

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
UNCONFIRMED Minutes
10:00am, Tuesday the 4th of April 2017
Meeting 7(17)
Location: Training Room 1, Level 3, Union House

Meeting opened at 10:08am by Gulsara Kaplun

Council gave themselves a round of applause for achieving quorum

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Gulsara Kaplun be elected chair
 Mover: Gulsara Kaplun Seconder: Yasmine Luu
CARRIED

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	Did not attend	4
Students Council	Gavin Wayne Sittampalam	Attended	5
Students Council	Jesse Krause	Attended	4
Students Council	Jesse Paris-Jourdan	Attended	5
Students Council	Katherine Nikolaou	Attended	4
Students Council	Lia Vassiliadis	Did not attend	4
Students Council	Louis Devine	Attended	5
Students Council	Lucy Maeve Turton	Attended	5
Students Council	Madison Mooney	Did not attend	2
Students Council	Matthew Lagamba	Did not attend	5
Students Council	Molly Willmott	Attended	6
Students Council	Rachael Davies	Did not attend	2
Students Council	Tamara Hunt	Attended	5
Students Council	Vinu Gunetilleke	Did not attend	2
Students Council	Yifan Mu	Attended	6
Students of Colour Rep	Kim Duong	Attended	7
Students with Disabilities Rep	Michael Bhatti	Attended	2
Graduate Rep	Jacob Rodrigo	Attended	2
Indigenous Rep	Cameron McBroom	Attended	4
International Rep	Tiffany Chui	Attended	3
Queer Rep	Daniel Beratis	Attended	7

Office Bearers

Position	Name	Attended	Councils' attended this year (including this one)
Activities Officer	Jacinta Cooper	Attended	5
Activities Officer	Lydia Paevere	Attended	6
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Jessica Peeler	Did not attend	3
Clubs & Societies Officer	Gulsara Kaplun	Attended	6
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kayley Cuzzubbo	Attended	4
Creative Arts Officer	Harriet Wallace-Mead	Did not attend	3
Creative Arts Officer	Sara Pascoe	Did not attend	4
Disabilities Officer	Alston Chu	Attended	7
Disabilities Officer	Cassandra Prigg	Did not attend	1
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Caley McPherson	Attended	4
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Roger Samuel	Attended	3
Education Officer (Public Affairs)	Daniel Lopez	Attended	5
Education Officer (Public Affairs)	Sinead Manning	Attended	6
Environment Officer	Elizabeth Nicholson	Attended	7
Environment Officer	Kate Denver-Stevenson		4
General Secretary	Yasmine Luu	Attended	7
Indigenous Officer	Marley Holloway-Clarke	Did not attend	2
Indigenous Officer	Wunambi Connor	Attended	6
Media Officer	Alexandra Alvaro	Attended	6
Media Officer	Amie Green	Attended	5
Media Officer	James Macaronas	Attended	6
Media Officer	Mary Ntalianis	Attended	4
People of Colour Officer	Ella Shi	Did not attend	5
People of Colour Officer	Hanann Al Daqqa	Attended	6
President	Yan Zhuang	Attended	3
Queer Officer	Blake Atmaja	Attended	6
Queer Officer	Evelyn Lesh	Attended	3
Victorian College of the Arts Campus Co-ordinator	Nicholas Lam	Attended	5
Welfare Officer	Ryan Davey	Attended	5
Welfare Officer	Teresa Gornall	Attended	3
Women's Officer	Anjana Abeyratne	Did not attend	4
Women's Officer	Hannah Billett	Attended	7

Other: Jacky Kong

Staff: Justin Baré (UMSU GM), Goldie Pergl (Admin and Project Officer)

- 1.4 Apologies
Alice Smith, Matthew Lagamba

- 1.5 Proxies
Alice Smith to Molly Willmott, Matthew Lagamba to Louis Devine
- 1.6 Membership
No Change
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: To adopt the agenda as presented

Mover: Gulsara Kaplun (Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes of meeting 5(17)

Minutes of meeting 6(17)

Motion 3: To amend the minutes of meeting 6 to include Marley Holloway-Clarke in attendance, and confirm the minutes of meeting 5 and 6 as an otherwise accurate record

Mover: Gulsara Kaplun (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Harm Reduction

Gulsara Kaplun ceded the chair to Yasmine Luu as she wished to speak to the motion.

Preamble:

Australians are some of the highest users of illegal drugs, with 41.8% of Australians aged 14 years and over using illicit drugs in their lifetime. Drugs consumed in Australia are among the most dangerous in the world due to huge variances in purity and a high incidence of toxic adulterants.

These issues disproportionately affect young people, with people aged 20-29 being more likely to have used illicit drugs than other age group.

The summer festival season has been marked by a number of high profile hospitalisations and deaths related to the consumption of drugs, which have highlighted the need for a broad approach to harm reduction that includes not only the provision of rudimentary pill testing kits, but also information relating to contraindications and safer practices surrounding the consumption of drugs.

Instead of treating drug use as a complex health issue with societal and structural factors, Victoria Police and the Andrews government have reduced it to a criminal issue that can only be dealt with by suppression and force. Zero-tolerance policies cause active harm to individuals and communities in a way that is unhelpful and potentially devastating. Access to high quality methods of testing and information about safer drug-taking practices empowers Australians to make informed choices about their health and behaviour.

For our drug harm reduction program to make the maximum positive impact possible on the wellbeing of our students, we need to combine the provision of reagent kits with robust educational and informational resources, as well as political action to enact high-level change.

Discussion about evidence presented – Gulsara indicated that evidence regarding the harm minimisation approach was available from the Alcohol and Drug foundations.

Discussion about UMSUs legal liabilities when giving out kits, and giving out advice on harm reduction.

Motion 4:

1. That UMSU affirms its commitment to holistic, judgment-free and evidence-based approaches to drug harm reduction.
2. That UMSU implement a series of education sessions, available to all students at no cost, outlining steps that they can take reduce the harms associated with drug use

All OBs present had the chance to present verbal reports to the council.

Gavin Sittampalam asked if the President's submission could be circulated to all councillors. Yan said she would do this.

Molly Wilmott asked for an update on the Disability Action Plan – the OBs responded that they were waiting on a consultant.

Molly asked Education Academic and Public if they were planning on working with the Young Workers Centre – the departments responded in the positive.

Evelyn Lesh asked why the Queer Reports were being submitted individually. Yas responded that this was a request by Blake, and had been emailed to Evelyn previously.

Multiple councillors asked about the Sexual Assault on Campus survey results, and the issues surrounding it (lack of ethics approval, lack of openness and transparency about the results). Hannah Billett responded that she was following up all these issues already with the Uni.

Motion 6: That the OBs reports be accepted

Mover: Gulsara Kaplun (Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

6. General Manager's Report

Justin spoke to his report.

SSAF report is likely to be brought to the next council for review in confidence.

UMSU's new HR manager starts Thursday.

Justin will soon be the nominee for the MUSUL Liquor License.

Lydia asked about the Level 1 bar – Justin responded that he's hoping for a resolution for council within 4 – 6 weeks.

Gavin asked if changes to the Constitution will need to happen with UMSU's new responsibilities as an employer. Justin responded that he didn't believe there would have to be.

Gulsara asked if UMSU was intending to continue its relationship with Paramount Liquor – Justin responded that these will be decisions UMSU makes when UMSU has control of the license.

Motion 7: To accept the General Managers' report

Mover: Gulsara Kaplun (Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

7. Other Reports

No other reports

8. Operational Business

There were not enough Councillors present to discuss/pass policy and regulations so these were postponed to the next meeting

8.1 Clubs & Societies Regulation Amendment

Please see attached: Clubs & Societies Regulation Amendment

8.2 UMSU Child Safety Policy

Please see attached: UMSU Child Safety Policy

9. Motions on Notice

9.1 Palm Sunday 2017

Preamble:

This meeting of UMSU Students' Council notes

- (i) that Nauru and Manus Island are not safe for asylum seekers or refugees
- (ii) that conditions of those refugees and asylum seekers detained on Manus Island, Nauru and Christmas Island detention centres are intolerable, have led to the deaths of Reza Barati, Hamid Khazaei, Kamil Hussain and Faysal Ishak Ahmed, and continue to destroy systematically the lives of parents and children;
- (iii) that thousands of refugees and asylum seekers are currently detained in centres around Australia or in community detention, their lives being put on hold while conditions in these centres progressively worsen.
- (iv) that the detrimental effects of long term detention as well as long-term uncertainty about one's visa status are well known for both children and adults;
- (v) that the government's plan to send some of those detained on Manus Island and Nauru to the US as part of a deal with President Donald Trump is as of yet relatively uncertain, and would reportedly be capped at 1250 refugees and asylum seekers, meaning that only some detainees would be transferred, leaving many languishing in detention centres.
- (vi) that in addition to these limitations with the US deal, those transferred to the US would be subject to the policies of President Donald Trump, including "extreme vetting" of Muslims, and that a transfer to the US would be a transfer of refugees into an increasingly dangerous climate of racism and Islamophobia.
- (vii) that the detention of refugees and asylum seekers offshore has become politically untenable, given that a recent opinion poll showed that a majority of the population in a number of states condemn the policies of mandatory detention, and that the Papua New Guinean judiciary has declared the detention of refugees on Manus Island unlawful, and ordered the camp be closed;
- (viii) that the Australian government has the ability to bring all those refugees and asylum seekers in offshore detention to Australia, and could do so immediately should they choose to.
- (ix) That this year's Palm Sunday Walk for Refugees protest on April 9 comes at crucial time given the political challenge of sustaining the policies of mandatory detention.

We therefore declare our complete opposition to the detention of asylum seekers and refugees both offshore and onshore.

Accordingly we (i) call on the government to close the camps, and to bring all those detained therein to Australia immediately;

(ii) call for the US refugee deal to be scrapped in favour of bringing refugees to Australia.

(iii) will provide appropriate moral, financial and material support for the refugee campaign, in particular for the Palm Sunday demonstration on April 9;

(iv) will endorse a contingent of students to meet before the rally and attend the rally together.

Jasper Bell was not present to take up their moving rights. Sinead Manning offered to take up the moving rights if dot point 3 (*to finance the printing of t-shirts conveying information about the rally itself, and the political messages above. Students will wear these shirts while they build awareness of Palm Sunday and the student contingent, i.e. setting up stalls to leaflet for the event, spruiking the event in lecture theatres before lectures start, etc. The expected cost of this will be approximately \$1000, that is 70 t-shirts at ~\$15 p/each*) was removed.

As the original mover was not present, this was accepted by Council.

Discussion about who the group supporting this rally is – Campus Rights Refugee Club.

Motion 8 :

To this end, we move:

to endorse officially the Palm Sunday, walk for refugees on April 9;

to publicise the event and the student contingent on the UMSU email bulletin, as well as on the UMSU Facebook page;

Mover: Sinead Manning

Seconder: Molly Willmott

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

10. Motions Without Notice

Centrelink Campaign

Preamble

Newstart and Youth Allowance keep many students well below the poverty line. Youth unemployment and underemployment are at a high, yet the Liberal Government is increasing the number of hoops needed to jump through to qualify for welfare, which is doled out in amounts that are decreasing in real terms, failing to keep up with the cost of living, and are entirely inadequate to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty that many young people are trapped in. Welfare is not just an issue for those of us lucky enough to attend university, but all Australians trying to make ends meet, including jobseekers, apprentices, trainees, workers and parents. Added to this injustice is the fact that Centrelink as an organisation is severely underfunded and difficult to access. People spend hours on hold or in queues waiting for assistance that often never comes.

Motion

1. That UMSU set aside funds from the Whole of Union budget line for a campaign around Centrelink and the importance of welfare and social security.
2. That the Office Bearers convene in a publicly advertised meeting to decide on a list of demands around Centrelink to be ratified by Students' Council and distributed to other student unions around Australia, including the NUS, who may adopt it if they so choose.
3. That the President create a media release outlining this campaign and our list of demands.

Gavin Sittampalam asked that the money come from the Campaigns budget line of Students Council, and not the Whole of Union Budget line. This was agreeable to Councillors present

Multiple Councillors asked that this be run in conjunction with other organisations as well.

Councillors asked that Dot point 1 be deleted, and that "This group will also decide and plan a budget to present to Students' Council for consideration" be added to dot point 2.

Motion 9

1. That the Office Bearers convene in a publicly advertised meeting to decide on a list of demands around Centrelink to be ratified by Students' Council and distributed to other student unions around Australia, including the NUS, who may adopt it if they so choose. This group will also decide and plan a budget to present to Students' Council for consideration.
2. That the President create a media release outlining this campaign and our list of demands.

Moved: Alston Chu

Seconded: Molly Willmott

CARRIED

10.2 Conflict Resolution Training

Preamble:

This year more than ever, the environment collective has focused on developing a network of skilled people who can train up and coming activists in the tools you need to build a successful campaign/movement. So far we have held a facilitation training, sent people to a three-day community organising retreat, and have campaign strategy and spokesperson training planned for the next few weeks.

The way in which sessions are run, all resources are made available, and there is an emphasis on knowledge sharing, with students teaching each other.

Our mentor working group has identified the need for effective grievance and conflict resolution as a part maintaining a healthy group structure, however this is something we feel like we lack knowledge in.

We have been in correspondence with the Group Work Institute who run excellent conflict resolution trainings. We would like to hold one of these workshops for students at Melbourne Uni. We've negotiated with Group Work for them to run it at half price, so for UMSU a two day with take home resources will cost \$2200. This workshop will be open to all students but because there are only 15 spaces there will be an expectation for the people who attend the training to be prepared to hold the trainings (or condensed versions) for their own collectives and networks, to really make the effort (and cost) worthwhile.

Motion 10: To pass up to \$2500 from the Whole of Union budget line for conflict resolution training conducted by the Group Work Institute as well as for lunch to be provided for both days.

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson

Seconder: Lucy Maeve Turton

CARRIED

10.3 Radical Education Week

Preamble:

Radical Education Week this year is being run at universities around Melbourne from 1-5 May (<https://www.facebook.com/radedweek17/>). Radical Education week is about challenging the profit-driven path that our universities are heading down. University should be more than a place to get your degree, it should be a place to get active in creating a better and more fair world. The week is going to focus on learning from each other about things you would rarely learn about in class; history of activism on campus, how corporations affect our university, decolonisation, building resilient communities and more. There will be workshops and other events on campuses all around Melbourne. Multiple departments have expressed interest in helping coordinate and/or running their own events throughout the week. We are also open to including events run by clubs and other groups on campus in the program.

Discussion about breakdown of budget. Councillors requested a more comprehensive breakdown for any future motions for money from Whole of Union.

Motion 11 : To pass up to \$3000 from the national campaigns budget line for the cost of running radical education week.

Mover: Lizzie Nicholson

Seconder: Sinead Manning

CARRIED

10.4 Activities Cocktail Party

Motion 12: To pass up to \$20,000 from the budget line 03 60 600 3839 for venue hire and food and drinks for the UMSU Activities Cocktail Party

Mover: Lydia Paevere

Seconder: Katie Nikolaou

CARRIED

11. Other Business

No other business

12. Next Meeting

13. Close

Meeting closed at 11:31am