

University of Melbourne Student Union



Confirmed Minutes the Education Committee

Friday 4th September

1 PM

Location: Training Room 2, Level 3, Union House

Meeting declared inquorate at 1:30pm by Conor Serong.

Attendance

Office Bearers: Conor Serong, Nellie Montague & Shanley Price

Committee Members:

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 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Office Bearers' Reports

University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

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

**To Education Committee
04/09/2015**

Key activities:

NTEU

After the success of our joint Ivory Tower event, the NTEU have expressed interest in running another event with us to raise the profile of our respective education campaigns. This will take the form of a picnic-of-sorts on South Lawn on Monday 14 September. Further details are still being finalised.

GSA

We have been having productive meetings with Emily and Beornn from GSA Education + Policy, to discuss a range of issues, ideas, campaigns and more. While it has been frustrating to note that many Office Bearers from the GSA have been difficult to contact, and less than diligent in attending University committee meetings, pleasing progress is being made after consultation with Emily and Beornn. We are also working towards resolving an ongoing issue with the Finance Committee's student membership, or lack thereof, and information-sharing between the University, UMSU and the GSA which could hypothetically allow for us to access an all-student mailing list. This is a long-term project and unlikely to yield tangible results in the immediate term, but it is nonetheless of vital importance.

Government Review into University Equity

As reported in the Australian recently, the Federal Government has commissioned a review into "disadvantaged groups" at Universities. Commentary surrounding this story has suggested that there is a push to reduce the number of disadvantaged categories, thus rendering many students no longer eligible for programs and entry requirements available to disadvantaged groups. As a result, I have organised a meeting with Richard James, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) to discuss our grave concerns about this review.

Pathways Taskforce

The first meeting of the Pathways Taskforce was held recently, to discuss draft terms of reference. There is little to report yet, other than that this working group will be focusing on the pathways from undergraduate to graduate programs, and improving the rate of students choosing to undertake their further studies at the University of Melbourne. This group will meet once or twice a month for at least the next four months, and will report back to the Academic Board, as well as various other avenues.

Expenditure since last report:

Meeting No.	Date	Description	Amount (ex. GST)	Line	Comments
Operations Sub-Committee Meeting 7	06/08/15	Ivory Tower soft drink and other supplies	\$135.17	Campaigns, Special Projects and Events	Cans of soft drink, bottles of water, serviettes for pizza which was provided by the NTEU etc.
Operations Sub-Committee Meeting 6	02/07/15	Standing Room Coffee Voucher	\$30.00	Campaigns, Special Projects and Events	To be given away as a prize for CounterCourse Handbook submissions.
Education Committee Meeting 10	28/07/15	NDA BBQ supplies	\$276.24	Campaigns, Special Projects and Events	Sausages, vegie patties and other BBQ supplies for the pre-rally on-campus event.
Operations Sub-Committee Meeting 6	02/07/15	Big Bazaar AV Costs	\$80.00	Campaigns, Special Projects and Events	Power leads, boards, bollards, etc.

University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

Nellie Montague and Shanley Price
Education (Academic Affairs) Officers

To Education Committee
04/09/2015

Queer Scholarship Shanley met with the Head of Advancement at Trinity College on the 28th regarding the college providing a residential scholarship for a queer identifying student in the coming semesters. Pending Warden approval, the HoA will secure financing to have the scholarship in operation within 12 months. It will provide assistance to a queer identifying student in financial need in order to relocate to attend Melbourne University and Trinity College. This is a really exciting achievement as it is the first equity based queer scholarship in the country. Thanks must also go to Dot one of the Queer officers in 2014 for initiating the idea.

GSA - SRN Edu officers had a meeting with GSA Policy officers on the 27th to discuss a range of areas of collaboration. Most importantly, expansion to the SRN across the University. There is hope to collaborate with the GSA to run uni-wide SRN applications for the next recruiting round.

Equality targets The Australian published an article on Andrew Norton from the Grattan Institute's' recommendations of changing equality targets to get identified disadvantaged groups more represented in Universities. Specifically, removing targeting students from English as a second language background and women in underrepresented fields. Richard James from the Chancellery was quoted in the article and several OBs are having a meeting with him on the 1st to hear the University's position on it. It is troubling to hear these recommendations, particularly as they cite unrepresentative data to back up its recommendations.

NTEU joint event The Edu department will be holding a Picnic against Pyne on the 14th with the NTEU. It will be a great opportunity to explain to students what fee dereg will really mean for them, as well as get them to engage with the NTEU campaign of contacting politicians about the real impacts of fee deregulation. The event will have siq eats, smooth beats and comfy seats. 12pm south lawn, sept 14.

Content warnings

We will be working with the disabilities office to create materials to disseminate to academic staff and boards regarding how to adequately use content warnings in courses. Some classes provide excellent support on particularly intense subject topics, while others do not. It is important to adequately warn and support (both during and after) students who find content particularly confronting. University should be a space to go in depth into confronting ideas, but the right support must compliment it.

5. Motions on Notice

5.1 Education Conference Reports

Preamble: Technological difficulties during Conor's absence at the last meeting meant that the final Education Conference report was unable to be accepted, despite having been received by the extended deadline provided by Committee.

Motion: To accept the final Education Conference report as presented.

Moved: Conor Serong **Seconded:**

5.2 Social Media

Preamble: Given our previous successes with paid promotion, we spent a considerable portion of the money already allocated on posts promoting the 19 August National Day of Action. As a result, the remaining sum will be insufficient to promote the page itself for the remainder of the year. We therefore suggest passing some additional money so that we can continue to monitor results and pay for promotion as appropriate.

Motion: To pass a further \$500 from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events for Facebook paid promotion.

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

5.3 Budget Update

Preamble: There are several budget lines which have more money in them than we predict will be required for the remainder of the year. This money would be better placed in the most-used line, Campaigns Special Projects + Events.

Motion: To update the Education Department budget by moving \$100 from Stationary and Postage, \$200 from Telephone, and the entire remaining sum from Conferences to Campaigns, Special Projects and Events

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

5.4 Collective snacks

Preamble: We have been using the purchased snacks for our various "sub-Collective" events, e.g. for such things as Education Council, Big Bazaar meetings, SRN meetings and banner-painting collectives. While we still have some snacks left, it would be good to continue to purchase snacks for these various events and others as they arise.

Motion: To pass up to \$100 from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events for the purchase of snacks and refreshments for meetings of the Education Collective, Committee and various other meetings and events of the Education Department.

Moved: Conor Serong **Seconded:**

6. Other business

7. Next Meeting

8. Close