



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
CONFIRMED Minutes
10:00am, Tuesday the 9th of May 2017
Meeting 9(17)
Location: Training Room 1, Level 3, Union House

Meeting declared inquorate at 10:30am

Councillors

Position	Name	Attended?	Councils' attended this year (including this one)
Students Council	Alice Smith	Did not attend	5
Students Council	Gavin Wayne Sittampalam	Attended	7
Students Council	Jesse Krause	Did not attend	4
Students Council	Jesse Paris-Jourdan	Attended	6
Students Council	Katherine Nikolaou	Attended	5
Students Council	Lia Vassiliadis	Did not attend	5
Students Council	Louis Devine	Did not attend	6
Students Council	Lucy Maeve Turton	Attended	7
Students Council	Madison Mooney	Did not attend	2
Students Council	Matthew Lagamba	Attended	6
Students Council	Molly Willmott	Attended	8
Students Council	Rachael Davies	Did not attend	3
Students Council	Tamara Hunt	Attended	4
Students Council	Vinu Gunetilleke	Did not attend	2
Students Council	Yifan Mu	Did not attend	6
Students of Colour Rep	Kim Duong	Did not attend	8
Students with Disabilities Rep	Michael Bhatti	Did not attend	2
Graduate Rep	Jacob Rodrigo	Did not attend	3
Indigenous Rep	Cameron McBroom	Attended	6
International Rep	Tiffany Chui	Did not attend	3
Queer Rep	Daniel Beratis	Attended	9

Office Bearers

Position	Name	Attended?	Councils' attended this year (including this one)
Activities Officer	Jacinta Cooper	Attended	7
Activities Officer	Lydia Paevere	Attended	7
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Jessica Peeler	Did not attend	4

Clubs & Societies Officer	Gulsara Kaplun	Did not attend	7
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kayley Cuzzubbo	Attended	6
Creative Arts Officer	Harriet Wallace-Mead	Did not attend	4
Creative Arts Officer	Sara Pascoe	Attended	6
Disabilities Officer	Alston Chu	Did not attend	7
Disabilities Officer	Cassandra Prigg	Did not attend	1
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Caley McPherson	Did not attend	5
Education Officer (Academic Affairs)	Roger Samuel	Did not attend	4
Education Officer (Public Affairs)	Sinead Manning	Did not attend	6
Environment Officer	Elizabeth Nicholson	Did not attend	7
Environment Officer	Kate Denver-Stevenson	Did not attend	5
General Secretary	Yasmine Luu	Attended	9
Indigenous Officer	Marley Holloway-Clarke	Did not attend	3
Indigenous Officer	Wunambi Connor	Did not attend	7
Media Officer	Alexandra Alvaro	Did not attend	7
Media Officer	Amie Green	Did not attend	5
Media Officer	James Macaronas	Did not attend	7
Media Officer	Mary Ntalianis	Attended	5
People of Colour Officer	Ella Shi	Did not attend	6
People of Colour Officer	Hanann Al Daqqa	Did not attend	6
President	Yan Zhuang	Did not attend	3
Queer Officer	Blake Atmaja	Attended	8
Queer Officer	Evelyn Lesh	Did not attend	4
Victorian College of the Arts Campus Co-ordinator	Nicholas Lam	Did not attend	5
Welfare Officer	Ryan Davey	Attended	7
Welfare Officer	Teresa Gornall	Did not attend	4
Women's Officer	Hannah Billett	Attended	9

Other: Desiree Cai, Anneke D'emanuele

Staff: Goldie Pergl (Admin and Project Officer)

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies

Councillors: Kim Duong, Alice Smith, Louis Devine, Rachael Davies, Jacob Rodrigo, Lia Vassiliadis

Office Bearers: Roger Samuel, Sinead Manning

- 1.5 Proxies

Alice Smith to Hannah Buchan, Rachael Davies to Matthew Lagamba, Kim Duong to Lachlan Blain, Lia Vassiliadis to Anneke Demmanuele

1.6 Membership

Madison Mooney has been removed from Students' Council after missing 3 consecutive scheduled meetings.

The General Secretary would like to remind all Councillors that attendance is being rigorously watched. Constitutionally, turning up half an hour after the scheduled time for council automatically lists you as not attending.

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes for Meeting 8(17)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. Office Bearer Reports

Please see attached document: Office Bearer Reports

President	Submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	Submitted WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
Clubs & Societies	Submitted
Creative Arts	Submitted
Disabilities	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted
Environment	Not submitted (1 st warning)
Indigenous	Not submitted (2 nd warning)
Media	Submitted WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
People of Colour	Not submitted (1 st warning)
Queer (Blake Atmaja)	Submitted
Queer (Evelyn Lesh)	Submitted
Welfare	Submitted
Women's	Submitted
Burnley	Submitted (Late)
Victorian College of the Arts	Submitted

6. General Manager's Report

The General Manager's Report will be distributed to members of Council in a different email for confidentiality.

7. Other Reports

8. Operational Business

8.1 Student Initiative Grants – Moovin' Health Rural Student Ball

9. Motions on Notice

9.1 Campaign against Higher Education Reform

10. Motions Without Notice

10.1 Media Expenditure

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting

13. Close

9.1 Campaign against Higher Education Reform

Preamble:

The recently announced ‘reforms’ to higher education funding and fees are disgusting. In particular, there will be a 2.5% overall funding cut to universities, a lowering of the HECS-HELP repayment threshold (from \$54,874 to \$42,000), 7.5% fee increase, increases to New Zealand and permanent residents fees, and the introduction of Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT).

UMSU and the Education Department will respond to the budget by:

- Being on the Fodder live budget panel (9th May)
- Hosting an EdPub@Pub post-budget pub night (11th May)
- Postcard campaign to cross-bench senators
- Multiple phone banks, including one with the women’s department (women calling women)
- An event with the NTEU prior to the rally
- A banner painting day in the Arts Lab (probably 15th May)
- Taking students to the NUS rally on the 17th May
- Campus-specific/targeted actions (brainstorming through collectives)
- We are also having panel events, and speak outs in informal/accessible settings.

Motion:

To pass up to \$2000 from the Student Unionism Campaign Support Line for campaigns (events, speakers, catering, etc.) against the proposed higher education reforms in the 2017-18 federal budget.

Mover: Sinead Manning

Seconder: Ryan Davey

10.1 Media Expenditure

To pass up to \$550.00 from budget line Radio Fodder to renew the webcasting license into 2018.

Mover: James Macaronas

Seconder:

10.2 Activities Trivia Expenditure

To pass up to \$700 from the Activities Special Projects budget line for pizza for Week 10 trivia.

Mover: Jacinta Cooper

Seconder:

10.3 Harm Reduction Poster

Council accepts the poster presentation draft completed by Students for Sensible Drug Policy, outlining the basic, public processes involved in the exploration of a harm reduction initiative.

Council acknowledges the academic value of this Harm Reduction International conference and endorses the inclusion of the UMSU logo on the poster, so that UMSU may be represented at the peak international harm reduction convening.

Council will defer final acceptance of this poster to the Harm Reduction Working Group subject to minor semantic changes only.

Mover: Nicholas Kent

Seconder:



University of Melbourne Student Union, Harm Reduction Initiative: Students for Sensible Drug Policy Motion.

Background:

Recent data indicates that Australians are the highest per capita users of ‘ecstasy’ in the world (UNODC, 2014).

Australia’s illicit drug market is known to be highly adulterated with dangerous or unknown substances (ProjectKnow, 2015).

State and federal governments have consistently failed to adopt proven response measures such as drug checking, despite a commitment to harm reduction under the National Drug Strategy (NDS, 2015).

Objective:

To implement a harm reduction program in collaboration with the University of Melbourne Student Union, including the provision of re-agent drug checking kits to students free of charge.

In September 2016, a motion to this end passed the Student’s Council unanimously. Preliminary legal advice supported this vote.

Response:

The University of Melbourne outlined legal and reputational concerns should an unchecked program exacerbate harm to students on campus.

Local law enforcement admitted the legal grey area this occurs in, assuring SSDP no effort would be made to disrupt the program.

The media response was expository or supportive, receiving little criticism. (The Age, 2016)

The program gained the endorsement of Harm Reduction Australia.

The initiative received an endorsement from the National Union of Students, to be ready for implementation at Student Unions nation-wide.

The initiative provoked conversations in State Parliament (Fig 2).

Fig 1: Results of a survey of ~500 students at Orientation Week 2017



Research:

The unanimous Union support and University opposition have highlighted a distance of opinion in regards to student drug use behaviours and attitudes.

This has drawn the attention of researchers at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, who supported an initial data collection in preparation (Fig 1) for a further empirical study of student use patterns in accessing any program.

Pill testing

Ms SANDELL (Melbourne) — My question is for the Premier. Going into this summer experts fear we are once again going to see overdoses and deaths from party drugs if we do not bring in pill testing at music festivals. Doctors and community members are planning to hand out pill-testing kits at festivals across Australia, including at Melbourne University, because governments have failed to provide this service themselves.

Fig 2: Hansard, Victorian Parliament. Dec 2016.

Discussion:

This example of advocacy has resulted in a national first consultation and policy design process, involving a range of stakeholders engaging in new channels of communication and collaboration.

Student Unions have for the first time joined the harm reduction debate.

Student Unions are not traditionally equipped to navigate the complex legal and other issues involved in the provision of harm reduction services, resulting in the delayed implementation of this unprecedented policy.

A multi-pronged approach involving academics, students and harm reduction organisations is being developed to ensure the provision of re-agent testing kits to students in the absence of government sanctioned lab quality drug checking services. The limitations of re-agent testing are acknowledged and to be communicated to students and stakeholders as the only available option.

