

CONFIRMED Minutes of the Education Committee

Tuesday 25th August 2015

Meeting opened 11am

Location: Training Room Two, Level Three, Union House

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Nellie Montague be elected Chair.
Moved: Nellie Montague **Seconded:** Anneke Demanuele
Carried without dissent

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance

Committee members: Dominic Cernaz, Anneke Demanuele, Tess Grimmond, Lydia Wang, Paul Sakkal.

Office Bearers: Nellie Montague (Education Academic)

1.4 Apologies

Conor Serong, Shanley Price

1.5 Proxies

None.

1.6 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented.
Moved: Nellie Montague (Chair)
Carried without dissent

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion 3: That the previous minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 11th August, 2015.
Moved: Nellie Montague (Chair)
Carried without dissent

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Big Bazaar Report was presented to the committee

4. Office Bearers' Reports

4.1 Education (Public Affairs) OB Report

Key activities:

National Day of Action

The National Day of Action against fee deregulation and funding cuts was held on Wednesday with students around the country simultaneously protesting. On our campus, we held a BBQ, which saw hundreds of students fed before our contingent marched down to the State Library to meet up with students from other campuses. We made use of the new UMSU portable PA system, which allowed for music to be played at the BBQ, and was much louder and clearer than a megaphone during the rally itself.

Academic Services Buyers Committee

As per my previous report, I am still attempting to secure UMSU a place on the Academic Services Buyers Committee, however unfortunately communication has not been as forthcoming as it was at the time of the last report.

Ivory Tower

On Tuesday 11 August we held a free film screening of the documentary *Ivory Tower*, alongside the NTEU. It was held in the Union Theatre, and saw approximately 75 attendees, with a mix of students, staff and other guests. We had free pizza and soft drinks afterwards, and I engaged in constructive discussions with a number of attendees who found the documentary insightful and wanted to know how to get involved in the education campaign.

Pathways Taskforce

I have been designated as the UMSU representative on a new Pathways Taskforce that the University is convening to look at graduate pathways, employment opportunities and more. The first meeting is being held on Friday 21 August, so I will report further after this occurs.

Portable PA system

As directed by Council at the last meeting, I bought a portable PA system for UMSU. It functions exceptionally well, and three departments have already made use of it. The total cost, including for additional leads and components was approximately \$700 (see below for information regarding expenditure reporting difficulties)

Expenditure since last report:

Ongoing and frustrating issues with Microsoft Outlook has meant that accessing email records has not been possible this week. This has meant that invoices, minutes and other records required to report on expenditure have not been accessible.

Nonetheless, here is a *partial* breakdown of expenses since the last report, which will be updated, to include full information including meeting numbers and dates, and currently missing expenditure, once these issues have been resolved.

Note, the figures below are excluding GST.

Ivory Tower screening - soft drink and other supplies: \$135.18

NDA BBQ supplies: \$276.24

4.1 Education Academic report

Gender X

In line with Australian Law, the University will be providing a third gender option on all forms. Ed Ac and Queer have been and will continue to be involved with the process to ensure the correct terminology is used. This update will be available to all students, to edit on their my.unimelb by self nomination (no documentation required). We will be working together to make sure adequate prefix options are provided to ensure all those changing their gender listing. Developments to come on how this impacts Electoral regulations for autonomous positions.

Big Bazaar

All money and items have been returned to students. There was also a thank-you dinner held last Thursday (20th August) for the volunteers who gave up countless hours and ensured it all went smoothly. The remaining books have since been donated to the book co-op, Items to the Welfare department's food bank,

University of Melbourne Student Union

**Report of
Nellie Montague & Shanley Price (on leave)
Education (Academic) Officer**

**To Education Committee
25/08/2015**

Training Room Two, Union House

some clothing to the Queer Department's trans* clothing drive and the remainder to the clothes swap outside the book co-op/enviro office. A full report is attached in the correspondence.

Queer Scholarship

Shanley is in the preliminary stages of securing a scholarship for a queer student from a disadvantaged background to attend university. It is the hope the scholarship will cover relocation and living costs for a student from an underrepresented area in Australia. Accommodation will hopefully be provided at Trinity College. An ex-trinitarian and Rhodes Scholar has expressed interest in providing funding to the project. This will provide invaluable support to a future University of Melbourne student who may not otherwise be able to attend Unimelb.

BSc

There is a survey circulating for Bachelor of Science students to gauge their interest in double majors on transcripts. EdAc is in ongoing conversations with the faculty and the course standing committee on this issue. Please pass the survey (UMSU Edu FB has the link) to everyone you know in the BSc.

Special Consideration Procedure

The Education department was invited to workshops for developing the new Special consideration procedure. These are ongoing and at this point have only attended the review of the HPR forms. However, it appears equitable and more accessible. Coming up will be a review of the new application process both online and in student centres. Furthermore, we will be launching a push to remove 'hay fever, colds and period pain' from the ineligible ailments for special consideration.

Incorrect results on LMS

There have been cases reported to us of incorrect results appearing on the LMS from last semester. We had confirmation from the university that if this has happened to a student and as a result, were ineligible for a scholarship, further study or similar, to lodge a grievance to have the issue addressed. The University will do all they can to re-evaluate your applications in light of the mistake on their behalf.

Academic Misconduct FAQ

A FAQ was circulated to all faculties regarding Academic Misconduct procedures. This will hopefully create a more homogenous approach to misconducts across faculties. This is tied with the release of an integrity report from the University which will ensure a better follow-up and scrutiny of academic

misconduct.

Swinburne

We had a cross-campus meeting with the education officer from Swinburne Uni. It was great to hear how their Education Council works (comparable to our SRN). They have a lot of faculty involvement which is something we have been really pushing to increase this year. We look forward to greater collaboration between campuses and seeing alternative forms of representation.

Content Warnings

We have been having discussions with Disabilities department and faculties on getting content warnings put on subjects, where relevant. This would be important for students suffering from PTSD, and would allow students to have greater control of their approaches to learning. This empowering campaign will hopefully be implemented in particular classes with graphic or intense content.

NDA

Another NDA was held on August 19. It was great to see new faces turn up and show their support for the campaign. We had speakers including Wom*n's officer Allie and Indigenous officer Tyson, who spoke on how deregulation will disproportionately impact already disadvantaged groups. The NTEU were more heavily involved in this NDA than previously, and we are looking to hold another event together in the coming weeks.

International Liaison

There will be greater collaboration between the UMSU Edu department and INTL department on future events following the success of the Big Bazaar. The INTL president is keen to see greater mingling between domestic and international students. Hopefully this partnership will work to improve relations between the two groups on campus.

Anneke raised concerns about Content Warnings, highlighting issues in America with books being censored and lecturers being disciplined after over-zealous content warnings. These concerns were supported by Nellie and mentioned that we would be working with the disability department

Motion 4: That the Office Bearer reports be accepted *en bloc*.

Moved: Nellie Montague (Chair)

Carried without dissent

5.

Motions on Notice

5.1 Confirmation of remaining EdCon reports (see attached)

The final EdCon reports have been received by Jade Eckhaus and Lia Vasiliadis.

The Education Committee accepts Jade Eckhaus' EdCon report

M: Nellie S: Anneke

Carried without dissent

Lia's report was not presented to council due to technological difficulties and will be presented at the next meeting.

5.2 Pass up to \$500 from Campaigns, Special Projects + Events for a joint event to be held with the NTEU.

M: Nellie S: Paul

Carried without dissent

5. Motions not on Notice

None.

6. Other business

7.1 Education budget

There is still close to \$7000 in the Education budget, with 14 weeks left. Does the committee have any project/campaign/expenditure ideas for the department for the remainder of the year?

Some discussion was had around ideas for an exam/SWOTVAC support stall outside the library.

Questions were raised around the University

7. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is on Friday 4th September in Training Room 2

8. Close

Meeting closed 11.45am