



**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Friday, 29th, April, 2022, 1pm
Meeting 7(22)
Location: Zoom**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/81427479509?pwd=cVQ5V2lNVdVKTcs1QjNJbnFaMHlYZz09>
Password: 104453

Meeting opened at 1:05PM

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Millie Macwhirter be elected as Chair

Mover: Millie Macwhirter

Seconded: Nishank Ji-Sung Jain

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Councillors

Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Mohamed Hadi	Yes
Students' Council Indigenous Representative	Jessica Alderton	Yes
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Jaryd Clifford	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi	No
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Aakash Chandak	Yes
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Haotian (Allen) Xiao	Yes
Southbank Student Representative on Students' Council	Zodie Bolic	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Imogen Senior	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nishank Ji-Sung Jain	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ishita Ganeriwala	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rebekah Kelly	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Scarlett Padden	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Terry Zhu-Xin Wang	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Yong Wen Hao	Yes

Students' Council (General Representative)	Annalyce Wiebenga	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joshua Davis	Leave Requested
Students' Council (General Representative)	Shirley Killen	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Georgia Burke	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Mietta Stephens	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nate Hollis	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ngaire Bogemann	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Zachary Kaplan	Yes

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Sophie Nguyen	Yes
General Secretary	Millie Macwhirter	Yes
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	Yes
Activities Officer	Sami Zehir	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Late, in apology
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Prachi Uppal	Resigned
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Benjamin Jarick	Resigned
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	Yes
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	Yes
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Yes
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	Yes
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	Yes
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	Yes
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	In apology
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	Yes
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	Yes
Queer Officer	Rose Power	Yes
Welfare Officer	Shuyan (Lynne) Bian	Yes
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	Yes
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	Yes
Women's Officer	Lauren Scott	Leave Requested
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Yes
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Alex Birch	Yes
	Nina Mountford	Yes
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	Yes
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	No

Other: Ciara Griffiths (Minute-taker), Phoebe Churches (Interim-CEO), Andrew Feiglin, Walter Edwards, Reham Elzeiny, Benjamin Cronshaw, Robert Merrillees-Larsen, Jordan Di Natale, Jesse Gardner Russell, Noa Abrahams, Justin Sternfeld, Jamie Mcpherson, Heather Maltby, Veronica Lipshut, Sam Plater, Sara Lupton, Ariel Zelwer, Charlie, Nadine Alford, Mia Casper, Eric Chen, Gidon Waller, Oliver Woodrow Kyle, Ophira, Romy Miller, Kobe Gold, Isi Ogwu, Baris Duzova, Lachlan Garner, Lorri Gunn, Safije Meka, Navya Verma, Allegra Weeden, Amira Susskind, Philip Rothschild, Rachel Kirby, Yonatan Symonds, Chelsie Kagan, Orly Strum, Freya Boltman, Xavier Dupe, Alisha Gudkar, Saul Lotzoff, Holly Feldman, Joyce Egber, Jeff Reynolds.

Additional Zoom Attendees (not on the attendance list): Aaron, Albert, Amy Hodes, Anon x3, Bella Beiraghi, Ben Levin, Benjos, Chelsie Kagan, Daniel Hyman, Doron, Eleanor Wynter, G, Geegee, Ollie, Hilla, di Eial, J, Jaxon Dryen, Joyce Egber, Justin Fulop, Luca Tavan, Max Levy, Mia Friedman, Moosa Raza, Monica Sestito, Navya, Noah, Ophira Poratt, Orly Strum, Ramona Chaprot, Rebecca Wein, Rob, Romy Miller, Sam Rath, Sclypton6, Talia Laski, Taya Bergman, Walter Edwards, Ashleigh Harris, Deon, Alex, Amira Waller, Caitlin Chiam, Chelsea Kagan, Sarah, Raph Lipshut, Tari Sztokman.

1.4. Apologies

Imogen Senior, Nishtha Banavalikar, Marcie Di Bartolomeo and Bella Henry

1.5. Leave of Absence Requests

Kaitlyn Hammond from the 15/03/22 to 20/04/22

Lauren Scott 26/04/22 to 29/03/22

Moira Negline 2/05/22 to 6/05/22

Joshua Davis 28/04/22 to 28/05/22

Motion 2: To accept the leave requests.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

1.6. Proxies

Chaitanya Chandrika Raghuvanshi to Mohamed Hadi

1.7. Membership

1.7.1. Prachi Uppal has resigned from the position of Disabilities Office Bearer.

1.7.2. Benjamin Jarick has resigned from the position of Education (Public Affairs) Officer.

1.8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion 1: To move directly to Item 9.6.1 UMSU stands with Palestine – BDS and Solidarity Policy.

Moved: Mohamed Hadi

CARRIED

Students' Council moved to Item 9.6.1 of the Agenda.

Procedural Motion 2: To move the discussion into Formal Debate.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Chair outlined the rules of Formal Debate, as outlined in R18 of the [Standing Orders](#).

Mover was invited to speak to the motion, with maximum 6 minutes of speaking time.

Hiba Adam spoke to their moving rights. Time that UMSU takes a clear stance with the Palestinian people and does not shy away from topics we think are controversial. UMSU has historically stood in solidarity against genocide, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing. What we are putting forward today is a policy that has direct actions that we believe the Student Union should take.

Secunder to the motion was invited to speak to the motion, with maximum 3 minutes speaking time.

Mohamed Hadi spoke to their seconding rights. Echoed Hiba's sentiments. Unions across the world have taken a stance with Palestinians and supported them in their right for self-determination and right to return. It is time for UMSU to do so as well. Mohamed spoke to some of the events that have taken place recently in the Israeli-Palestine conflict. Stated that while UMSU has previously passed motions in support of Palestine, no clear policy has been developed with action points. When UMSU takes a stance against issues, it should be coupled with actions to show our support and commitment in line with the global campaign.

Mohamed Hadi requested that the motion be a named vote for the minutes.

Chair opened the speaking list to the Formal Debate.

Moosa Raza, spoke in favour of the motion. Key points: we are criticising the Israeli state for using violent forces, this is not xenophobia. UMSU must stand against an apartheid state.

Procedural Motion 3: To accept a proxy from Scarlett Padden to Rebekah Kelly.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Scarlett Padden proxied to Rebekah Kelly

Scarlett Padden left at 1.20PM

Noa Abrahams, spoke against the motion. Key points: This topic is highly emotive, triggering for both Jewish and Palestinian students, worth discussing. Proposal in its current form poses challenges that undermines the goal of working together toward better society. Support Palestinian right to justice and self-determination, not at the cost of denying the history of the Jewish people. Encouraged collaboration with Jewish students.

Bella Beiraghi spoke in favour of the motion. Key points: Not a complicated issue, Israel is a settler-colonial state. Palestinians deserve liberation – UMSU needs to stand in solidarity, encourage divestment.

Andrew Feiglin spoke against the motion. Key points: President of the Jewish Student Society, MUJSS believes motion should be rejected for misrepresentation of Jewish students' beliefs, misconstruction of Zionism, and it is incitement for hate. Jewish students were not consulted on this motion.

Monica Sestito spoke in favour of the motion. Key points: The motion separates Judaism from the settler-colonial project that is Israel and Zionism – we are addressing the modern genocide of the Palestinian people as a result of this.

Chair reminded Students' Council to use the chat function just for the Speaking List and to address commentary to the Chair, not one another.

Roni Lipshut spoke against the motion. Key points: Yesterday was Yom HaShoah, the Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day, a day to remind us to stop antisemitism as it develops. This motion opens the door to anti-Semitism at Melbourne University, as it isolates students with inherit connection to the land of Israel. Raised concerns with the BDS movement.

Xavier Dupe spoke in favour of the motion. Key points: Spoke to the events taking place in Gaza and actions of the Israeli State against the Palestinian people. Drew comparisons between current events and the South African apartheid. For Palestinians to enjoy equal rights and a secular state, there must be resistance against the Israeli State.

Zachary Kaplan spoke against the motion. Key points: This motion will be seen as antisemitic if it goes ahead. Zionism is intrinsically linked to Judaism.

Procedural Motion 4: To move directly to a vote on the proposed motion.

Moved: Zach Matthews

CARRIED

Zach Matthews left at 1.40PM

Students present raised comments regarding the procedural and the suspension of discussion around the motion.

Point of clarification from Phoebe Churches: Council meeting procedure is bound by its regulations, including the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders provide for a procedural motion to be moved at any time and passed by simple majority. Once carried, Council is bound by the resolution so made.

Chair reminded Students' Council that the procedural to move to a vote has carried, will have to name attendees if they are disorderly. Students who are named three times will be removed.

Sarah was named.

Xavier Dupe was named.

Bella Beiraghi was named.

Ramona Chrapot was named

Doron was named.

Ramona Chrapot was named for a second time.

Charlie was named.

Motion 3: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Hiba Adams

Seconded: Mohamed Hadi

For: Aakash Chandak, Allen Xiao, Annalyce Wiebenga, Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi via Mohamed Hadi, Imogen Senior, Ishita Ganeriwala, Jaryd Clifford, Jessica Alderton, Mohamed Hadi, Shirley Killen, Zodie Bolic.

Against: Georgia Burke, Nate Hollis, Ngaire Bogemann, Nishank Ji-Sung Jain, Rebekah Kelly, Scarlett Padden via Rebekah Kelly, Zachary Kaplan.

CARRIED

After a period of disorder and multiple out-of-order comments was made, members of MUJSS requested their distance from some of the concerning commentary (e.g., "level Gaza") to be clarified on the record.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 5(22)

Annalyce Wiebenga noted that their departure at 2pm could be disregarded.

2.2. Minutes 6(22)

Motion 4: To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record with requested amendments.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion 5: To move to a five-minute break.

Moved: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

Council adjourned at 2PM.

Council re-adjourned at 2.05PM.

Albert was named twice.

Gidon Waller was named twice.

Jamie McPherson was named.

Chair reminded Students' Council that item 9.6.1 has been voted on and discussion must move on to the next agenda item.

Jamie McPherson was named for a second time.

Jack Jackson was named.

Albert, Gidon Waller, and Jamie McPherson were removed from the meeting, along with several anonymous attendees.

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Sophie Nguyen	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Millie Macwhirter	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Sami Zehir	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	<i>Late</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	<i>Late</i>
Disabilities Officer	Prachi Uppal	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	<i>Submitted</i>

Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	<i>Late</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Benjamin Jarick	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	<i>Late</i>
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	<i>Late</i>
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer Officer	Rose Power	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Welfare Officer	Shuyan (Lynne) Bian	<i>Late</i>
Welfare Officer	Disha Zutshi	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's Officer	Lauren Scott	<i>On Leave</i>
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Alex Birch	<i>Submitted</i>
	Nina Mountford	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	<i>Late</i>
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	<i>Submitted</i>

Chair invited Officers to speak to their reports.

Eleanor Cooney-Hunt spoke to her C&S report. Proud to be the C&S Officer, however, department has been facing challenges with current staffing comparative to the workload. The OBs and C&S Committee believe that the best way forward for the clubs to get the attention needed whilst administrative duties are also managed, is with the appointment of another permanent employee.

Mike was named.

Phoebe Churches in response to the C&S report; hear the concerns, conversations with Fiona Sanders (Clubs Coordinator) and Martina Smythe (Manager, People & Culture) are currently taking place, a workforce planning process is already taking place. Officer Bearers should address staffing matters to management in the first instance, rather than raising it for the first time at Students' Council. Across the organisation there has been identified capacity issues, which we are conscious of and working towards resolving. Funding remains uncertain and so there is no ability to make decisions which will have budgetary impacts until the amount of SSAF funding is certain. First steps are pulling back on activity that is putting pressure on the low resourcing so the organisation can review and re-allocate resources to improve capacity, C&S had been an identified pressure point along with CME. Outcomes of the review and identified changes to be made will be brought forward

to Students' Council, however, organisationally the review process is already underway.

Eleanor, in response to Phoebe; appreciate the work the CEO is doing, and believe this issue needs to be addressed urgently.

Annalyce Wiebenga asked a question regarding disparity in the Education Public reports regarding the National Day of Action. Ben Jarick's report notes the day having not gone ahead, whilst Ruby Craven's does.

Ruby Craven, in response; to clarify, the National Day of Action occurred nationally, however the Unimelb contingent didn't take place due to difficulties noted in Ben's report.

Rose Power spoke to their lack of report. Expressed support for Eleanor, many OBs are feeling burnt out so providing the support where possible to encourage their passion is important. Apologised for not submitting their report for this Council, open to any questions regarding the activities of the Queer Department.

Millie Macwhirter noted the higher than usual late reports is likely due to her recent appointment and delayed access to the Secretary inbox currently, rather than OB negligence.

Jordan Di Natale spoke in support for the C&S Office, the workload for the current staff has been an ongoing issue.

Phoebe Churches responded that it is not as simple as just adding more new staff to busy areas without a plan in place, as it will incur both budgetary impacts and the overhead of training new staff members can add to the existing stress rather than alleviating it. This has led to complexity, timing wise, in adding casual staff to relieve pressure where there is also no time available for training and inducting those staff. Hence advice to put the brakes on current services to create some space for the recruitment and training of new casual staff as a short-term fix. This is not being neglected, is a complicated workforce issue.

Brittney Henderson spoke to their Indigenous Report. There will be a EOI form for the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group going out shortly. Encouraged interested reps to apply and attend.

Motion 5: To accept the OB Reports

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion 6: To move In Camera.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 2:27pm

During this time Students' Council moved the following actions:

- *Accepted the CEO's report*
- *Accepted the NUS report*
- *Moved to Item 9.3 of the agenda for consideration*
- *Moved to accept the proposed motion in 9.3 as presented*
- *Accepted the reports on the CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee and Operations Sub-Committee*

7. CEO Report

8. Other Reports

8.1. NUS Report

8.2. CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee Report

8.3. Operations Sub-Committee

Council moved out of camera at 2.50pm

Marcie Di Bartolomeo arrived at 2:30pm

Eleanor Cooney-Hunt left at 2.50pm

Chelsea Daniels left at 2.50pm

Procedural Motion 9: To move to a break until 3pm.

Moved: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

Benito Di Battista left at 2.55pm

Council adjourned at 2.53pm

Council re-adjourned at 3pm

9. Motions on Notice

Phoebe spoke to the constitutional changes requested, and the SGM requirements. Constitutional changes require a Special Resolution to be passed, which constitutionally need to be considered at an SGM, not the AGM.

Liza Stephens arrived at 3.11pm.

Chair opened to questions regarding the proposed constitutional changes.

Mohamed Hadi asked regarding the oversight committee if it would render the currently sub-committee obsolete.

Phoebe Churches, in response; in future this type of subcommittee would be obsolete, however, the oversight committee is unlikely to be filled and convened until a new CEO is recruited – and continuity in the current process should be maintained.

Annalyce Wiebenga asked, if there is an overlap of the oversight committee and currently subcommittee, should the current subcommittee be grandfathered in to remain consistency?

Phoebe Churches, in response; agreed, would be appropriate for Council to move to retain the delegation to the current subcommittee for the current recruitment for continuity should there be an overlap.

Annalyce Wiebenga asked, would there be a yearly turnover for this committee?

Phoebe Churches, in response; yes, in the case of the sitting Councillors and Officers. The Support Officers should be retained over longer periods of time providing they are happy to remain.

Procedural Motion 10: to discuss and vote on 9.1 and 9.2 en bloc.

Moved: Moira Negline

CARRIED

Jack Doughty left at 3.23pm

9.1. Motion for council to endorse amendment Clause 6.5(a) of the Constitution for the upcoming AGM.

No discussion.

9.2. Motion for council to endorse constitutional changes, which allow for a CEO Oversight Committee, for the upcoming AGM.

No discussion.

9.3. Motion to reallocate funds regarding the NUS report.

Item 9.3 was considered and passed In Camera.

9.4. Motion for Council's approval of expenditure for the Indigenous Departments team dinner.

Harley and Brittney spoke to the motion.

Motion 9: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Harley Lewis

Seconded: Brittney Henderson

CARRIED

9.5. UMSU condemns the politics of the Liberal and Labor party in this election

Moved by Shirley Killen, seconded by Heather Maltby.

Shirley Killen spoke to their moving rights. Condemned the actions of the Labor party in this election. Raised concerns with the internal politics of Students' Council as well. Encouraged UMSU to take a stance against dominating right-wing politics.

Chair reminded Students' Council to restrict discussion to the current proposed motion.

Heather Maltby spoke to their seconding rights. Raised concerns with Labor Party promises to open a new coal mine, and apparent disregard for climate change. Likewise for refugee rights and the current government alignment with Israel in the Israeli-Palestine conflict. UMSU should be taking a stance.

Annalyce Wiebenga asked of the movers, if the proposed motion is upheld, what are you wanting from a statement released by UMSU on this?

Shirley Killen, in response; would like emphasised that no matter who gets up in this election is not going to do anything to put us on a path to a better future, for students, workers, and the oppressed. Student unions must start engaging their students politically to fight for their rights.

Georgia Burke noted, won't pretend Labor is most ideal political party, have own qualms with their policies. However, have more issues with the Liberal party. More pressing is pushing out the Liberals in this election, condemning Labor won't assist this goal. The proposed motion doesn't consider some of the more positive policy potions Labor is taking (e.g., Medicare) in the election campaign. UMSU shouldn't be directing people how to vote, particularly marginalised groups.

Monica Sestito stated the motion isn't directing students on how to vote. It's about putting out a position reflecting what we as a Union want to fight for, which is currently not what Labor represents.

Chair noted that proposed motions 9.1 and 9.2 still required a vote, requested discussion be momentarily suspended to vote on these motions.

Motion 10: To accept motions 9.1 and 9.2 as presented.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Moira Negline

CARRIED

Discussion resumed. Bella Beiraghi spoke to own criticisms of Anthony Albanese and the Labor government. Purpose for this motion to condemn both parties is to dispel the myth of the 'lesser evil' rhetoric of getting Morrison out in favour of Albanese.

Procedural Motion 11: To move to a vote.

Moved: Zodie Bolic

CARRIED

Motion 11: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Shirley Killen

Seconded: Heather Maltby

FAILED

10. Motions without Notice

- 10.1. Motion that Council directs the General Secretary to call an SGM on the 17th of May to consider urgent constitutional changes to support the recruitment of a new CEO.**

Procedural Motion 12: to accept a proxy from Nishank Ji-Sung Jain to Terry Wang.

Moved: Georgia Burke

CARRIED

Nishank Ji-Sung Jain proxied to Terry Wang.

Nishank Ji-Sung Jain left at 3.45PM.

Motion 12: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Harley Lewis

Seconded: Zodie Bolic

CARRIED

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting

1pm, Friday 13 May

13. Close

Meeting closed at 3.49PM

9.5.1 UMSU condemns the politics of the Liberal and Labor party in this election

Preamble:

The upcoming federal election is being fought on the worst possible terrain. The ALP and the Liberal party are fighting to outdo each other in a contest to see who can be the most conservative on just about every major question.

The most recent IPCC report warned that we have as little as 3 years to seriously turn things around if we want to ensure a livable planet in our lifetime. We not only need to stop all new coal and gas projects, we need to start shutting down those already in existence. Yet the Liberals are committed to continuing Morrison's gas-led recovery, and Labor has declared its support for coal past 2050. The Labor premier of Western Australia, Mark McGowan, said late last year that his government would fight to overturn any environmental rulings against the state's massive Woodside Scarborough gas project. Woodside is projected to emit more carbon than Adani and will destroy swathes of sacred Indigenous sites as its built.

On the question of imperialism, both parties are positioning aggressively towards China and hawkishly around the Pacific, particularly in response to the Solomon islands deal. The ALP has attacked the Liberals from the right on this question, accusing them of failing to defend Australia's national security interests. And in the recent leaders' debate, Albanese reaffirmed the party's commitment to the inhumane policy of boat turn-backs. This was later echoed in a tweet by the official ALP account: 'Let's be clear: if you attempt to come to Australia by boat, you will not make it.' It goes without saying that this is a completely disgraceful capitulation to anti-refugee rhetoric, but it's also unsurprising - the Labor party is just as responsible for Australia's barbaric border regime as the Liberals.

All of these questions are playing out in the context of rising inflation and stagnating or outright declining wages. Australia's billionaires doubled their wealth during the pandemic, yet both parties have committed to sweeping tax cuts for the rich. The Liberal party crusade openly in support of big business and the rich, and instead of using the opportunity to demand big wage rises and an increase to Jobseeker, the ALP have abandoned their promise to investigate raising welfare and have doubled down on appealing to Australian businesses, promising to raise productivity and profits. On every question, the ALP has tried to outdo the Liberals from the right.

Students, workers and marginalised people deserve much better than what the major parties are offering, and they recognise this. On most important questions, from climate action to refugee justice, most Australians are well to the left of any major political party. And the long-term erosion of Labor's vote and membership shows that many are losing faith in the party as an alternative.

We need to build resistance outside the halls of parliament if we want to confront the enormous challenges facing humanity today. And we can't accept the argument that the ALP is some alternative, or that we have to swing in behind it to kick Scomo out. Whether the next government is headed by Morrison or Albanese, we're on track for more climate devastation, more war, more refugees being locked up, more poverty for workers and more wealth for the rich. It's going to take a serious fight to build a world worth living in.

Platform:

UMSU condemns the right-wing politics of both the Liberals and the ALP in this federal election

UMSU reaffirms its commitment to fighting for climate justice, refugee justice, workers' rights and free education

Action points:

UMSU will publish a statement condemning both the ALP and the Liberal party for their appalling politics in this election, and recognising the need to organise a left-wing student movement to fight for our rights

Mover: Shirley Killen

Secunder:

9.6.1 UMSU stands with Palestine - BDS and Solidarity Policy

Preamble:

In the late 1800s, Political Zionism was born to establish a Jewish home in Historic Palestine, disregarding the Indigenous Palestinians living there. This colonial project has led to the establishment of the state of Israel, the blockade of Gaza and the occupation of the West Bank through massacres, forced expulsion and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. Israel has been deemed as a settler colonial apartheid state. It continuously denies the native Palestinians of their right to self-determination, freedom, dignity and equality. Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the BDS call urges action to pressure Israel to comply with international law.

With the recent bombing of Gaza, Israel has carried out a police raid at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Israeli forces have detained 500+ and injured 170+ Palestinians in Jerusalem since the beginning of Ramadan. These Palestinians were simply congregating and praying at the mosque, which is one of the few remaining public spaces for Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Students in Palestine and around the world have been key participants in the fight against the illegal occupation of Palestine, protesting, organizing, and creating a discussion on respective campuses. Many student unions and associations across Europe, North America, and Australia have formally endorsed BDS or some version of solidarity, it's long overdue for a clear and firm stance by UMSU on these crimes.

Policy, UMSU stances and actions:

General Stance:

UMSU stands against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and condemns the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians

UMSU supports the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right to engage in self-defence against their occupiers

UMSU deems Zionism as a racist, colonial ideology

UMSU rejects Israel's continued settlement, expansion, and annexation of Palestinian land

UMSU condemns the Australian government's support for Israel and its ongoing crimes including occupation, settlement, expansion, and ethnic cleansing.

UMSU condemns any and all forms of anti-semitism against students of the Jewish faith, and stands in solidarity with Jewish students.

UMSU recognises that Israel's actions are not representative of the Jewish community. Similarly, Israel's crimes are its responsibility alone and not that of Jewish people worldwide.

UMSU strongly endorses that Judaism and Zionism are not to be conflated as one.

Academic Boycott:

UMSU supports the academic boycott movement of Israeli institutions

UMSU calls on the university to participate in an academic boycott and cut ties with Israeli institutions, researchers, and academics that support the Israeli oppression of Palestinians

Divestment Actions and support:

UMSU calls on the university to divest from corporations complicit in and profit from the Israel apartheid

Direct the CEO to update the UMSU ethical register and boycott companies that support and profit from the Israeli apartheid in line with the BDS Australia organization guidelines.

UMSU publishes a statement prepared by the UMSU POC department and relevant student groups announcing this policy and its support for Palestinian rights.

To direct the General Secretary to update the UMSU stance booklet to reflect this policy and subsequent vote on it.

To direct the President and POC officer to send a letter of support to the Australian Centre for International Justice affirming UMSU's support for Palestine on behalf of UMSU.

We encourage officers and council to sign the following petition and show solidarity with Palestinians

<https://acij.org.au/australian-human-rights-community-solidarity-statement-with-palestinian-human-rights-organisations-defenders/>

Mover: Hiba Adam

Secunder: Mohamed Hadi