

Unconfirmed minutes of the Education Committee

Wednesday August 17 2016

Meeting opened: 2:07 PM

Location: Office Bearers Space, Level One, Union House

**1. Procedural Matters**

**1.1** Election of Chair

**Motion 1:** That Akira Boardmankal be elected Chair.

**Mover:** Akira Boardman      **Seconder:** Timothy Dunn

Carried without dissent.

**1.2** Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

**1.3** Attendance

Committee members: Amelia Saward, Nazanin Moghaddam, Timothy Dunn, Stylianos Nikias

Office Bearers: Dominic Cernaz (Education Public), Akira Boardman (Education Public)

**1.4** Apologies

Tom Crowley, Roger Samuel

**1.5** Proxies

Nil.

**1.6** Adoption of Agenda

**Motion 2:** That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**Mover:** Akira Boardman      **Seconder:** Stylianos Nikias

Carried without dissent.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**Motion 3:** That the previous minutes are adopted.

**Mover:** Akira Boardman      **Seconder:** Amelia Saward

Carried without dissent.

### 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

### 4. Office Bearers' Reports



**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Report of  
Akira Boardman and Dominic Cernaz  
Education (Public Affairs) Officer**

**To Education Committee  
15/03/2016**

#### 4.1 Education (Public Affairs) OB Report

##### **Key activities**

###### Keep the Quality

Once again the main aspect of our work that has taken up a majority of our time is the Keep the Quality campaign. The Facebook page is up and running and we've been running numerous stalls every week. Along with the communications department we have produced plenty of flyers and posters which we are using. It's been really time consuming getting the campaign off the ground but we are really happy with how it's going.

We're also excited to implement new and creative ideas to spread the word as much as possible.

We also extensively updated the website which now has heaps of information about what the university is planning and has previously implemented. Raising awareness for students as to what is going on.

###### NDA

With the NDA now a week away we continue to plan for and promote the event.

We are flyering, talking to students and poster, once again time consuming stuff

On the day we plan to hold an event beforehand entitled 'Picnic, Pizza & Protest'.

###### Workers' Rights on Campus

We are in the process of getting the Your Rights at Work booklet published. Additionally, we have been helping out the Young Workers Centre with their survey.

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Report of  
Tom Crowley and Paul Sakkal  
Education (Academic Affairs) Officers**

**To Education Committee  
20/01/2016**

**Education (Academic) Report**

Our work on the FlexAP has been progressing well. The student survey we wrote has been published under a joint UMSU-Chancellery by-line and is currently taking submissions. Please fill it out if you've yet to do so!

We've also made good progress on ensuring that any change to student timetabling is fair for students. We arranged a meeting with the head of the FlexAP Timetabling workstream to have the proposal explained to us. The university is now undertaking a feasibility study which will consider several questions we insisted they consider, and the answers of that study will be presented to us before any decision is even discussed. This gives us a strong opportunity to be meaningfully involved in the process.

We have also pleasingly reached the point in our relationship with the university where we are contacted by the university's senior leadership to provide student representation on any working group the university forms, no matter how small. The significance of this cannot be overstated. This level of communication ahead of time with the university is something student representatives have historically struggled to achieve. Getting an automatic seat at the table is crucial to make sure the outcomes of these sorts of deliberations aren't ones we don't like.

Several working groups have recently been formed that will have student representation. Each of them has high stakes. They include:

- An Assessment working group, which will evaluate the structure of assessments, the prevalence of group assessments, how much weighting it is fair to give to exams and other assessments, how much it is fair to devote to tutorial participation or attendance requirements etc. The results of this working group will be directly adopted into a new policy to govern university assessments.
- A Breadth working group, which will evaluate the role and continued existence of breadth. This has its origins in a discussion between academics and the Chancellery about the role of breadth, with academics inclined to defend it fervently. Once again, the results of this working group will feed directly into policy. The reception to student representation has been very positive, and several student focus group have been organised for the coming weeks.
- A Special Consideration working group, which is a direct response to the failures of reform to Special Consideration practices this semester. The university recognises the disastrous results of this semester's procedures and is urgently seeking to change it. This working group is also expected to have a member of UMSU Advocacy. Once again, its recommendations are expected to be adopted directly.
- An ATAR working group, which is looking into the way ATAR is used at the university and its effectiveness as a measure. This discussion will feed into a broader conversation about the diversity of recruitment and selection practices at the university, and is an important part of framing the university's 'view' on the role of ATAR at a time when it is a publicly popular subject.

- A Feedback working group, which was instigated at the request of the student union and has a student chair (Tom). The working group will look in a particular way at how to bridge the feedback gap between subjects, and is working closely with the LMS team to educate subject coordinators about easy ways to provide more comprehensive feedback to all students in all subjects than is currently received.
- A Grade Distribution working group, looking at the extent to which bell curving student results or standardising them by any other means is fair or unfair, and what alternatives exist. A particular consideration of the working group is whether students should be told their percentile rank for a given subject in addition to their numerical mark.
- An Academic & Research Honesty working group, looking at the capacity for a genuine educational response to plagiarism. It is expected that this will take the form of some sort of compulsory plagiarism modules at the beginning of courses, although there is general awareness amongst the group that modules will not work if they are not well constructed. It is hoped that this will provide a ‘carrot’ approach as an alternative to the pre-emptive ‘stick’ promised by punitive solutions such as Cadmus.

We are also conducting research into the fees levied on students, and whether they’re fair. We intend to bring a research-backed proposal about guidelines for fees on students to the next meeting of Academic Board.

Finally, by the time committee meets tomorrow, we will have met with Richard James and Gregor Kennedy to seek clarification on the media story about the university’s tracking of students on UniWireless. A verbal update on the results of this meeting can doubtless be provided.

**Motion 4:** That the Office Bearer reports are accepted *en bloc*.  
**Mover:** Akira Boardman                      **Seconder:** Stylianos Nikias

Carried without dissent.

## 5. Motions on Notice

### 5.1 Education Conference Reports

**Preamble:** As passed in committee on May 24, part of receiving an Education Conference grant was conditional on submitting a report. All reports have been distributed to the committee for review.

**Motion 5:** To pass all reports *on bloc*

**Mover:** Timothy Dunn    **Seconder:** Stylianos Nikias

Carried  
 Abstentions: Amelia Saward

### 5.2 Alteration to budget line

**Preamble:** There’s too much money for the telephone.

**Motion 6:** To move \$200 from the Telephone budget lone to the Special Campaigns Projects and Events line.

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz    **Seconder:** Nazanin Moghaddam  
 Carried without decent

**5.3 NDA Picnic**

**Motion 7:** To move \$300 from the Special Campaigns Projects and Events line for an NDA picnic, including pizza and drinks

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz                      **Second:** Amelia Seaward  
Carried without dissent

**5.4 Calico**

**Motion 8:** To move \$30 from the Special Campaigns Projects and Events to reimburse Dominic Cernaz for calico for banner making

**Mover:** Akira Boardman                      **Second:** Timothy Dunn  
Carried without dissent

**5.5 Tape**

**Motion 9:** To move \$6 from the Stationary budget to reimburse Dominic Cernaz for tape purchased for postering

**Mover:** Akira Boardman                      **Second:** Timothy Dunn  
Carried without dissent

**5.6 Keep the Quality!**

Dominic Cernaz: Noted quote received was substantially more than \$300 the original amount proposed. Amended amount to \$800

Nazanin Moghaddam: Noted the need to make sure there was money for SWOTVAC support

**Motion 10:** To move \$800 from the Special Campaigns Projects and Events line for t-Shirts for the Keep the Quality Campaign.

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz                      **Second:** Timothy Dunn  
Carried without Dissent

**6. Motions not on Notice**

**6.1 Action in response to non-submittal of Education Conference report to committee**

Akira Boardman: Explained that two students had failed to submit their Education Conference report and that in failing to do so they had breached the terms in accepting their grant which had been passed in committee. The motion stated:

if successful, agree to provide a written report to the Education Committee upon return from the Conference, including: details of the skills and experiences gained from the conference, as well as how they intend to apply those skills to improve students' experiences at The University of Melbourne. This report must be submitted within four weeks of the closing date of the Education Conference. Failure to submit this report will result in the individual(s) being excluded from consideration for further subsidies, and potentially facing further repercussions such as UMSU seeking to recover the subsidy funds given to them. These requirements will be communicated to applicants at the time of application.

Dominic Cernaz: Explained that it was important for UMSU that these conditions had been stated on numerous occasions and that reminder emails had been sent. Although some reports were slightly late, the two not submitted were now significantly late.

Akira Boardman: noted that the Education Officers weren't sure how to proceed with the next step, but explaining how it was likely they will have to pay back their grants given the previous motion passed by committee. If this is suggested by Goldie and or Justin, this will be followed up.

**Motion 11:** To consider deferring a ruling on ramifications for those who have failed to submit their Education Conference reports to next committee (Thursday September 1) following consultation with Goldie, Tyson and Justin. With the potential to refer the ruling to next Students Council meeting if it is presented as an option. Or with the potential for the Education Public officers to follow the instructions of the motion if that is expressed by those consulted.

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz

**Seconder:** Timothy Dunn

**7. Other business**

Nil.

**8. Next Meeting**

Thursday 1 September	12:00 PM
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**9. Close**

Meeting closed at 2:29