

University of Melbourne Student Union

CONFIRMED Minutes of the Education Committee

Tuesday 28 July, 2015

Meeting opened: 12:05 PM

Location: Training Room One, Level Three, Union House

Agenda

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Nellie Montague be elected Chair.
Mover: Conor Serong **Seconder:** Simon Frankland

Carried without dissent

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance

Committee members: Dominic Cernaz, Simon Frankland, Lydia Wang,
Tess Grimmond

Office Bearers: Conor Serong (Education Public), Nellie Montague
(Education Academic), Shanley Price (Education Academic).

1.4 Apologies

Anneke

1.5 Proxies

Nil

1.6 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented.
Mover: Nellie Montague (Chair)

Carried without dissent

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

Note: In addition to the most recent meeting's minutes, several other sets of minutes were confirmed.

Motion 3: To confirm the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 31 March 2015.
Mover: Nellie Montague (Chair)

Carried without dissent



University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

**Conor Serong
Education (Public Affairs) Officer**

**To Education Committee
28/07/2015**

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Office Bearers' Reports

4.1 Education (Public Affairs) Report

Key activities:

Conferences policy

I have been working on a policy to be put to Students' Council governing the processes by which subsidies are awarded to students for attendance at conferences or similar events requiring travel. It also governs reporting requirements around similar events. The motivation behind this policy is that, as many hours were spent on these processes in regards to Education Conference, the current lack of policy (the Financial Regulations' *Grants* section does not cover expenditure of this nature) should be rectified. Once this policy has been finalised it will be put to Council for a vote.

NUS Education Conference

The National Union of Students' Education Conference was held not long ago, from 6-10 July at the University of New South Wales. A full report will be submitted to the Education Committee in coming weeks, detailing activities undertaken, skills learnt and how these can be applied to improving the student experience at the University of Melbourne. I am happy to provide this report to Council upon completion. I have also been working on processing payments and relevant paperwork for students who were successful in applying for a subsidy.

NUS Quality Survey

The National Union of Students' Quality Survey closed on 15 June. While we have not received word on how many submissions were received from the University of Melbourne and UMSU, the time spent on data entry of completed hardcopy surveys

suggest we had a considerable number of submissions. Once the NUS make public the survey's results, they will be reported on here.

National Day of Action

The National Union of Students has called the next National Day of Action for Wednesday 19 August. Many strategies and plans were discussed at Education Conference, and in coming weeks the Education Department will be working alongside other departments to ensure that as many students as possible are aware of this NDA, and that this awareness translates to attendance. I convened a meeting of the Education Collective, where considerable planning and delegation of tasks in order to prepare for the NDA was undertaken.

Education Collective

The Education Collective met on 16 July. I gave attendees a rundown of some of the activities of the Education Department, and we planned for the 19 August National Day of Action.

Victorian Education Action Network

The VEAN met on 22 July, where Education Officers and activists from a range of campuses shared ideas and reported back on plans for the Semester, including work on the National Day of Action, Women in Higher Education Week (known by other organisations as Blue Stockings Week), and other events.

National Union of Students liaising

I met with Rose and Hannah, the National President and National Education Officer, respectively, of the National Union of Students, to discuss UMSU's plans for the Semester, including raising the profile and positive messaging around the Student Services and Amenities Fee. We will continue to work closely for the remainder of the year.

24 hour study space

As previously reported, I have begun consultations around opening parts of Union House for 24-hr access during SWOTVAC and exam periods. There is nothing further to report yet, but these discussions are ongoing and I will report any progress to Committee and Council.

Academic Misconduct Hearings

I have been sitting on a number of misconduct hearings following the exam period. Working closely with my fellow Education Officers, UMSU Advocacy and Legal, and the GSA, I hope to rectify several issues that exist with this process – including how

faculties contact us to organise a student member of the discipline committee, and various procedural concerns that we have noticed.

Mid-Year Orientation

Mid-Year Orientation was a success, with the Education Department exhausting our supply of stress balls and almost exhausting our supply of pens. We spoke to many students about the activities of the Department, including engaging them in the campaign against fee deregulation. Particularly pleasing was the success with which we engaged international students, who in the past have been more difficult to engage on these issues.

Ivory Tower screening

I have been in regular contact with the National Tertiary Education Union, who wish to work closely with UMSU for the remainder of the year (and into the future). As part of this, we will be co-hosting a screening of *Ivory Tower*, the documentary that was screened at the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival earlier in the year, where I spoke on a discussion panel. This screening will take place on Tuesday 11 August at 5pm in the Union Theatre, and will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. I will be using this event as a means of promoting the National Day of Action (and fostering support for this from the NTEU, who have been strong supporters of student unions on the issue of fee deregulation).

Expanding and improving student advising

Following on from the NACADA conference on student advising that the University recently hosted, I wish to explore ways in which UMSU can play a greater role in the student advising process. To this effect, I met with Catherine Mann, the Manager of Student Advising at the University, alongside our three UMSU Mentoring Directors, Michael, Vicky and Calvin; President Rachel Withers; Media Officer Martin Ditmann; and General Manager Justin Baré. While no concrete plans are on the table yet, we discussed a mutual desire to expand and integrate existing programs from both UMSU and the University which fall under the broad “advising” category – including but not limited to VCE Summer School, Destination Melbourne, O-Week Host Program, Mentoring Network, Student Connect, 13MELB and many others. I will continue to report on any progress made in this area.

Women in Higher Education Week

I have been working closely with my fellow Education Officers and the Women’s Officers in planning Women in Higher Education Week. This is occurring in Week Three, and will feature a discussion panel, and a trivia night – both themed around

celebrating women's achievements and exploring how much more work is required to achieve gender equality in higher education and beyond.

Assessment Survey

UMSU put out an assessment survey, open to all students of the University, to gauge opinions and experiences on a number of issues, particularly surrounding the most recent exam period. Although the survey is still open, I will be preparing a preliminary report in coming days to submit to the Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee. Once the survey is closed, a full report will be prepared and submitted to the Students' Council.

Wayfinding Strategy Student Working Group

As reported earlier in the year, I am sitting on the University's Wayfinding Strategy Steering Committee, tasked with guiding the overhaul of the University's signage and other wayfinding. While very little progress has been made in these meetings, I am convening a Student Working Group to report back to this Committee. All students of the University are welcome and encouraged to contact me for further information about attending.

Expenditure since last report:

Meeting No.	Date	Description	Amount (ex. GST)	Line	Comments
Approved by the Operations Sub-Committee.	15 June, 2015	Snacks for Collective and Committee	\$89.24	Campaigns, Special Projects + Events	Chocolates, chips, liquorice etc.

Please note that there has also been expenditure in the form of subsidies for Education Conference. Once this process has been completed, a full report of relevant expenditure will be provided for enhanced clarity.

4.2 Education (Academic Affairs) Report

University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

**Nellie Montague and Shanley Price
Education (Academic Affairs) Officers**

**To Education Committee
28/07/2015**

Key activities:**Big Bazaar**

We are working alongside UMSU International to run a Big Bazaar in North Court on the 5th and 6th of August, Wednesday and Thursday of week 2. Student can drop off items including textbooks, clothes and other items from Tuesday 28th-Tuesday 4th in Mary Cooke A, UMSU will then sell the items for students at the Big Bazaar and then all of the money will be returned to students via EFT.

Burnley

We are continuing to try to engage with Burnley students and are heading down there for some meetings in Week 2 and hoping to run some bigger events in Week 3. We always want to hear from Burnley students about issues or ideas for events or campaigns.

GSA Meeting

We caught up with the GSA policy coordinators and had some very productive chats about what GSA and UMSU can work together on such as Academic Misconduct Processes, as well as campaigns and expanding and solidifying the Student Representative Network.

University Secretary Meeting

Rachel Withers, Hana Dalton and Nellie Montague met up with Gioconda di Lorenzo the University Secretary and Peter Andrews who works in policy and projects in Academic Services and Registrar to discuss the changes that are in the process of being made to the Statutes - which the state government education Minister has to review every time changes are proposed to and Regulations - which Uni Council can change. It was a worthwhile chat during which we raised issues around where student organisations should sit and how student representation should be framed.

Education Officers Catch Up

The first ever meeting of faculty and subject related Club Education Officers will be held in Week 1. This will be a chance for the Education Department to hear what Clubs are working on in the academic sphere and to work out how we can best support clubs to run campaigns and work with their faculties; such as having student reps on Faculty governing bodies. Clubs provide valuable links with the student body and are often better placed to hear from students if there are issues affecting their studies.

Countercourse

Bookmarks advertising submissions are being promoted all over campus. There is a \$30 Standing Room voucher up for grabs, so get submitting!

Women in Higher Education Week

In collaboration with the Wom*n's Department and the NTEU we will be helping run a panel and a trivia night during Women in Higher Education Week (also known as Bluestocking Week) which will be held in week 3 of semester 2.

Ivory Tower Screening with NTEU

A screening of Ivory Tower will be held on the 11th August in collaboration with NTEU, a very topical movie which provides advice and warnings in relation to Universities - a must see!

EdCon

We have been finalising all subsidy payments and receiving reports from every person that got a subsidy.

Academic Misconduct Hearings

We have been sitting on the hearing committees as student representatives and talking with faculties and UMSU Advocacy and GSA about how to best inform students and faculties of the processes and policies around this difficult task.

National Day of Action

Building is underway for the National Day of Action on the 19th August, a free BBQ will be provided on South Lawn at 12 before we march down to the State Library to join others from around the State.

Conor and Nellie spoke to the Education (Public Affairs) and Education (Academic Affairs) reports respectively. Simon enquired about the nature of the National Day of Action on-campus event, which was discussed in more detail in Motions on Notice.

Motion 4: To accept the OB Reports *en bloc*.

Mover: Nellie Montague (Chair)

Carried without dissent

5. Motions on Notice

5.1 Education Officer Faculty clubs meet-up

Nellie spoke to the nature of the meet-up, and Conor explained that the entire sum would probably not be spent, but that it was better to approve slightly more than required, than to not approve sufficient funding. There was consensus around this.

Motion 5: That up to \$200 be approved for spending from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to pay for food for a meeting of faculty club education officers, in an effort to expand the role that they play in the Education Department and to allow UMSU to better liaise with faculties.

Moved: Nellie Montague **Seconded:** Conor Serong

Carried

5.2 National Day of Action campus event

Conor spoke to the nature of this motion.

Dom suggested that all BBQ attendees be required to “Like” the UMSU Education Facebook page before receiving free food – this was agreed upon.

Simon asked that some potential people to speak at the event should be discussed.

It was agreed that someone from the campus NTEU branch would be ideal, as well as a club president, an academic, and potentially someone from UMSU Advocacy and Legal.

It was also agreed that it is important to have a woman speak about how deregulation disproportionately affects women.

Motion 6: That up to \$500 be approved for spending from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to pay for costs associated with the running of an on-campus event before the main rally on 19 August. This includes all costs associated with hiring and running a BBQ, as well as hiring any applicable AV equipment to allow for music and speeches.

Moved: Conor Serong **Seconded:** Tess Grimmond

Carried without dissent

5.3 Social Media promotion

Conor spoke to the nature of this motion, explaining that a social media expert at the National Union of Students' Education Conference had recommended exploring paid promotion on social media.

There was a discussion around the merits of this, and it was unanimously agreed that the Office Bearers should experiment with paid promotion to discover what works, and that additional funds could be passed for this purpose in future if experimentation proves it to be successful.

Motion 7: That up to \$100 be approved for spending from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to pay for social media promotion. This will be used sparingly and as a last resort, but advice from social media experts is that using Facebook's paid promotion feature is by far the best way to reach more people. This will be invaluable in promotion for the 19 August National Day of Action.

Moved: Conor Serong

Seconded: Simon Frankland

Carried without dissent

6. Motions not on Notice

None.

7. Next Meeting

Regular Meeting Schedule:

Several amendments were made to the proposed schedule to accommodate for Committee members' availabilities.

Meeting Number	Academic week	Date	Time
11.	3	Tuesday 11 th August	11:30am
12.	5	Tuesday 25 th August	11:30am
13.	6	Friday 4 th September	1pm
14.	8	Tuesday 15 th September	11:30am
15.	10	Tuesday 6 th October	11:30am
16.	12	Wednesday 21st October	12pm
17.	Exam week 3	Wednesday 18 th November	12pm

8. Close

Meeting closed at 12:28pm.