

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

11:00am, Tuesday the 12th of September 2017

Meeting 17(17)

Location: Private Dining Room, Mezzanine Level, Union House

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes from Meeting 16(17)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 3.1 Take Back Our Co-Op Campaign

4. Correspondence

Nil

5. Office Bearer Reports

Please see attached document: Office Bearer Reports

President	No report submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	No report submitted
Clubs & Societies (Kayley Cuzzubbo)	No report submitted
Clubs & Societies (Gulsara Kaplun)	No report submitted
Creative Arts	No report submitted
Disabilities	No report submitted
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted
Environment	No report submitted
Indigenous	No report submitted
Media	Submitted
People of Colour	No report submitted

Agenda of Students' Council – Meeting 17(17)

Queer (Blake Atmaja)	No report submitted
Queer (Evelyn Lesh)	No report submitted
Welfare	No report submitted
Women's	No report submitted
Burnley	Submitted
Victorian College of the Arts	Submitted

6. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO's report has been submitted to Councillors in confidence.

7. Other Reports

8. Operational Business

8.1 Stances Booklet

9. Motions on Notice

10. Motions Without Notice

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting

13. Close

3.1 Take Back Our Co-Op Campaign

Preamble: Students from several universities have entered a campaign to make the Co-op more accountable to its members.

We accuse the Co-op of:

Overcharging for textbooks relative to other suppliers and students' expectations.

Lacking diversity in its Board of Directors. There are no students or academics on its Board. The Secretary of the Board is Talal Yassine. Almost half of the Board are on the payroll of companies owned by the Yassine family.

Failing to provide members of reasonable notice of AGMs or elections.

Holding AGMs at inaccessible locations (eg. this year, its AGM was held in a small regional town in NSW).

Deliberately preventing students from participating in the management of the Co-op.

Remunerating its Directors at over \$330 000 (for attending an average of six meetings), despite the Co-op running at a loss of several million dollars each year.

Most troublingly, the Co-op's recent AGM was not conducted in accordance with either the Co-op's Rules, or the Co-operative National Law.

At this AGM, students had the majority in the room, until our proxies were deemed invalid (and we were informed that the status quo group – comprised largely of Co-op senior managers and current directors – had over 100 proxies).

The Secretary of the Board refused to allow us to review these proxies. Since the AGM in March, several retail employees of the Co-op have approached the campaign, independently of each other, blowing the whistle on the behaviour of Co-op senior managers. They allege that those managers improperly coerced junior employees into signing away their proxies in order to prevent students from holding a majority at the most recent AGM.

Motion:

UMSU unequivocally condemn the Co-op's failure to democratically engage with its members.

UMSU affirms its support for the 'Take Back Our Co-op' campaign and recognises that it is a movement capable of increasing students' control over an organisation that has acted with disdain towards its students members.

UMSU will take an active role in the strategies of the Take Back Our Co-op campaign and encourage the broader student community to do the same. Potentially, for instance, by sending UMSU representatives to attend the Co-op's 2018 AGM.

UMSU will engage with the NTEU to encourage them to take part in the campaign to put the Co-op back under the control of academics and students.

Mover: Yan Zhuang

Secunder:

8.1 Stances Booklet

Motion: To approve the Stance Booklet as true and accurate. To allow the General Secretary to publish its content on the website and to encourage the current and future General Secretary to update it after every Council.

Agenda of Students' Council – Meeting 17(17)

Mover: Yasmine Luu

Seconder: