



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
CONFIRMED Minutes
12:00pm, Thursday the 3rd of August 2017
Meeting 14(17)
Location: Private Dining Room, Level 1 Mezzanine, Union House

Meeting opened at 12:29 by Yasmine Luu

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Yasmine Luu be elected Chair
Mover: Yasmine Luu Seconder: Matt Simkiss
CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

Councillors

Position	Name	Attended?	Councils' attended this year (including this one)
Students Council	Alice Smith	Attended	8/13
Students Council	Gavin Wayne	Attended	10/13
Students Council	Matthew Simkiss	Attended	3/3
Students Council	Jesse Paris-Jourdan	Did not attend	8/13
Students Council	Lia Vassiliadis	Did not attend	5/13
Students Council	Lucy Maeve Turton	Attended	9/13
Students Council	Matthew Lagamba	Did not attend	9/13
Students Council	Molly Willmott	Attended	12/13
Students Council	Rachael Davies	Did not attend	4/13
Students Council	Tamara Hunt	Did not attend	5/13
Students Council	Lachlan Blain	Attended	3/3
Students Council	Yifan Mu	Did not attend	8/13
Students Council	VACANT		
Students Council	VACANT		
Students Council	VACANT		
Students of Colour Rep	Kim Duong	Attended	10/13

Students with Disabilities Rep	VACANT		
Graduate Rep	Jacob Rodrigo	Did not attend	4/13
Indigenous Rep	Cameron McBroom	Attended	9/13
International Rep	Tiffany Chui	Did not attend	4/13
Queer Rep	Daniel Beratis	Attended	13/13

Office Bearers

Position	Name	Attended?	Councils' attended this year (including this one)
Activities Officer	Jacinta Cooper	Did not attend	9/13
Activities Officer	Lydia Paevere	Attended	8/13
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Jessica Peeler	Did not attend	5/13
Clubs & Societies Officer	Gulsara Kaplun	Attended	9/13
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kayley Cuzzubbo	Attended	10/13
Creative Arts Officer	Harriet Wallace-Mead	Did not attend	7/13
Creative Arts Officer	Sara Pascoe	Did not attend	8/13
Disabilities Officer	Alston Chu	Attended	11/13
Disabilities Officer	Cassandra Prigg	Did not attend	3/13
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Caley McPherson	Did not attend	7/13
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Roger Samuel	Did not attend	6/13
Education Officer (Public Affairs)	Sinead Manning	Did not attend	9/13
Environment Officer	Elizabeth Nicholson	Attended	11/13
Environment Officer	Kate Denver-Stevenson	Did not attend	8/13
General Secretary	Yasmine Luu	Attended	13/13
Indigenous Officer	Marley Holloway-Clarke	Did not attend	6/13
Indigenous Officer	Alexandra Hohoi	Did not attend	0/1
Media Officer	Alexandra Alvaro	Attended	10/13
Media Officer	Amie Green	Attended	8/13
Media Officer	James Macaronas	Attended	11/13
Media Officer	Mary Ntalianis	Attended	9/13
People of Colour Officer	Ella Shi	Attended	8/13

People of Colour Officer	Hanann Al Daqqa	Did not attend	6/13
President	Yan Zhuang	Attended	7/13
Queer Officer	Blake Atmaja	Attended	10/13
Queer Officer	Evelyn Lesh	Did not attend	5/13
Victorian College of the Arts Campus Co-ordinator	Nicholas Lam	Did not attend	6/13
Welfare Officer	Ryan Davey	Attended	9/13
Welfare Officer	Teresa Gornall	Attended	7/13
Women’s Officer	Hannah Billett	Attended	13/13

Other: Desiree Cai, Jacinta Dowe, Kergen Angel, Ashleigh Barracrough, Stephanie Zhang, Esther Le Couteur, Conor Day,

1.4 Apologies

Jesse Paris-Jordan, Matthew Lagamba

1.5 Proxies

Jesse Paris-Jordan to Kergen Angel, Matthew Lagamba to Kim Duong

1.6 Membership

Jacob Rodrigo has resigned as Graduate Representative on Council and new Indigenous Office Bearers have been appointed

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: that the agenda as presented be adopted

Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes for Meeting 13(17) are not available

Motion 3: To ratify the motion from meeting 3 containing the schedule for council in Semester 2.

Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION: To move to items 5, 8.1 and 10.

Mover: Yasmine Luu

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION: To discuss and move items 5, 8.1 and 10 en bloc

Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Office Bearer Reports (was item 5)

Questions from the floor to OBs:

President: Molly Willmott asked Yan if Council could receive a tabled plan of UMSU’s proposed future plans, policy actions and requests regarding the Sexual Assault Survey. Yan indicated that this would occur.

Clubs and Societies: Gavin Wayne asked if Students' Council had any feelings or opinions on the Grievance Tribunals' ruling against Students' Council.

Kayley Cuzzubbo indicated that the C&S regulations were there for a reason, and that the department had to have standards. No one from Council turned up to the Grievance Tribunal to defend their actions or reason that the disaffiliation should've been overturned.

Numerous councillors said that the notice of the Grievance did not expressly inform them that they had to come to the meeting. Yasmine indicated that the tribunal members had requested and checked the wording of the notice.

Motion 4: That all OB reports (and recommendations) be passed en bloc,
To pass up to \$750 from Welfare's Breakfast's budget line to be used for costs relating to promotional and engagement material for the Where's Wally's Rights (Work Rights) Campaign. This supersedes the motion not on notice passed at the previous Student's Council.
To pass \$1000 from the Grant budget line to fund the MD1 Cocktail Night Grant Application from the Medical Students' Society
Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)
CARRIED

8.2 Student Initiative Grant – Med Ball

Motion 5: To approve the Student initiative Grant application submitted for the Medical Ball.
Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)
MOTION LOST
abstained
Gavin Wayne

12:36pm: Teresa Gornall and Lachlan Blain left

12:36 QUORUM LOST – meeting to continue for 30 minutes as per the Standing Orders

8.4 Office Bearer Leave – Evelyn Lesh

Motion 6: To approve leave for Evelyn Lesh from July 31 to August 25 2017
Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)
CARRIED

4. General Manager's Report

The General Manager did not submit a report

Motion 7: To excuse the GM from submitting a report
Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)
CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Careers Support Review

Motion 8: To defer discussion on the review as no new information has surfaced
Mover: Yasmine Luu (Chair)
CARRIED

3.2 Book Co-Op

Discussion about existing space, and the use of the existing space.

Motion 9: That UMSU draft a formalised agreement with the Book Coop to govern use of the space.

Mover: Gavin Wayne

Seconder: Matt Simkiss

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

8.5 The Mishandling of Farrago's Reporting on the Respect. Now. Always. Campaign

1. Last week, both Yan Zhuang, the president of UMSU, and Hannah Billett, Women's Officer, approached the Media Officers to suggest that an article be published on UMSU's refusal to participate in the University's *Respect, Now, Always* campaign.
2. The Media Officers agreed to commission an article as they deemed this to be in the interest of the student population.
3. On Thursday, Hannah Billett undertook an interview with *Farrago* reporter, Ashleigh Barraclough. For this interview, Hannah was given the permission of Yan (who is the spokesperson of UMSU) to speak on the record for UMSU.
4. An article was written up over the weekend by Ashleigh Barraclough and was scheduled to be published at 12pm on Monday 31 July.
5. Ashleigh was asked by Yan to see Hannah's statements so she could sign off on them. Ashleigh obliged.
6. At 9pm on Sunday night, Yan Zhuang sent a message to Alexandra Alvaro saying that herself and Hannah had 'fucked up' and that the comments were 'not constructive at this stage'. Yan then retracted her permission for Hannah to be a spokesperson for UMSU and requested that the article not be published.
7. On Monday, Mary Ntalianis contacted the General Secretary, Yasmine Luu, to inform her of the situation and to ask if Yasmine would be able to approve the publication of the piece.
8. Yasmine Luu said that she was unable to approve the article being published as Yan's permission for Hannah to be a spokesperson for UMSU had been retracted.
9. As a result of this, the Media Officers decided not to publish the article.
10. At around 3pm that day, Hannah Billett sent a message to Alexandra to 'retract' her comments.

The Media Department is not the PR body of the Student Union. The President (and

other Office Bearers) cannot tell the Media Officers to pull an article based on the fact that its content is ‘not constructive’ for UMSU’s PR strategy.

We believe the President overstepped their role in the following ways; Yan should not have asked Ashleigh, a reporter, to see Hannah’s statements. Sources are not to be involved in the writing process and if Yan wanted to check Hannah’s statements, she should have had that conversation with Hannah. These sorts of actions put the integrity of our reporting at risk. Yan cannot revoke permission for an Officer Bearer to speak on behalf of UMSU after the fact. It is the responsibility of the President and the Office Bearers to ensure that all media statements are correct and approved by appropriate channels before they are given on the record. Additionally, it is standard media practice that once a quote or statement is given on the record, it cannot be taken off the record.

The General Secretary also overstepped by giving the Media Office the impression that it was not within its right to publish without her permission.

This story deserved to go ahead with the original statements in place because it was of interest to the student body. Students deserve to know when the University is being dubious or ineffective in its responsibility to keep students safe. If student reps believe that a campaign being run by the University is little more than a ‘pre-emptive PR exercise’ (as Hannah said in her statement), then students should know that. After the quotes were retracted by Hannah, more were sent through. They lacked any newsworthiness and could not be formulated into a story of similar quality.

The Media Officers believe that the lack of autonomy afforded to UMSU Office Bearers in communicating to *F arrago* issues and happenings that are specific to their departments is in part, causing situations like this to arise.

Motions

1. That UMSU Regulations for Student Representatives be amended to allow Office Bearers to act as spokespeople for the organisation without going through the President when giving statements to *F arrago* – i.e. *Farrago* would be an exception to

the current policy; 2. That Students' Council affirm that statements given on the record to the Media Department cannot be taken off record once given, in line with the Newspaper Policy and standard journalistic practice, and that the Media Department cannot be compelled to pull statements due to dissatisfaction with their content; and

3. That Students' Council affirm, in accordance with the Newspaper Policy, that the Media Department is independent and is responsible for its editorial content, that the General Secretary is publisher in name only, and that Office Bearers cannot exercise editorial control over the content of the Media Department.

Gavin Wayne asked that the discussion on the motions be split as they are all quite different.

Yasmine Luu clarified that Council could not change the Procedures for Student Reps regulation during the meeting due to notice requirements. The meeting can direct changes to be drafted instead.

Gavin asked if all OB reports in Farrago were checked by the President. Yan said she did not do this.

Mary Ntalianis stated that OBs are currently unable to make a statement on behalf of UMSU or their department without going through the UMSU Spokesperson (The president).

Request to amend motion 1 to say "...act as spokespeople *for their relevant departments* without..." . This is amenable to the mover.

Lizzie Nicholson said that OBs were elected to speak for their constituency, and they should be able to speak freely. She said the current situation was confusing and needs to be made clearer.

More discussion on the potential issues if more than one person could act as the spokesperson for UMSU.

Mary said that if there was a 'rogue OB' that gave media statements, Media wouldn't publish them.

Yan said that it would be good to get clarity on the issue – the University rang her after hearing of this article and asked her if that was her opinion, or the opinion of UMSU's or the opinion of the Women's Department, and there was general confusion.

Molly Willmott said that Farrago was a separate entity to UMSU and should be able to have free access to the OBs.

Yasmine stated that she was initially completely unaware of the article, until Mary rang her 30 minutes before it needed to be published. Yas received advice that she as publisher could and should pull the article. Yas said that she agreed that this was overstepping and apologized to the Media Officers. She stated that she had no

communication from the UMSU President during this issue.

Multiple councillors and OBs suggested that the current situation and regulation was ambiguous and needed clarification.

Gavin Wayne and Daniel Beratis called for a Working Group to sort out the current standing and review the Regulations for Student Representatives.

Motion 10: That UMSU Regulations for Student Representatives be amended to allow Office Bearers to act as spokespeople for their relevant departments without going through the President when giving statements to *Farrago* – i.e. *Farrago* would be an exception to the current policy

Mover: Mary Ntalianis

Secunder: Alex Alvaro

CARRIED

12:57PM – Cameron McBroom left

Gavin indicated that he believed that the UMSU President should be able to rescind spokesperson rights to a delegated spokesperson in cases like this, but that the President should also not be able to take things off the record – so the quote would remain, but not as an UMSU opinion. He suggested that if the spokesperson power is delegated that it be delegated very clearly to avoid issues like this.

Lucy Turton said that that was a “fascist idea” and that it’s “fucked up that a president can control what is said by the student magazine”, and suggested that the issue was a freedom of press issue.

Gavin indicated that his idea was that the quotes could not be controlled, that they would still exist in print, but not as UMSUs whole of organization statement.

Mary said that Yan going to the reporter to see the article before talking to the *Farrago* Editors about it was very unprofessional.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: To defer this issue when Council finishes to the next council for further discussion

Mover: Daniel Beratis

CARRIED

Alice Smith indicated that she believed both statements should exist.

Yan said she took full responsibility regarding delegating spokesperson rights without clear indications on what could be talked about. She said it was never her intention to prevent OBs from stating positions and silencing them. She stated that she had a discussion with Hannah over Facebook and they both thought the statements were inappropriate.

Mary said that *Farrago* was not a PR group for UMSU, and that their publishing schedule doesn’t exist for the Presidents’ personal PR strategy. She said the fact that Yan asked for it to be removed takes away the integrity of things being on the record.

1:07pm Meeting Closed

As the 30 minutes had elapsed since losing quorum, the meeting closed. Many Councilors continued the above discussion informally after this time.