



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
UNCONFIRMED Minutes
11:00 AM, 13.9.2016
Meeting 16(16)
Location: Training Room 1, 3rd floor Union House

Meeting opened at 11:27am by James Bashford

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That James Bashford be elected Chair
 Mover: James Bashford Second: Akira Boardman
CARRIED

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

Councillors

Millicent Austin-Andrews	Did not attend
Liam Leyden	Did not attend
Elizabeth Nicholson	Did not attend
Martin Kaminsky	Did not attend
Anneke D'emanuele	Attended
Tamara Hunt	Attended
Katie Nikolau	Did not attend
Reanna Clark	Attended
Gulsara Kaplun	Attended
Teresa Gornall	Attended
Aisling Acton	Did not attend
Daniel Sango	Attended
Ella Shi	Attended
Darcy Thornton	Did not attend
Kate Denver-Stevenson	Did not attend
Jacob Rodrigo	Attended
Zac Svenson	Attended
Harry Adam	Attended

Office Bearers:

President	Tyson Holloway Clarke	Attended
General Secretary	James Bashford	Attended
Activities	Megan Pollock	Attended
Activities	Itsi Weinstock	Attended
Clubs & Societies	Yasmine Luu	Attended
Clubs & Societies	Ryan Davey	Attended
Creative Arts Officer	Jeanette Tong	Attended
Creative Arts Officer	Joshua Lynzaat	Did not attend

Education Academic affairs	Tom Crowley	Attended
Education Academic affairs	Paul Sakkal	Did not attend
Education Public Affairs	Akira Boardman	Attended
Education Public Affairs	Dominic Cernaz	Attended
Environment Officer	Anisa Rogers	Attended
Environment Officer	Zachary Power	Attended
Media	Caleb Triscari	Attended
Media	Danielle Bagnato	Attended
Media	Sebastian Dodds	Attended
Media	Baya Ou Yang	Attended
Queer	Frances Connors	Attended
Queer	Lotus Ye	Attended
Welfare	Sarah Xia	Attended
Welfare	Yan Zhuang	Attended
Women’s Officer	Adriana Mells	Attended
Indigenous	Emily Kayte James	Attended
Indigenous	Wunambi Connor	Attended
Disabilities	Christian Tsoutsouvas	Attended
Disabilities	Jess Kapuscinski-Evans	Attended
VCA Campus Coordinator	Van Rudd	Attended
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Erathanos Beretta	Did not attend

Others: Cassandra Prigg, Desiree Cai, Alice Smith, Patrick Clearwater, Jade Eckhaus, Nicholas Kent, Gabe Lefkovits, Xavier Boffa, Madeline Johnson, Tessa Gould, Ben O’Shea, Chris Kennely,

1.4 Apologies

Martin Kaminsky

1.5 Proxies

Martin Kaminsky to Xavier Boffa

1.6 Membership

Cassandra Prigg and Xue Lan have dropped off council as they’ve missed 3 council meetings in a row

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 1: That the Agenda as presented be adopted

Mover: James Bashford (Chair)

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes of meetings 15(16) attached.

Motion 3: That the minutes of the Council Meeting 15 (16) be confirmed as a true and accurate record

Mover: James Bashford (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Lockheed Martin

The military industrial complex is in fact just that, complex. It describes the informal relationship between militaries, government and the weapons and defense industries. Where a military exists, a government funds it and an industry flourishes. As an organisation UMSU is constitutionally bound to oppose militarism, for good reason. War and the violence of war are abhorrent and needlessly disrupts the lives of millions. Lockheed Martin, Boeing and other aerospace and defense organisations are complicit in the ongoing conflicts of the present. That being said we cannot claim to be agnostic of the relationship between science, industry and the military. Nor can we claim to be ignorant to the ethical implications. This arrangement is not imaginary or fantasy. In the same lifetime a person like Wernher von Braun could both be a member of the SS and responsible for developing Nazi weapons whilst also being recognised as an exceptional American and one of the key scientists that delivered a man on the moon. I imagine this is not the answer that many people wanted or are willing to accept. In many respects it is not an answer but another question. Students should feel free to pursue the most rewarding careers they can make available to them. For some it will be in mining or other environmentally destructive industries. For others it will be in developing technologies that will become weaponised.

Whilst our students and alum will endeavour on a wide variety of career pathways and open a great many door with their work and research, UMSU must take a stand against militarism and the situation at hand. Make no mistake, the STELaRLab (Science, Technology, Engineering Leadership & Research Laboratory) will be employed with the necessary research and development for a new wave of weapons technologies on behalf of Lockheed Martin and the United States Military. In line with the current trajectory of the American military organisations like Lockheed Martin are directly engaged with what has been characterised with developing technologies to satisfy a Third Offset Strategy.

In late 2014 the U.S. Department of Defense launched the Defense Innovation Initiative with a broader interest in robotics, artificial intelligence, automated defense systems, miniaturisation, surveillance, computing, reconnaissance and weapons flight. All these areas speak to the growing technological and military competitiveness between the U.S., Russia, and China. Developed as a direct response to the closing of the defense gap between Russia, China and the U.S., the DII is both a covert arms race and a goldmine for private defense organisations. With the explicit tactic of including privately owned corporations in the long term research and development and thus the flow of funding, it becomes clear that this is boon for both the militaries of the world but also for the weaponsmiths that rely on their business. Described by Wing Commander Phil Arms of the Australian Defense Forces as an ‘opportunity for the ADF’ and that ‘Given the DoD’s commitment to its Asian rebalance, Australia is well placed to benefit...’ this is seemingly less about defense and more about business.

Understanding the STELaRLab’s place in the broader military industrial complex is important, as a community our apathy and ignorance makes us complicit in violent consequences in the years to come. History does not stay the judgement of bystanders and a failure to at least speak out and be heard is a condemnation on our organisation and our community.

Our creations, our works are powerful. They are of the highest quality and shape our respective global fields. It was by no mere coincidence or mistake that the University of Melbourne was targeted by Lockheed Martin. We are recognised as one of the global leaders for research and the city of Melbourne is a city that nurtures such excellence. With such remarkable power comes an even greater responsibility to ourselves, to the stakeholders in our work and in the global community. As a community we have the opportunity to be humbled in recognition but stalwart in rejection. In the business of war, we will not take part. I sincerely hope that our community does not regret our choices, especially those choices we cannot take back.

At UMSU we implore students and members of our community to seriously consider the ethical realities of their chosen field and profession and encourage students that feel strongly to make their voices heard.

As Tyson Holloway-Clarke (author of the motion) was not present, Dominic Cernaz and Anneke D’emanuele took up moving and seconding rights.

Both spoke to the motion

Motion 4:

1. Students Council reiterates its commitment to opposing violence through militarism and denounces the collaboration between the University of Melbourne and Lockheed Martin in respect to the establishment of the STELaRLab and in defense research.
2. Students Council declares that research conducted at the University of Melbourne should be considered against the highest ethical standards and that until demonstrated otherwise that military research conducted in partnership with defense companies like Lockheed Martin are not ethically sound.
3. Furthermore Students Council declares that research conducted at the University of Melbourne should be conducted in the interest of a better and more peaceful society. Students Council emphasises in the strongest terms that the power of science and education should be harnessed for the betterment of all people and not in the interest of militaristic outcomes, especially not those of a foreign military force or national interest.
4. To call on Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) James McCluskey to clarify the ongoing relationship Lockheed Martin and the University of Melbourne share and the exact nature of their collaborations. Additionally to demonstrate that research and development stemming from this collaboration will not be responsible for ending the lives of any persons or facilitating an ongoing military technology race.
5. To call on the Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis to speak to the University of Melbourne’s position in respect to the development of weapons technologies and involvement in the weapons industry. Additionally, to show cause for the engagement the University has with the ongoing U.S. Department of Defense’s Defense Innovation Initiative by proxy of an ongoing relationship with Lockheed Martin. Finally to consider and speak to the risk that the University of Melbourne takes in further developing automated weapons systems that will not be accountable to us but we will be accountable to.
6. To call on the Honourable Premier for Victoria Daniel Andrews to clarify how research and investment in military research and development in Victoria is ethically sound and in the best interests of both the Victorian and University of Melbourne community. Additionally how supporting the Defense Innovation Initiative by proxy of endorsing the University of Melbourne and Lockheed Martin collaboration came to be decided and the reasoning behind such a move.
7. To call on the Honourable Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Greg Hunt to explain and provide insight into the strategic necessity for Australia to opt into working with the U.S. D.o.D on the DII. Additionally to provide clarity as to how such an apparent necessity is balanced against the ethics of weapons manufacturing and the research and development of these technologies. Finally to answer to what extent will the University of Melbourne be complicit in the development of technologies that Australia will not control and that will be used to inflict death and destruction.

Mover: Dominic Cernaz

Seconded: Anneke D’emanuele

CARRIED

Xavier Boffa abstained

3.2 Carlton Breweries Picket

This meeting of the UMSU Student’s Council notes:

- (i) that 55 maintenance workers at Carlton and United Breweries (CUB) in Abbotsford were sacked in late June 2016 sacked and offered to be re-hired as contractors with a 65% pay cut,
- (ii) that the workers and supporting unions including the ETU, AMWU, CFMEU and NUW have maintained a picket at the brewery since, entering their 11th week,
- (iii) that the workers intend to maintain their picket until such time as CUB offers them their jobs back on the original terms,
- (iv) that unions have called for a boycott of CUB products, and a growing number of pubs and bars nationwide are following suit,
- (v) that CUB’s owners, SABMiller, are a multi-billion dollar international beer conglomerate and known tax evaders,
- (vi) that the UMSU Education Public Officers and other UMSU representatives have previously visited the picket line to express UMSU’s solidarity.

Notes:

- A full list of CUB products may be found on the company website at <http://cub.com.au>
- The Electrical Trades Union (ETU) have produced material on their Facebook page which may be useful for display

Discussion about UMSU’s provision of alcohol, and constraints by 130 Degrees (who UMSU buys their alcohol through due to licensing). Itsi Weinstock asked if point iii could be amended to add “and 130 Degrees”. This was amenable to the mover,

Motion 5:

UMSU condemns this vicious attack on workers and their unions, and demands that CUB immediately reinstate the 55 on their original pay and conditions. UMSU supports the picket and is heartened by the support it has received from fellow workers and the community.

Acting in solidarity, Students’ Council resolves to:

- (i) ban the sale of CUB products (including but not limited to Victoria Bitter, Carlton Draught and Crown Lager) at outlets under its jurisdiction, such as the Stop 2 Pub Nights, until the dispute is resolved;
- (ii) where such a ban is in place, prominently display information about the CUB picket to explain the ban, as well as a donation box for the picketing workers;
- (iii) contact 130 Degrees and other pubs and bars on campus to do the same;
- (iv) recommend that clubs do not purchase CUB products for functions until such time as the dispute is resolved;
- (v) publicise the picket on social media, email and on campus, to encourage students to visit and show solidarity, and to organise a second visit with a sizeable student contingent.

Moved: Jason Wong

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

Xavier Boffa abstained

3.3 Let SCA stay

This meeting of the UMSU Student’s Council opposes the plans for Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) in the “Draft Change Proposal” (DCA) by University of Sydney administrators, which propose that:

- jewellery, ceramics and glassmaking will be outright scrapped
- 60% of SCA academic and technical staff are to be cut
- there will be no Bachelor of Visual Arts enrolments for 2017
- ongoing SCA students will be crammed into the Camperdown campus in 2017

In addition, this meeting notes that:

- (i) SCA students are leading a sustained campaign against this attack, including a legal challenge against USyd, a one-day strike of students and staff on Aug 17, over 5000 petition signatures and an ultimatum delivered last week promising to escalate if USyd did not withdraw the cuts,
- (ii) SCA students have since begun a peaceful indefinite occupation of the SCA Admin building,
- (iii) this attack is the latest in a long line of cuts and restructures brought about by USyd’s University Economic Model, similar to UniMelb’s Flexible Academic Program,
- (iv) despite claiming to still be in a process of consultation, that USyd administrators are already pressuring some staff to be made redundant,
- (v) the recent strike and occupation are historically unprecedented actions at SCA, following in the footsteps of the student strikes that resulted in the creation of the USyd Political Economy Department in the 1970s.

Discussion about the campaign run by SCA students. Akira spoke of her admiration of the campaign and the creative actions that the student have organised. James Bashford confirmed that the expenditure would come out of the campaigns budget line.

Jade Eckhaus warned the council against siding with the University in future campaigns

Motion 6:

UMSU expresses its solidarity with the students at SCA and roundly condemns Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and USyd administrators for pressing this neoliberal attack. It is evident that no lessons have been learned after VC Spence and his ilk were made to back down on fee deregulation after massive student opposition.

The Council resolves to:

- (i) support the LET SCA STAY campaign and its demands, and stands in solidarity with the occupiers and their supporters;
- (ii) communicate this support publicly on social media, including Facebook and the weekly UMSU email digest;
- (iii) donate a proposed \$200 to the occupation fund;
- (iv) call upon the National Union of Students to affirm the LET SCA STAY demands and provide financial support;
- (v) remain vigilant against similar tactics employed by UniMelb administrators in the Business Improvement Program, the Flexible Academic Program, and the impending demolition of Union House under the Student Precinct development project.

Moved: Akira Boardman

Seconded: Anneke D’emanuele

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION: To discuss item 6, and then the VCESS motion

Mover: James Bashford

CARRIED

6. General Managers Report

PROCEDURAL MOTION: That Students' Council move in camera with the exception of Justin Baré, Goldie Pergl and proxy holders

Mover: James Bashford

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 11:52am

During this time, Council discussed Corporate Service Provision to UMSU and accepted the General Managers' Report.

Council moved to include strangers at 11:57am

9.1 VCE Summer School

Preamble: The VCE Summer School is a UMSU volunteering program that aims at reducing educational inequality in Victoria.

The program provides university students with an opportunity to gain practical teaching experience in a nurturing environment as well as a platform from which to build confidence and social networks. For many years now the VCE Summer School has had ongoing support from Students' Council, which it has used to enrich the experience for our volunteer university students by supporting a training camp for the development and benefit of tutors.

This year we found that there is a lot of enthusiasm for this program within the student body with 390 volunteers wanting to participate, which was intensified by the bonding they were able to do on our much-expanded tutor camp.

The support we have received from Students' Council previously has meant that the cost placed on students attending this immensely beneficial training camp has been achievable irrespective of their economic status. With this in mind the VCE Summer School is again asking for funding to ensure quality and accessibility for all university students involved in the program, that also reflects an increasing demand. We're requesting financial support for our Tutor camp, which ensures our tutors are adequately trained for their position in the program, as well as providing them with useful teaching skills they'll be able to take with them and apply to other parts of their lives. We're also asking for money to train our leaders in Youth Mental Health First Aid and First Aid because the program requires a large number of volunteers with these skills, given we have approximately 500 VCE students in attendance. Last year we asked for and received \$5500 from council for tutor training camp and \$4000 for First Aid Training and Youth Mental Health First Aid training.

Discussion by Councillors about what budget lines this expenditure could come from as Whole of Union has been used up.

Councillors enquired about other funding available for this program, including from the University. VCESS has sought and continues to seek funding from the Uni for some of the activities it runs but the tutor camp has never been funded by the Uni as it's an UMSU Volunteering Programme.

Justin Baré indicated that there may be SSAF grants available at the end of the year which would suit this type of activity well.

An amendment is requested to the motion by James Bashford – “To direct the VCESS directors to seek funding from SSAF sources prior to the VCESS camp, and failing that, ...”

This is amenable to the movers.

Further discussion about uni students' deaths during last years' festival season – these kits may have helped prevent some of these deaths.

Gulsara asked that an additional sentence be added to the motion regarding the required verbal discussion to get these kits.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: That the motion be put to a vote.

Mover: Gulsara Kaplun

CARRIED

Motion 7: The students' council resolves to implement this drug harm reduction program in the lead-up to the summer festival season, and endorses the distribution of packs of relevant information and reagent test kits at the Union House information desk. Students Council understands the limitations surrounding this testing, and affirms that all distribution will be accompanied by a verbal discussion.

The students' council acknowledges the limitations of reagent kits as a test method for drug purity and adulteration, and will therefore work toward making more accurate and effective tests available.

The students' council therefore calls upon the University of Melbourne to explore providing access to gas chromatography facilities for this purpose.

Moved: Gulsara Kaplun

Seconded: Yasmine Luu

CARRIED

3. Correspondence

4.1 Australian Sustainable Development Goals Summit

Dear James,

I hope you find this email well.

My name is Sam Loni and today I am contacting you on behalf of the the Steering Committee that is organising the **Australian Sustainable Development Goals Summit**, scheduled to be held in Sydney on **7 September 2016**.

The Summit is an exciting joint initiative by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) - Australia/Pacific, the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), and the UN Global Compact Network Australia. It will bring together leaders and senior decision-makers from government, business, civil society and academia to identify how Australia can move forward with the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As part of lead up to the Summit, we are asking Student Associations and Youth Organisations from around Australia to sign a pledge outlining a commitment to the SDGs, which will be publicly presented at the Australian SDGs Summit on the 7th of September. The main purpose of the pledge is for these organisations to:

- Commit support for the national implementation of the SDGs
- Align their activities with the SDGs
- Demonstrate to leaders from business, academia, civil society and government the dedication of young people to the SDGs

Organisations and associations that sign the pledge will be invited to the **National Youth Summit on the SDGs** to be held in Melbourne on **17 October 2016**. This summit hopes to specifically address the concerns of youth relating to the SDGs and build a coalition of prominent youth leaders and organisations in support of progress towards the SDGs in Australia.

Preliminary consultation on the wording of the pledge has already taken place.

Signatories include:

- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth Initiative (SDSN Youth)
- Global Ideas
- Oaktree Foundation
- AIESEC Australia

We are contacting you to ask if **University of Melbourne Student Union** is able to confirm support for the pledge (attached) by **Saturday, 3 September 2016**
Siamak Sam Loni

Global Coordinator

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Youth Initiative

Executive Committee

Sustainable Development Solutions Network Australia/Pacific Regional Centre

NB: group has indicated they would still like support, even after this deadline. Pledge is here:
<https://podio.com/webforms/16515551/1109835>

Motion 8: To sign the pledge for the Australian Sustainable Development Goals Summit
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Mover: James Bashford

Seconder: Tom Crowley

CARRIED

Anneke D’emanuele left at 12:35pm

4.2 MUDS funding request

Council discussed the funding issues MUDS is having regarding their ongoing funding and competition costs. MUDS has previously had extra funding from the University, but this is now stopping, and MUDS is requesting more funding from UMSU, or potentially a way of underwriting some of the costs that MUDS pay upfront.

Councillors raised that at many campuses, Debating is counted as a sport and therefore gets more funding. It was raised that UMSU could advocate that Debating could be registered as a sport

Tyson Holloway Clarke suggested the UMSU have an underwriting scheme for clubs that have large payments to make. Councillors agreed that this was a good idea that should be open to other clubs.

Sarah Xia raised that MUDS wasn’t different to any other club and therefore should not get any preferential treatment, and there were issues with UMSU advocating for a club to be a sport.

Tyson Holloway Clark suggested that UMSU and MUDS should work together on an underwriting scheme and looking for more funding for clubs that need it.

Meeting closed at 12:43pm