

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Advocacy & Legal Student Advisory Group**

CONFIRMED MINUTES

2:00 pm, 10.11.2016

Meeting 2 of Semester 2

**Training Room 1, 3rd Floor
Union House**

Chair: Phoebe Churches, Manager, Advocacy & Legal

1 Welcome and Procedural Matters

1.1 Apologies: Eva Burch

1.2 Attendance: Phoebe Churches, Michelle Almiron, Emily De Rango, Yan Zhuang, Yasmin Luu, Reeanna Maloney, Isabelle Butler, Nadia Di Battista, Tyson Holloway-Clarke, Donna Markwell, Paul Hornsby, Ryan Davey, Sinead Manning, Teresa Gornall, Caley McPherson.

1.3 Confirmation of previous minutes: Phoebe Churches

2 A & L Service Reports

2.1 Advocacy case work

Special Consideration Practice Leaders Advisory Group (SCPLAG)

Paul attended the most recent meeting. Tyson sits on the Special Consideration Academic Advisory Group (SCAAG), which has mostly admin and professional staff who make special consideration decisions. There seems to be a general mentality that students are “gaming the system”. One issue we have seen at the Service lately is where SEDS are assessing applications as eligible, but the Faculty are deeming them as ineligible and overturning the original assessment.

Misconduct

We are only just starting to see misconduct outcomes under the new regulations. Overall we are optimistic about the new regulations, but we have seen some interesting interpretations of this. On a separate note, misconduct training for new office bearers will be March – after the Student Governance Training has been completed.

2.2 Legal service – reopening

2.2.1 New triage model

The Legal Service has officially re-opened! The service will now run via a telephone advice line – there will be no drop ins. The telephone line is open 1.30pm – 4.30pm Monday to Thursday. This will enable the service to see more students with complex legal needs.

2.2.2 O'week launch

We will have an official launch during O'week – show bags, free stuff and a “legal health check”. More information on this to come.

2.2.3 Policy review – new and amended policies for review and approval

New policies have been drafted – feedback welcomed.

2.2.3.1 Myki

There is amended legislation being implemented next year. There will no longer be on the spot penalty fares. Phoebe has created a “myki robot” called Myki Pleader - to assist students with appealing fines. This will be rolled out within the next few weeks.

2.3 Projects and initiatives

2.3.1 UMSU Advocacy Service – research on over representation of Science faculty in Advocacy Stats

We have seen an influx in Science students at the service that has been ongoing for the last few quarters now, we are in the process of looking into this. There are lots of factors to take into consideration – we are starting an in-depth analysis. Donna spoke a little about the research her and Nadia are doing at the moment. A report will be written, including a breakdown of undergraduate and graduate students.

2.3.2 UMSU Advocacy Service - 2016 Service User Survey

This was sent out to students and the responses have been collated. Overall, the responses have been positive and we have received some good feedback. We conduct a user survey annually a part of our contract with the University.

2.3.2.1 Legal Projects

There is room for CLC education and projects, open to ideas.

Papers - UMSU Advocacy Service Report: July – September 2016 (herewith)
- UMSU Legal Service policy PDF doc set for review (herewith)

3 Reports from Student Office Bearers

3.1 Items of interests related to Advocacy or Legal Services

Clubs Events

Clubs had some questions regarding liability at club organised events (e.g. pub crawls). They have drafted a policy and Reeanna said she will look over it.

GSA

In the process of appointing GSA committee reps.

Special Consideration

Sinead is interested in creating education students on special consideration, doing brochures, etc. Will be updating the ‘working while studying’ brochure.

Tax Help Service

Interested in setting up a tax help service/employment service for students.

4 Other Business

None.

5 Next Meeting

2017 dates TBC.

6 Close

3.12pm.

Membership:

Executive Officer & Chair: Phoebe Churches, Manager, Advocacy & Legal

2 representatives elected by and from the Education Committee;

2 representatives elected by and from the Welfare Committee;

2 representatives elected by and from the UMSU International Committee;

2 representatives from GSA;

Education (Academic Affairs) Officer(s);

Indigenous Officer(s);

Welfare Officer(s);

President, UMSU;

Secretary, UMSU;

President, UMSU International;

Vice-President (Education and Welfare), UMSU International; and

Members of the Student Representative Network.