

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Minutes of the Wom\*n's Committee**

**Meeting 1/12  
CONFIRMED**

**12:00 PM Wednesday January 25th, 2012**

**Location: OB Space, Union House**



**Agenda**

**1. Procedural Matters**

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**4. Correspondence**

**5. Office Bearers' Reports**

- 5.1 Wom\*n's Room refurbishment
- 5.2 Plans for O-Week 2012
- 5.3 Events for 2012
- 5.4 Website
- 5.5 General

**6. Proposed 2012 Budget**

**7. Other Reports**

**8. Motions on Notice**

**9. Other Business**

**10. Next Meeting**

**11. Close**

**Meeting opened at: 12.15pm, by Amy Jenkins**

**Agenda Item 1; Procedural Matters**

**1.1 Election of Chair**

<p><b>Motion 1:</b> That Amy Jenkins is elected Chair. Moved: Amy Jenkins                      Seconded: Mercedes <b>CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT</b></p>
--

**1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners**

**1.3 Attendance**

2012 Wom\*n's Office Bearers:

Amy	Jenkins
Belinda	O'Connor

2012 Wom\*n's Committee Members:

Catherine	Lucas
Elise	Brookes
Grace	Mugford
Mercedes	Marsh

**Absent**

Esther	Bohmer
--------	--------

**1.4 Apologies**

Anqi	Yu
Lin	Gu

**1.5 Proxies**

No proxies in attendance.

**1.6 Membership**

No change to membership.

**1.7 Adoption of Agenda**

<p><b>Motion 2:</b> That the agenda be adopted. Moved: Belinda O'Connor                      Seconded: Grace Mugford <b>CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT</b></p>
---

**Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Not applicable.

**Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Not applicable.

**Agenda Item 4: Correspondence**

Not applicable.

**Agenda Item 5: Office Bearers' Reports**

**Wom\*n's Room refurbishment** – Due to Amy's efforts, the room has already been repainted and steam cleaned, as well as new couches purchased, using resources available to us but without using our own budget. The book library has been

recategorised chronologically, and we are halfway through creating a digital list of the titles in the collection to enable us to publish a database of our books online. We are also looking into commissioning a local female artist to paint a mural in the room.

**Plans for O-Week 2012** – We are in the process of contacting relevant organisations to obtain information and goodies to create packs (in printed tote bags) to give to new students at O-Week. Due to the sometimes overwhelming amount of information supplied at O-Week, we plan to condense this all down to a useful handbook for first years, in the vein of “What I Wish I’d Known When I Started At Melbourne University”.

Discussion ensues regarding contents of bags, initiated by Elise. Contents planned: tampons, safe sex paraphernalia, magazines, lollies, etc – the OBs aim for a mix of fun and serious with the contents. The bag itself will be an environmentally friendly bamboo-based material.

**Events for 2012** – Our planned events for 2012 are as follows:

- **White Ribbon Day**, in conjunction with Education and possibly Welfare. (There is general discussion here amongst the committee regarding the purposes and effects of White Ribbon Day, as well as about sexual assault etc on campus.) There is tentatively some footballers scheduled to speak at this event on campus.
- **Fortnightly Films**: discussion ensues regarding types of films shown – films will be shown that pass the “Bechdel Test” (ie more than 2 female characters, that have dialogue with each other, that is about something other than the male characters). Films aim to be fun while highlighting the lack of representation of women in film.
- **Girlzone**, in conjunction with the Queer Department: A recurring hourly event in the Wom\*n's room that creates a safe space for women to question or discuss their sexuality. Girlzone will run fortnightly as weekly sessions last year led to lack of attendance.
- **International Women's Day**, March 08: plans to be confirmed for this day but we have scheduled it in. There will be at least some conjunction with the Queer Department.
- **Self-defence Classes**: Due to overwhelming interest in the classes that were run last year, we will again hold self-defence classes. The Committee here discusses how the classes went last year, as well as more generally about the Women's Action Collective and how things are decided in the Women's Department outside of the committee, and that the WAC will again run this year:
- **Women's Action Collective** – where suggestions and criticisms regarding the running of the department take place, points of contention are discussed, and actions delegated.
- **Sex & Consent Week** - In conjunction with the Queer Department. This week long event ran last year and was very successful. It aims to involve and educate students about sex and consent, based on the premise that many students receive differing sex education, and that many problematic sexual encounters that take place amongst (particularly younger) students are based on lack of awareness of issues of consent, and are avoidable. This event will have external speakers/performers, and again aims for a mix of fun and serious.

**Website** – We plan to continue and refine the website that Belinda started at the end of 2011. The aim of the site is to provide an online space that we control that acts as an interface to the Wom\*n's Department – with information, resources, events, photos, etc. It will further our aim of reaching more students, as it overcomes issues surrounding mobility, disability, and social inhibitions.

**General** – We aim to create a consistent visual identity for the department so we are recognisable across campus. Discussion initiated by Catherine about the identity – it will be unobtrusive and each event poster/department material will have it's own look but perhaps a clear logo or section will remain consistent across all material. Like branding. The look is yet to be finalised.



**Signed:**

**Dated: 25-01-2012**