

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Education Committee

Tuesday 15th September 2015

11.30 AM

Location: Training Room 2 Level 3, Union House

Meeting opened 11.45am

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Conor Serong be elected Chair.

Moved: Conor Serong **Seconded:** Paul Sakkal

Carried without dissent

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

1.3 Attendance - Corey McCabe (observer), Committee members: Dominic Cernaz, Anneke Demanuele, Tess Grimmond, Paul Sakkal. OBs: Shanley Price, Conor Serong, Nellie Montague

1.4 Apologies – Simon Frankland

1.5 Proxies

1.6 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved: Conor Serong (Chair)

Carried without dissent

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion 3: To amend the minutes from 25th August to reflect that only Jade Eckhaus' EdCon report was accepted as Lia's was not presented at the meeting. That the amended minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meetings held on the 25th August and the 4th September 2015.

Moved: Conor (Chair)

Carried without dissent

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Office Bearers' Reports

University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

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

**To the Education Committee
15/09/2015**

4.1 Education (Public Affairs) OB Report

Key activities:

Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee

A range of issues are being discussed at ACCC, including changes to exam procedures to prohibit watches being worn in the exam room. This is a result of the advent of smartwatches, and will be mitigated by an increased presence of clocks provided in the exam room. The University is also shifting away from students bringing in their own calculators for approval at exams, instead wanting to provide one particular type of calculator which students would be expected to familiarise themselves with throughout the semester leading up to the exam. The idea of a loan system was floated, with the potential for UMSU to explore options to play a role in this process.

Pathways Taskforce

This new committee will be meeting regularly to discuss issues and obstacles which prevent students from continuing their studies at the University of Melbourne after completing an undergraduate degree. It will also examine the rate at which students are successfully transitioning into the workforce after only completing an undergraduate program. This is still in relatively early stages so there is nothing major to report yet.

Wayfinding Strategy

A User Experience Workshop was held by Buro North to brief stakeholders on the wayfinding project which I have periodically been reporting on throughout the year. Again, nothing major to report yet other than the company and University are hoping to have a finalised strategy by early 2016, to move into a prototyping and implementation phase shortly afterwards. I will continue to involve the Student Working Group that I have convened as matters progress.

Picnic Against Pyne

On Monday 14 September we will be hosting a Picnic Against Pyne with the NTEU, after the success of our joint Ivory Tower screening event. This will feature free food on South Lawn, and will provide a good opportunity for both unions to talk to students about our campaigns.

Expenditure since last report:

| Meeting No. | Date | Description | Amount (ex. GST) | Line | Comments |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 9; 10. | 28/07/15; 11/08/15 | Facebook promotion | \$502.05 | Campaigns, Special Projects + Events | Using Facebook paid promotion to advertise the UMSU Education page, as well as pertinent posts and events. |
| 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. |
| 10 | 11/08/15 | Big Bazaar Thankyou event food | \$200.00* | Campaigns, Special Projects + Events | *Nellie is seeking confirmation on whether this sum is inclusive or exclusive of GST. |

University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

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

**To Education Committee
15/09/2015**

4.2 Education (Academic Affairs) OB Report

Student Representative Network (SRN) Edu officers are working with GSA Policy Officers and UMSU Advocacy to expand the SRN across the University. The next recruiting round will open in Week 10 on Monday the 5th October and close on the last day of SWOTVAC on Friday the 30th October. Shortlisting and Interviewing will then take place with training on the 23rd November to prepare reps to start 2016 attending the first meetings.

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 we arranged for several OBs to have a meeting with him on the 1st September to hear the University's position on it.

This conversation has been precipitated by the Federal Government putting out to tender a 75K project to look at disadvantaged groups in Universities. He spoke extensively about the research The Centre for the Study of Higher Education (CSHE) at the University of Melbourne undertook 12/13 years ago and the need for empirical data to determine whether the current identified disadvantaged groups are getting the support and services they need to access and succeed in higher education. Data of this nature is obviously difficult to collect as real life situations are much more complex than can be captured in numbers and stats but to create policy these numbers are needed. We will be keeping an eye on the future of this project once the federal Government has made a decision about which group will be conducting the research.

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 Continuing discussions are being had about this difficult topic, we are interested to hear from affected students to hear what would help them feel empowered and supported when confronted with difficult content in lectures and tutorials.

Selection Procedures Committee (SPC) Nellie met with the UMSU SPC student reps and Professor Doreen Thomas the chair of the board and Professor Bill Harley. We discussed how student reps can best play a useful role on a technical board such as SPC. It was a good chance to raise issues and ideas which were noted by the academics. Ongoing work around recognising non-academic merit and International student access and support is being looked at

International Student Survey We have been working with the Education and Welfare officers from UMSU International to include some education questions in their survey which will be open from Week 8 -Week 10. This is a great chance to get some data that will be useful on a number of relevant boards and committees.

Faculty and Subject Clubs Follow ups from our successful Education Officer/President catch up at the start of the semester is underway to see how we can best assist educational events to be run by faculty and subject based clubs. There is hope to extend this support and connection into the future.

Website Update We are adding a new Report an Issue tile to our website to help students know where to take academic issues such as non-recording of lectures, assessment during SWOTVAC, issues with reader availability etc. This will hopefully improve our visibility as an advocating Department and help support students.

Fieldwork in Complex and Hostile Places Concerns around faculty desire to cut this important subject because of concerns around 'profitability' have been allayed after working with the GSA and speaking with the course coordinator. We got reassurance that the subject will continue in 2016. We will be keeping an eye out to make sure it continues into the future.

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

Moved: Conor (Chair)

Carried without dissent

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

Moved: Conor Serong (chair)

Carried without dissent

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

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

Carried without dissent

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 7: 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

Carried without dissent

5.4 Committee and Collective Snacks

Preamble: We are running low on snacks to be used for Education Committee, Education Collectives and events, it is nice to be able to offer these as an incentive for people to come along and to thank them for attending.

Motion 8: To pass up to \$100 from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events for snacks for Education

Moved: Conor (chair)
Carried without dissent

5.5 Education Craft Items

Preamble: We have used the Education Craft items for numerous events this year including making banners and posters for all the rallies. It would be good to set the department up for next year with a decent craft selection in preparation for events and rallies next year.

Motion 9: To pass up to \$300 from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events for craft items including paint, canvas and permanent markers etc

Moved: Nellie Montague **Seconded:** Shanley
Carried without dissent

5.6 Education T-shirts

Preamble: To prepare the office for next year we think the t-shirts, that were popular this year and increased our brand recognition, are a good thing. Let's get more.

Motion 10: To pass up to \$500 from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events for t-shirts

Moved: Nellie Montague **Seconded:** Shanley
Carried without dissent

6. Motions not on Notice

Motion 11: To pass up to \$500 from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events for less noisy but still blue pens

Moved: Nellie Montague **Seconded:** Conor
Carried without dissent

Motion 12: To pass up to \$500 from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events for the exam/SWOTVAC support stall

Moved: Nellie Montague **Seconded:** Anneke
Carried without dissent

7. Other business

8. Next Meeting

11.30am Tuesday 6th October Training Room 2

9. Close

12.15pm