

## SC 9(16) Agenda item 4.1

### Nomination of Tyson Holloway-Clarke for UMSU President

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my nomination for the role of President of the University of Melbourne Student Union. Over the last month I have been humbled by the support shown by my colleagues in their encouraging my nomination and it is with a careful consideration that I would willingly resign from my current role as Indigenous Officer should my nomination be successful. This is a decision that has been supported and championed by the Indigenous collective- they are as excited by the prospect of an Indigenous President as I am.

As the Indigenous Officer I have thoroughly enjoyed serving my department and collective. In previous years the department has suffered from poor working relationships, limited engagement and chronic underachievement. Thanks to a series of new, enthusiastic representatives we have turned the department around. Whether it is the small things in submitting the archives for the first time or raising close to a hundred thousand dollars, our series of programs from the last two years has helped forge a renewed and strengthened Indigenous community that has proven resilient and capable of achieving excellence. While I am leaving the department earlier than anticipated, I trust my colleagues in the department deeply and am glad they are prepared to take on the challenge.

There is a great deal of work before us and I commend our Secretary on their work as serving president. Doing one job to the best of your ability is a great challenge, but to do two is an unbelievable effort.

With a long list of important, union defining events in the immediate future, the job of the President has seldom been more important. With a hostile federal government and impending election, the renegotiation of the Student Services Amenities Fee allocation, the uncertainty of the future of Union House, and the reshaping of academic programming to name a few, it is my firm belief that no one person is able to champion these causes alone. No matter who is the successful nominee is, it is vital that the entire representative body is empowered to deliver the best possible outcomes for students. That will mean negotiations and campaigns. It will mean tactical compromise and at times intransigence. We will need to trust our preparations and be prepared to trust in our instincts.

Should I be successful in my nomination I feel our Union will be stronger. Our trust in each other will no longer be a happy coincidence, it will be the foundation from which we build our successes. Our potential to serve the students of this University has been stymied but it is my firm belief that we can work together to reignite our drive and lead students at Melbourne and across the nation into 2017 and beyond.