

University of Melbourne Student Union

CONFIRMED Minutes of the Education Committee

Tuesday 12th May 2015

Meeting Opened: 11 AM

Location: Training Room 1, Level 3 Union House



1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Nellie Montague be elected Chair.
Mover: Nellie Montague **Secunder:** Conor Serong

Carried without dissent

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance

Committee members: Anneke Demanuele, Dominic Cernaz, Simon Frankland, Paul Sakkal

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

1.4 Apologies

Alex Fielden, Tess Grimmond, Lydia Wang

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

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

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Office Bearers' Reports

University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

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

**To Education Committee
12/05/2015**

Key activities:

Human Rights Arts & Film Festival

I was invited to speak on a discussion panel at the HRAFF, where we watched *Ivory Tower*, a documentary on the US higher education system, and particularly student debt levels. I spoke alongside Professor Bruce Chapman, architect of HECS, and Associate Professor Christopher Ziguras, about the need for sustainably funded higher education that does not cripple students and graduates with a lifetime of debt. We provided free tickets for students interested in attending.

NUS National Day of Action

The National Union of Students have called the next NDA for Wednesday 20 May. This rally will focus on the Federal Budget, due 12 May, in particular flagged cuts to higher education, and other measures which will harm students.

The Fodder budget show

I have been invited by the Media Officers to speak on the Fodder's budget show, on the evening of 12 May. I will be providing commentary on budgetary issues, specifically those which relate to higher education funding and income support.

Meeting with Glyn Davis

As reported to Students' Council, I have called for a meeting with the Vice Chancellor to discuss the future of higher education funding, and the potential for a cooperative campaign to make higher education funding an election issue in the lead-up to the 2016 Federal Election. Fellow Education Officers Nellie Montague and Shanley Price, President Rachel Withers, and General Secretary Hana Dalton will be accompanying me to this meeting.

NUS Quality Survey

The National Union of Students have begun circulating their Quality Survey, designed to gauge the quality of teaching and facilities at universities around the country. We will be promoting this online and in person at the UMSU marquee at the farmers' market every Wednesday.

SSAF Survey

The University has sent out a survey to all students regarding SSAF allocation. We will be encouraging students to fill out this survey, with the goal of exposing a desire for greater funding to UMSU and other vital services.

NUS Education Conference

The National Union of Students have announced that EdCon will be held from 6-10 July, at the University of New South Wales. We are encouraging students to attend, and intend to provide subsidies to cover a combination of conference registration, accommodation and flights, to students who demonstrate financial need.

Stress Less Week workshop and stress balls

Social worker Nicholas Robinson-Griffith will be giving a workshop/seminar on stress and time management while studying, as part of the Education Department's contribution to Stress Less Week. We will be distributing our new, branded stress balls to attendees.

Budget Expenditure since last report:

Meeting No.	Date	Description	Amount (ex. GST)	Line	Comments
<i>Approved by Students' Council.</i>	28/04/2015	Stress balls	\$909.60	Campaigns, Special Projects + Events	UMSU Education branded stress balls for Stress Less Week
<i>Approved by Operations Sub Committee of Students' Council</i>	07/05/2015	CounterCourse bookmarks	\$228.00	Campaigns, Special Projects + Events	CounterCourse bookmarks to advertise the Handbook and encourage submissions to our online database.
<i>Approved by Operations Sub Committee of Students' Council</i>	07/05/2015	HRAFF screening and discussion panel tickets	\$155.00	Campaigns, Special Projects + Events	Tickets to provide free access to students to discussion panel where Conor Serong spoke on higher education.

University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of

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

**To Education Committee
12/05/2015**

Key activities:

Bookmarks:

We made book marks to promote the online CounterCourse handbook and online submissions. After distributing the final 30 physical copies, there are perhaps three left on the stands of a total run of 1500. The bookmarks should do well to encourage submissions from underrepresented faculties.

Misconduct hearings:

With the first round of assessment for the semester largely over, we've had several misconduct hearings. There doesn't seem to be an increase in severity or frequency, but there are worthwhile discussions to be had on flexible (whilst remaining applicable) penalties for students. This times well with reports tabled in TALQAC about student discipline statute reform.

Know your rights:

It has become increasingly aware that students are not literate or empowered with the knowledge of what university policy provides them. From if and how marks can be contested, to appropriate assessment tasks- the ed ac office will be running a know your rights awareness campaign.

MSD opening hours:

The uni governance has aided the fight to extend hours of access to the MSD. Shanley is working with Sue Elliot to negotiate with the faculty of architecture building and planning in an upcoming board meeting.

Nellie spoke briefly to the activities of the Education Department as a whole.

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

Mover: Nellie Montague (Chair)

Carried without dissent

5. Motions on Notice

5.1 Amendment to Education Department Budget

Preamble: The Education Officers have been advised that the existing Grants budget line is not appropriate for conference subsidies, which was our primary intention when allocating funds to that line in the department budget. Given that different financial regulations apply, and that upon examination a more suitable account code for a budget line exists, we propose adding a “Conferences” line to the Education budget.

Nellie spoke to the nature of this motion.

Motion 5: That a new budget line called “Conferences”, with account code “3626”, be added to the Education Department budget, and that the \$2,000 allocated currently to the Grants budget line be transferred to the new Conferences line.

Moved: Conor Serong **Seconded:** Shanley Price

Carried without dissent.

5.2 Allocation to Conferences budget line

Preamble: In addition to the \$2,000 originally from the Grants budget line, we would like to allocate further funds to allow for a greater number of subsidies to given to students attending NUS Education Conference.

Nellie spoke to the nature of this motion.

Motion 6: That \$1,000 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects + Events budget line to the Conferences budget line.

Moved: Conor Serong **Seconded:** Shanley Price

Carried without dissent

5.3 Education Conference funding

Preamble: the Education Department is looking to subsidise attendance to the NUS Education Conference. This will be in the form of covering the cost of transport to and from, accommodation during, and registration for the conference in some combination deemed appropriate for each applicant's circumstance.

Nellie and Shanley spoke to the nature of the motion.

Anneke asked about the inclusion of a reporting requirement. Conor and Shanley explained that Financial Regulations typically require reports as a precondition to receiving grants/subsidies and that this requirement enhances student engagement and accountability.

Motion 7: To pass up to \$3,000 from the Conferences budget line for the purpose of subsidies to be given to students attending the NUS Education Conference, and to empower a panel comprising the Education Officers (Conor Serong, Shanley Price and Nellie Montague), or in the event that an Education Officer is ineligible (see below) the General Secretary or a nominee thereof, to allocate conference subsidies on the following criteria:

Preference will be given to

- i) first time attendees
 - ii) those intending to run workshops
 - iii) applicants whose attendance is contingent upon financial support
- a) Applicants must
- i) demonstrate legitimate and serious financial need as part of their application
 - ii) 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.
- c) Subsidies will have
- i) a lower limit of \$120 to cover the cost of registration
 - ii) an upper limit of \$450 to cover the cost of registration, accommodation and flights

Applications for subsidies will be received via a Google Form which will be distributed via social media and through the Education Collective mailing list.

Applications will be accepted for a period of at least two weeks (10 academic days), with opening and closing dates for applications to be made public alongside the Google Form.

In the event that one or more Education Officers wishes to apply for a subsidy themselves, they will be deemed ineligible to sit on the panel which will consider applications. They will be replaced on this panel by the UMSU General Secretary or a nominee thereof.

Moved: Shanley Price

Seconded: Conor Serong

Carried without dissent.

5.4 Governance training

Nellie spoke to the nature of this motion.

Motion 8: That \$256.82 be passed from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to reimburse UMSU Advocacy for half of the cost of the catering provided to the Education + Advocacy Governance Training event held on Friday 20 March.

Moved: Conor Serong **Seconded:** Shanley Price

Carried without dissent.

5.5 Gift for guest speaker

Nellie spoke to the nature of this motion.

Anneke enquired as to the background of the guest speaker. Conor explained that Nicholas Robinson-Griffith is a former student of the University, and a current social worker at Western Health, specialising in drug and alcohol detox. He has been heavily involved in the welfare aspect of the VCE Summer School, and is experienced in stress and anxiety management workshops targeted specifically towards students.

Motion: That up to \$50 be passed from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to allow for the purchasing of one slab of beer, to compensate guest speaker Nicholas Robinson-Griffith for his time at UMSU Education's Stress Less Week workshop on 12 May.

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

Carried without dissent.

6. Motions not on Notice

None.

7. Other business

Due to the last two meetings of the Education Committee being declared inquorate, a number of motions to pass money were instead taken to either the Students' Council, or the Operations Sub-Committee.

For detailed records of this, please refer to relevant minutes from those bodies and the expenditure report contained in the above OB report, however as a rough breakdown, those items are:

Stress Less Week stress balls - \$909.60 spent

HRAFF tickets - \$155.00 spent

AV@Melbourne equipment - \$60 already approved amended to \$65

CounterCourse Bookmarks - \$228.00 spent

Nellie spoke to this other business.

8. Next Meeting

Proposed meeting schedule:

Wednesday 27 May 12pm (Week 12)

Tuesday 9 June 12pm (exam period)

Wednesday 1 July 12pm (winter break)

Tuesday 28 July 12pm (Week 1)

Conor proposed this meeting schedule, which was unanimously agreed upon.

9. Close

Meeting closed at 11:18am.