GSCN was formed by the youth representing 27 ethnic groups of Myanmar.

Students have been one of the first to join the movement, 3 days after the coup, three university students were arrested and detained. As the struggle escalates, more students face repression. Since March 3, over 400 students of which more than a quarter are from the University of Yangon, have been detained in Insein prison for peacefully protesting. The lack of information about the student detainees and the prosecution process has alarmed the University of Yangon Students' Union and has stated their concern about the safety and wellbeing of the students. Therefore we ask USMU to stand with the students in Myanmar and support the demand to release all students detainees and political prisoners.

Moved: Xavier Dupe Seconded: Mohamed Hadi
CARRIED

10.7 Building the Refugee Campaign

UMSU has rightly declared its support for the campaign to free the Park Hotel refugees. The detention of 12 innocent people right next to Parkville campus is a crime we have a particular responsibility to fight. However, there has been little public promotion by USMU of the rallies to free the refugees. USMU has a responsibility to reach out to Melbourne Uni students wherever possible to involve them in the campaign.

Platform:

1. The detention of the 12 Park Hotel refugees for 8 years is a crime committed by the Australian government. USMU demands their immediate release, and citizenship and government support for all refugees.
2. If the campaign is to succeed, as many students as possible need to be involved. USMU has a responsibility to get students involved in fighting this injustice happening right next to our campus.

Action:

1. USMU will promote the following protests on social media and the weekly email:
 - a. Freedom Fridays protest (Every Friday 6pm Park Hotel):
<https://www.facebook.com/events/735644530416625>
 - b. Daily protest: https://www.facebook.com/Our-daily-protest-outside-the-park-Hotel-Melbourne-103780021389124/events/?ref=page_internal

2. UMSU will not schedule meetings on Friday afternoons, to ensure councillors can attend the Friday protests

Mover: Xavier Dupe

Secunder:

Sophie Nguyen said that action 2 could be problematic for students with disabilities

Sian Tjia Hennessey asked to amend the motion to remove action 2. This was amenable.

Motion 20: UMSU has rightly declared its support for the campaign to free the Park Hotel refugees. The detention of 12 innocent people right next to Parkville campus is a crime we have a particular responsibility to fight. However, there has been little public promotion by UMSU of the rallies to free the refugees. UMSU has a responsibility to reach out to Melbourne Uni students wherever possible to involve them in the campaign.

Platform:

1. The detention of the 12 Park Hotel refugees for 8 years is a crime committed by the Australian government. UMSU demands their immediate release, and citizenship and government support for all refugees.

2. If the campaign is to succeed, as many students as possible need to be involved. UMSU has a responsibility to get students involved in fighting this injustice happening right next to our campus.

Action:

1. UMSU will promote the following protests on social media and the weekly email:

a. Freedom Fridays protest (Every Friday 6pm Park Hotel):

<https://www.facebook.com/events/735644530416625>

b. Daily protest: https://www.facebook.com/Our-daily-protest-outside-the-park-Hotel-Melbourne-103780021389124/events/?ref=page_internal

Mover: Xavier Dupe

Secunder: Sian Tjia Hennessey

CARRIED

11. Motions without Notice

11.1. QUT Guild open letter endorsement

The QLD University of Technology (QUT) Student Guild have prepared an open letter to their university administration, condemning the continuation of online content delivery despite very little or no interruptive Covid restrictions. Students at QUT have expressed frustration at the limitation of options and questionable standards with regard to in person class times, as well as reductions in contact hours and limited opportunity for face-to-face interactions for students. Most importantly, there was very little or no communication to students about what was to be expected this semester.

Action:

The University of Melbourne Students Union (UMSU) condemns QUT's decisions to continue online content delivery and stands in solidarity with the QUT Guild and QUT students.

Mover: Srishti Chatterjee

Allen Xiao asked to move the motion in Srishti's absence.

Andoni Fischer asked to second the motion.

Xavier Dupe asked about the content of the open letter, as staff have suggested that in some cases returning to campus is unsafe.

Procedural Motion: To defer the motion to the next council

Mover: Xavier Dupe

CARRIED

12. Other Business

Motion 21: To move to direct all UMSU departments to publicise the Sunday March 14th for Myanmar Rally on their social media

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Secunder: Archit Agrawal

CARRIED

Sian Tjia Hennessey asked that we try to add relevant links etc to motions so we can all see all the information.

Clea Porteous Borthwick asked that all acronyms are spelt out in full for future motions.

13. Next Meeting

22nd March at 1500h

14. Close

Meeting closed at 1837h