

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students’ Council
CONFIRMED Minutes
11:00am, Tuesday the 15th of August 2017
Meeting 15(17)
Location: Training Room 2, Level 3, Union House

Meeting opened at 11:05am by Lizzie Nicholson

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: To elect Lizzie Nicholson as chair
 M: Lizzie Nicholson S: Katie Nicholau
 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	9/14
Students Council	Gavin Wayne	Attended	11/14
Students Council	Matthew Simkiss	Attended	4/4
Students Council	Jesse Paris-Jourdan	Did not attend	9/14
Students Council	Lia Vassiliadis	Did not attend	6/14
Students Council	Lucy Maeve Turton	Did not attend	10/14
Students Council	Matthew Lagamba	Attended	10/14
Students Council	Molly Willmott	Attended	13/14
Students Council	Rachael Davies	Did not attend	5/14
Students Council	Tamara Hunt	Did not attend	6/14
Students Council	Lachlan Blain	Attended	4/4
Students Council	Yifan Mu	Did not attend	9/14
Students Council	Louis Devine	Attended	1/1
Students Council	Katie Nikolaou	Attended	1/1
Students Council	VACANT		
Students of Colour Rep	Kim Duong	Attended	11/14
Students with Disabilities Rep	VACANT		
Graduate Rep	Jacob Rodrigo	Did not attend	5/14

Indigenous Rep	Cameron McBroom	Attended	10/14
International Rep	Tiffany Chui	Attended	5/14
Queer Rep	Daniel Beratis	Attended	14/14

Office Bearers

Position	Name	Attended?	Councils' attended this year (including this one)
Activities Officer	Jacinta Cooper	Attended	10/14
Activities Officer	Lydia Paevere	Attended	9/14
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Jessica Peeler	Attended	6/14
Clubs & Societies Officer	Gulsara Kaplun	Did not attend	9/14
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kayley Cuzzubbo	Attended	11/14
Creative Arts Officer	Harriet Wallace-Mead	Did not attend	7/14
Creative Arts Officer	Sara Pascoe	Did not attend	8/14
Disabilities Officer	Alston Chu	Attended	12/14
Disabilities Officer	Cassandra Prigg	Did not attend	4/14
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Caley McPherson	Attended	8/14
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Roger Samuel	Attended	7/14
Education Officer (Public Affairs)	Sinead Manning	Attended	10/14
Environment Officer	Elizabeth Nicholson	Did not attend	11/14
Environment Officer	Kate Denver-Stevenson	Attended	9/14
General Secretary	Yasmine Luu	Did not attend	13/14
Indigenous Officer	Marley Holloway-Clarke	Attended	7/14
Indigenous Officer	Alexandra Hohoi	Attended	1/2
Media Officer	Alexandra Alvaro	Did not attend	11/14
Media Officer	Amie Green	Did not attend	9/14
Media Officer	James Macaronas	Did not attend	12/14
Media Officer	Mary Ntalianis	Attended	11/14
People of Colour Officer	Ella Shi	Attended	10/14
People of Colour Officer	Hanann Al Daqqa	Attended	8/14
President	Yan Zhuang	Attended	9/14
Queer Officer	Blake Atmaja	Attended	11/14
Queer Officer	Evelyn Lesh	Did not attend – ON LEAVE	5/14
Victorian College of the Arts Campus Co-ordinator	Nicholas Lam	Attended	7/14

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

Seconder: Jesse

Yan spoke to her moving rights. She said she had no further details on the proposal. Yan suggests that council consider a motion to pass \$1000 for further investigation into how much money and how long a project like this will take.

Gavin Wayne asks if Council can receive the spread sheet of budget expenditure that it requested last council. Yan says she will send it to councillors

Procedural Motion: to defer discussion on this issue until requested spread sheet of expenditure from the Whole of Union budget line, and Campaigns budget line is submitted to council

Mover: Molly Willmott

CARRIED

3.2 The Mishandling of Farrago’s reporting on the Respect. Now. Always. Campaign

Daniel Beratis said that the Media Officers were not present and had asked him to ask that the issue be deferred.

Procedural Motion: That this issue be deferred until the next meeting of Students’ Council

Mover: Daniel Beratis

CARRIED

4. Correspondence

Nil

4. 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	Submitted
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

Procedural Motion: To defer Yan's report until after the General Managers' report

Mover: Gavin Wayne

CARRIED

The Chair welcomed questions from the floor for all OB reports.

Gavin Wayne asked if for council's thoughts about the way the Sexual Assault Survey was handled as reported in Yasmine Luu's OB report.

Hannah Billet said that it was a very confusing time and lots of groups and people had been working independently on the same thing. She suggested that next time, it would be good to get more communication going between different areas of the Union earlier. Hannah said that the issue was very stressful, and a lot of both students and staff had been challenged in the content. She suggested that in the future, a better framework and better overarching procedures be established. Hannah implored UMSU to have a Working Group ahead of any future surveys and that this knowledge, and the way that this issue is handled needs to be passed down in institutional knowledge as the response to this will take months and years.

Further discussion on Working Groups and suggestion that discussion on this, with staff take place throughout the year.

Hannah says that Working Groups tend to disband due to lack of interest – and that this issue is too important for that to occur. There's also a significant confidentiality issue regarding this. She recommended heavy staff involvement.

Sinead Manning mentioned that there is a staff survey on sexual assault later this year.

Procedural Motion: That the Chair cedes to Hannah Billett

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson

CARRIED

Lizzie said that she's had a few conversations with both staff and OBs about formalised communications training for the next OB intake and indicates she would like to steer this process.

Procedural Motion: That the Chair cedes back to Lizzie Nicholson

Mover: Hannah Billett

CARRIED

Hannah Billett offered her apologies that she didn't submit a written report due to illness. She outlined that Sexplorations is Week 6 of Semester 2, but that she was having issues with getting other departments to respond.

Sinead Manning asked if Council had noted the issue with the Election Regulations not being passed in time to be ratified before the election. She indicated that when council is inquorate, there are significant issues with how UMSU runs

Gavin asked for an update on how much the Sexual Assault panel cost. Hannah said she would get that information for the next Council

Gavin asked Disabilities if they were going to ask Students' Council for more budget for their upcoming conference. Alston Chu said he didn't know but probably not.

Motion 4: to approve all OBs reports and recommendations excluding the Presidents'

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: That Students' Council moves in camera with the exception of Justin Bare (General Manager) and Goldie Pergl (UMSU Admin and Project Officer)

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (chair)

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 11:27am

5. General Manager's Report

The General Manager submitted a confidential report

11:32 am Nicholas Lam arrived

During this time Students' Council discussed space allocation, the UMSU Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and staffing issues. Council also moved to accept the General Managers' Council

Procedural Motion: To move in camera excluding Justin Bare and Goldie Pergl

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (Chair)

CARRIED

Council moved to exclude Justin and Goldie at 11:36am

Cameron McBroom left at 11:45am and asked for Council to suspend Standing Orders to allow his proxy to Tyson Holloway-Clarke

During this time, Council discussed the progress of the UMSU GM negotiations and the Student Precinct project. They also accepted the Presidents' Report.

Council moved to include strangers at 12:02pm

6. Other Reports

7.1 Student Initiative Grant Report – St. Vincent's Clinical School Mental Skills Night

Motion 5: To accept the St Vincent Clinical School Mental Skills Night

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (Chair)

CARRIED

7.2 NUS Edcon Grant Recipient Reports

Motion 6: To accept the NUS EdCon grant recipient reports

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (Chair)

CARRIED

7.3 Student Initiative Grant Report – Shepparton Medical Careers Night

Motion 7: To accept the Shepparton Medical Careers Night grant report

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (Chair)

CARRIED

7. Operational Business

8.1 Student Initiative Grant – Women Leading Change: A Climate Perspective

Motion 8: To approve the grant application for Women Leading Change: A Climate Perspective

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (Chair)

CARRIED

8. Motions on Notice

No motions on notice

9. Motions Without Notice

10.1 Office Bearer Leave during Week 7

Motion 9: That Students' Council approves leave from September 4th to 8th for any Office Bearer seeking leave for this period on the condition they submit a leave form with the Projects and Administration Officer by Friday August 25th.

Mover: Sinead Manning

Seconder: Daniel Beratis

CARRIED

Other Business

11.1 Preamble

1. In recent days, after a second failed attempt to move a plebiscite on marriage equality in the Senate, the Coalition government has authorised a postal survey asking Australians on the electoral roll for their opinion as to whether the law should be amended to allow marriage equality.
2. This policy--a policy that nobody wants--asks a question nobody (except conservatives in the government) believes should be answered by the public. It will deliver a result that will sway nobody and have no legal authority to implement marriage equality in Australia.
3. Instead of simply allowing a free vote in the Parliament, the government has instead persisted with this policy--a costly, unnecessary ballot with massive consequences for a vulnerable community.
4. The pain this survey will cause LGBTI Australians and LGBTI young people especially can already be seen. Lyle Shelton, the head of the Australian Christian Lobby, is calling children of LGBTI Australians "the stolen generation". Politicians such as Pauline Hanson and George Christensen are implying unfounded and malicious slippery slopes, linking marriage equality to polygamy, bestiality and paedophilia. This has happened, and will continue to happen throughout this process, causing direct harm to LGBTI Australians young and old, as studies of the Irish experience have shown.

5. In recent days, the prospect of a boycott to delegitimize the postal survey has been raised in several quarters. Polling indicates that, in the event of a postal survey or plebiscite, that 15% of LGBTI Australians would prefer a boycott, whilst more than half would prefer a 'yes' campaign. Given the community's preference, UMSU should seek to bolster the yes case, rather than pursue a boycott that may play into the hands of 'no' advocates.

6. Aims 1 and 7 of this student union are clear as to what our position must be. This postal survey has already unleashed and will continue to unleash hatred and trauma upon a vulnerable community. We must do everything in our power as a student union to ensure that we beat back the tide and ensure that a resounding vote of yes is returned, so that marriage equality may become law in this country.

Motion 10

1. That UMSU condemns the divisive, hurtful and unnecessary marriage postal survey as an unrepresentative and damaging policy by a government who could legislate for marriage equality tomorrow, if it so wished;

2. That UMSU nonetheless urges all students to enrol to vote, to update their address, and to vote for marriage equality;

3. That UMSU strongly encourages all Office Bearers to promote the same and enable students to do so as such at their events, in their collectives and through their communications with students;

4. That UMSU strongly promotes those events and others seeking to enrol students and update their details, and shares a link to enrol across appropriate social media platforms once immediately, and once just before or on August 24th;

5. That UMSU publicise on social media channels and at postal survey-related events resources for those affected by the postal survey, provided by either UMSU or the University, including but not limited to resources for queer students and mental health resources, as collated by the President, General Secretary, Queer Officers or other relevant Officers and Staff;

6. That these publications additionally be regularly published in the same way with accompanying reminders to vote, once every fortnight beginning on September 12th, and ending as close as practicable to November 7th; and

7. That the President direct the General Manager to ensure that these publications begin, alongside reminders to enrol or vote as appropriate, as soon as possible, but no later than September 12th for voting reminders, and no later than August 23rd for enrolment reminders.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Seconded: Matthew Simkiss

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

11.2 Student Precinct Update

Yan Zhuang alerted Council that the Business Case for the new Student Precinct has just been approved by University Council.

Councillors request an additional email update from the President once more is known.

Sinead Manning asks why major stakeholders, faculties and students have not heard any updates about this in a long time.

Procedural Motion: That the Chair cedes to Hannah Billett

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson

CARRIED

Lizzie Nicholson said that she works for the University as a liaison between UMSU and the Student Precinct team and can answer questions about the plan.

Lydia Paevere asks if the Business Plan involves space for a new Grand Buffet Hall space and a new North Court space, and if it does not does this mean that we have no recourse to regain those spaces in the new precinct.

Yan said she made representations to the University about the need for North Court and the Kitchen space, but she has been told that the business case was high level planning.

Lydia asks why something was approved that is missing things that students need in their new space.

Yan says that the business case would've been approved anyway.

Tyson Holloway Clarke declared a conflict of interest – he sits on University Council. He says that the business plan is not intended to include or exclude certain things – this is only the money part, and after this comes the design. He said that there are serious design challenges to deliver those needed spaces to UMSU, but the architects have ideas on how to deliver them.

12:18pm Kim Duong left

Lizzie Nicholson said that it was not the Universities job for design solutions – it's the architect's job to solve this issue.

Tyson indicated that there will be another round of approvals that will need to meet student approval as well. He said that there are 2 phases to the project, and it's an ongoing project to meet student needs.

Procedural Motion: That the Chair cedes back to Lizzie Nicholson Mover: Hannah Billett CARRIED
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10. Next Meeting

Thursday the 31st of August 2017 12:00

Motion 11: to amend the Council regular meeting timetable to Tuesday 11am on the 29 th August. Mover: Lizzie Nicholson (Chair) CARRIED

11. Close

Closed at 12:23pm