



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Agenda
11:00am, Tuesday the 29th of August 2017
Meeting 16(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
Jessica Peeler
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- Minutes for meeting 14(17)
- Minutes for meeting 15(17)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 3.1 Careers Support Review
- 3.2 The Mishandling of Farrago's reporting on the Respect. Now. Always. Campaign

4. Correspondence

5. Office Bearer Reports

Please see attached document: Office Bearer Reports

President	Submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	Submitted
Clubs & Societies (Kayley Cuzzubbo)	Submitted
Clubs & Societies (Gulsara Kaplun)	No report submitted (Missed 2 reports in a row)
Creative Arts	Submitted late
Disabilities	No report submitted (Missed 1 report)
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
Environment	Submitted WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
Indigenous	Submitted late
Media	No report submitted (Missed 1 report)
People of Colour	Submitted
Queer (Blake Atmaja)	No report submitted (Missed 2 reports in a row)

Queer (Evelyn Lesh)	On Leave
Welfare	Submitted
Women's	No report submitted (Missed 1 report)
Burnley	Submitted
Victorian College of the Arts	Submitted

6. General Manager's Report

General Manager's report has been submitted to Councillors in confidence

7. Other Reports

8. Operational Business

8.1 Office Bearer Leave

8.1.1 Teresa Gornall 28/08 – 8/09

8.1.2 Yasmine Luu 11/09 – 22/09

9. Motions on Notice

9.1 Young Worker's Centre Franchise Survey 2017

9.2 VCESS and Volunteering Policy

9.3 Endorsement of UMSU recommendations for the taskforce on sexual assault

10. Motions Without Notice

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting

13. Close

3.1 Careers Support Review

Preamble:

The lack of careers support is something that students have consistently had at Melbourne Uni. In a survey conducted by the University in April this year of 2106 current students, careers support was ranked their satisfaction with aspects of the University. On campus work opportunities (5), industry placements and internships (~5.3), volunteering and leadership programs (~6.1), mentoring and networking programs (~6.2), and graduate employment rates (~6.8) all ranked below the average (6.9). In UMSU International's annual International Student Survey 2016, 498 out of 659 participants did not think the University provided them with sufficient careers support.

However, as much as we know that students are in general dissatisfied with the current level of careers support provided, there is little data on what exactly could be improved. The University has expressed that while they are currently in discussions about this issue and have some initiatives underway, they are also lacking sufficient data to determine what students think are lacking.

There is significant scope for UMSU to contribute to and be a part of these conversations. There's a gap in data about careers support, and one which UMSU, with its close proximity to students and stake in this issue, should have an interest in filling. In doing our own research, we get to shape the conversation, and put our values and ideas at the forefront of the discussion. To this end, I'd like to conduct research into student satisfaction with current careers support provided at the University of Melbourne and best practice across the sector, with the aim of developing a report with recommendations on how the University could improve on this.

Specific areas that students have issues with, and which we would like to investigate potential solutions to, include:

- Insufficient internships support and opportunities and industry placements
- Issues for marginalised students (e.g. international students being unable to find work opportunities because of visa and residency status restrictions)
- Students getting insufficient practical skills out of their university experience (both in and outside of class settings)
- Insufficient mentoring and networking opportunities
- insufficient careers counselling
- Issues students have with the University's Careers Centre

Recommendations that come out of this research process have the potential to require quite significant changes to services currently provided, and while there is a strong interest in this information, there is more chance that our recommendations will be taken on board if the research is conducted in a methodologically sound way and of a professional quality, which UMSU office bearers do not have sufficient experience or knowledge to achieve.

Furthermore, the scope of this project is outside of the capacity of UMSU office bearers. To this end, hiring a research assistant is necessary for this project to be effective.

The research conducted will be both quantitative and qualitative in nature, and be done through: a student survey, focus groups with targeted student groups, and research into best practice across Australian universities.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

- Planning: 2 winter break (1 weeks)
- Data collection: week 1-week 6 (6 weeks)
- Data compilation/writing report: week 7-10 (5 weeks including mid-semester break)
- Presenting to the University and working out next steps: week 11-end of our term (8 weeks)

The research assistant will be employed to do the following:

- Construct the research framework, tailored to account for UMSU's needs and capacity, and provide advice on how to conduct research that is methodologically sound
- Provide advice to OBs in constructing the quantitative survey
- Run focus groups
- Provide advice in conducting research into other universities and best practice across the sector
- Assist in analysing data and writing recommendations

They would have the following qualifications: a newly qualified PhD student, ideally having majored in psychology, business/economics, or other areas that involve both qualitative and quantitative research. Someone who is familiar with student unionism is ideal.

- They would be overseen by a Project Reference Group comprised of:
- President
- General Secretary
- Welfare Officer(s)
- UMSU Intl Education and Welfare Vice President and UMSU Intl Education and Welfare Director
- Paul, UMSU Advocacy

Budget breakdown:

On advice from the UMSU HR manager, we would be looking for someone at the pay rate of a 'level A' academic. At Melbourne University, this is \$87,415 annually, or, ~\$42/hour. However, given that 1) the Melbourne Uni pay rate is higher than the national average, and 2) that we are a non for profit organisation, this could be lowered to \$35-40/hour.

The research assistant would be employed on a contractual basis for 10 hours a week x 12 weeks, for a total of 120 hours. i.e. from the planning stage to the finish of writing the report according to the timeline. This is a very rough estimate, as it is difficult how long someone should be contracted for, and there's a possibility that this is an overestimate.

Motion:

That up to \$5000 from the Campaigns budget line be approved to in order to hire a research assistant to help conduct a research project into jobs and professional support at Melbourne Uni, as outline above.

That up to \$2000 from the Campaigns budget line be to provide incentive for students to do the survey/take part in focus groups, in the form of prizes/gift cards.

Mover: Yan Zhuang

Secunder:

9.1 Young Worker's Centre Franchise Survey 2017

The Young Worker's Centre operates out of Trades Hall in Carlton, and aims to inform young Australians below the age of 30 of their rights at work. They also assist in getting young people back pay, helping them approach their employer about issues they see at work, and generally helping to engage young people in the union movement.

In light of the recent scandals from Grill'd, 7/11, Bakers Delight, and Subway (to only name a few), the Young Worker's Centre has dedicated time to educating workers about the systematic failures of the franchise operating model so that they may begin to reform their workplace. This might take the form of terminating zombie agreements, or collectively speaking to management.

In order to take the fight to the next level, YWC has launched a survey collecting the experiences of people who have worked for a franchise. This information will be used to better inform their campaign against stores that systematically exploit young people.

Motion:

1. That UMSU endorses the survey and reaffirms its solidarity with young workers, many of whom are university students attempting to make ends meet.
2. UMSU spreads the survey via its weekly newsletter and publicizes it via relevant social media channels.

Mover: Louis Devine

Secunder: Molly Willmott

9.2 VCESS and Volunteering Policy

Preamble:

The VCE Summer School (VCESS) is a student-run UMSU Volunteering program, which provides intensive tutoring to disadvantaged high-school students with the aim of reducing educational inequality in Victoria. VCESS was founded in 1971 and since then has consistently provided educational, extracurricular and leadership opportunities for between

300 and 400 high-school students and around 200 university students every year. In doing so it has also provided positive outreach and engagement for both the Student Union (in its various incarnations) and the University.

In 2016 VCESS was brought under the banner of the newly formed UMSU Volunteering department, and in 2017 the current directors were informed that the program was to be bound by the new UMSU Volunteering Policy and its associated procedures. To the knowledge of the current directors these Policy and Procedures were developed without input from or consultation with VCESS or any other UMSU Volunteering programs. As such there are a number of provisions which the current directors are concerned will adversely affect both the academic integrity of the program, and more significantly, its value as an outreach and engagement instrument.

The current directors submitted a list of these concerns to the Coordinator, Volunteering, but this was not progressed before she left the position.

Motion:

That the UMSU volunteering programs be consulted on the development of the UMSU Volunteering Policy and associated procedures, and that their concerns be taken into consideration in the further development of these documents. Furthermore, that these Policy and associated procedures not be brought to a vote of Students Council before such consultation has taken place.

Mover: Charles Cornwallis

Secunder: