

Confirmed Minutes of the Education Committee

Wednesday 27 May 2015

Meeting opened: 12:25 PM

Location: Training Room One, Level Three, Union House

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Shanley Price be elected Chair.
Mover: Shanley Price **Seconder:** Conor Serong

Carried without dissent.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance

Committee members: Lydia Wang, Anneke Demanuele, Simon Frankland, Tess Grimmond.

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

1.4 Apologies

Nellie Montague, Dominic Cernaz, Paul Sakkal.

1.5 Proxies

Nil.

1.6 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented.
Mover: Shanley Price (Chair)

Carried without dissent.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Correction of typographical error in meeting schedule – “Wednesday 3 July” should read “Wednesday 1 July”.

Motion 3: That the previous minutes be corrected to reflect the accurate meeting schedule by amending “Wednesday 3 July” to “Wednesday 1 July”, and that the previous minutes then be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 12 May 2015.

Mover: Conor Serong **Seconder:** Shanley Price

Carried without dissent.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 A panel was appointed in line with requirements detailed in item 5.3, Motion 7 from the meeting of the Education Committee on 12 May, 2015 to consider applications for subsidies from UMSU Education to attend the National Union of Students' Education Conference. This panel consists of Hana Dalton (UMSU General Secretary), Martin Ditmann (UMSU Media Officer), and Rachel Withers (UMSU President), with the latter two each being nominees of the General Secretary. Applications close Wednesday 27 May at 5pm, and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by Monday 1 June.

Shanley and Conor each briefly spoke to the nature of these matters – no action was required as this was merely an update on matters discussed at the previous meeting.

4. Office Bearers' Reports

University of Melbourne Student Union

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

**To Education Committee
27/05/2015**

Key activities:

The Fodder Federal Budget radio show

I was invited to speak on the Fodder's Federal Budget radio show, on the evening of 12 May when the 2015-16 Federal Budget was announced. The show ran for over two hours, with myself and other students providing commentary on budgetary issues, including considerable focus on those which relate to higher education funding and income support. Feedback on this show was positive – we were told that listenership was relatively high and constant throughout the show, and we received input throughout the show from students and other listeners.

NUS National Day of Action

On Wednesday 20 May UMSU took part in the National Union of Students' National Day of Action against fee deregulation and funding cuts to higher education, both of which reappeared in the 2015-16 Federal Budget. This saw several hundred students gather at the State Library and march to Parliament House.

CounterCourse bookmarks

We have been distributing bookmarks to promote the CounterCourse Handbook – and in particular the online submissions which we are encouraging students to participate in.

Stress balls

As part of Stress Less Week, we purchased 500 stress balls to be given away at events – particularly Education and Welfare events. In addition to an existing 500 stress balls being given away in that week alone, we also distributed approximately 300 or more of the new batch. We will continue to distribute these at future events.

Stress Less Week workshop

We had a guest speaker give a workshop on stress-management and workload-balancing during Stress Less Week. This event was not well-attended, but we received some positive feedback from two staff members from Ormond College who found some of the advice and strategies discussed useful for their own work with college students.

Farmers' Market

On Wednesday 13 May, UMSU Education supervised the UMSU marquee at the weekly farmers' market. At this, we promoted the National Day of Action, Quality Survey, and other events. We also gave away a considerable number of our maze pens and stress balls.

NUS Quality Survey

The National Union of Students are circulating their Quality Survey, designed to gauge the quality of teaching and facilities at universities around the country. We have been promoting this online and in person at the UMSU marquee at the farmers' market every Wednesday, as well as distributing posters and flyers around campus. It has also been included in the UMSU newsletter.

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 are currently fielding applications for subsidies to

cover a combination of conference registration, accommodation and flights, to students who demonstrate financial need. Applications close Wednesday 27 May at 5pm, and the form can be found on the UMSU website, UMSU Education Facebook page, and UMSU Education Collective Facebook group. It has also been emailed out several times to our Collective mailing list.

Meeting with Glyn Davis

As reported previously, I 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.

This meeting took place on Monday 25 May, and I was accompanied by fellow UMSU Education Officers Nellie Montague and Shanley Price, President Rachel Withers, and General Secretary Hana Dalton. Alongside Professor Glyn Davis, representing the University administration were Professor Margaret Shiel, the Provost; Professor Susan Elliot, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International); Dr Julie Wells, Vice-Principal, Policy and Projects; and Dr Gwilym Groucher, Higher Education Policy Adviser.

The meeting was productive, with the University prepared to stand alongside UMSU in a public campaign for greater public funding in the lead-up to the 2016 Federal Election. In particular, Glyn expressed an interest in running a joint event with considerable media coverage with the intention of pressuring the major parties to commit to greater funding, given that we are in an almost unique position of having higher education funding become a major election issue.

Glyn and his colleagues also committed to meeting with student representatives on this and other issues at least once a semester, which we saw as a highly desirable outcome.

Budget Expenditure since last report:

Meeting No.	Date	Description	Amount (ex. GST)	Line	Comments
4.	12/05/2015	Governance training catering	\$256.82	Campaigns, Special Projects + Events	Half the cost of catering from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre for Governance Training held on Friday 20 March, split with UMSU Advocacy.
<i>Approved by the Operations Sub-Committee.</i>	07/05/2015	AV equipment for 25 March NDA	\$65.00	Campaigns, Special Projects + Events	There was a delay in this expenditure pending amendment of expenditure amount initially approved by the Education Committee on 17 March 2015.
4.	12/05/2015	Gift of beer to guest speaker	\$31.82	Campaigns, Special Projects + Events	The committee decided to purchase one slab of beer to reimburse our guest speaker for the Stress Less Week workshop. This was to compensate him for time taken off work and preparation undertaken in advance of the event.

University of Melbourne Student Union

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

To Education Committee

27/05/2015

Key Activities

MSD Opening hours: After much discussion with the University and the faculty we have secured a trial period of increased opening hours of 7am-1am. This is a great win for students and is a good indication of the benefit of student lobbying to make real life changes to students' experiences at the University

Vice Chancellor Meeting: A very successful meeting was held between student representatives and high up academics and staff at the University, it was a great chance to sit down and discuss the University's approach to higher education funding and to discuss the areas that we agree on and to have worthwhile conversations about the areas we disagree on. See Conor's report for more details.

Countercourse: Submissions are open for the Countercourse Handbook, bookmarks advertising the Handbook and the prize draw for submissions are all around Union House and will be advertised on the UMSU Education facebook page.

Advocacy and Legal Student Advisory Group: The second of the quarterly SAGs run by UMSU Advocacy and Legal was held on the 13th May. Advocacy and Legal staff detailed what they are working on at the moment including information sessions for International Students around working while still fulfilling the conditions of their visas. Discussions were had around the increase in traffic infringement notices and the reasons surrounding this including the new free tram zone which has meant the MelbUni tramstop is being targeted for fare evaders. Advocacy has been able to support students who have had negative experiences with ticketing officers with some cases going further in light of the cases Julian Burnside has been working on. It was a great chance to hear about all the important work UMSU Advocacy and Legal are doing to provide free legal advice and support for students.

UMSU International Meeting: We have made contact with the newly elected Education and Welfare officers at UMSU International and have had a good first meeting in which we talked about all the projects we are working on and decided to collaborate on running a 'Bazaar' in week 2 of next semester. UMSU will be running the Book Stall/Textbook section. Any ideas and input are very welcome as we are in the planning stages at the moment.

Academic Misconduct Hearings: We are continuing to be part of Academic Misconduct hearings at various faculties, and working with UMSU Advocacy to ensure that faculties are aware of due process and are following policy and guidelines.

Exam Support Stall: We are working with UMSU Advocacy to run the Exam Support Stall at REB during the exam period in June. This is an important service that provides free water, pens, tissues, calculator hire and advice on exam procedures, special consideration and academic misconduct to students at a very stressful time of year.

EdCon: Education Conference is coming up in June and we are encouraging students to attend. Applications for subsidies to cover a combination of conference registration, accommodation and flights are available to students who demonstrate financial need. Applications close Wednesday 27 May at 5pm, and the form can be found on the UMSU website, UMSU Education Facebook page, and UMSU Education Collective Facebook group.

Quality Survey: The NUS Quality Survey is an important chance to gauge student experience at the University, it is open until the 15th June so jump on it! See UMSU Education facebook page for details.

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

Mover: Conor Serong

Seconder: Anneke Demanuele

Carried without dissent.

5. Motions on Notice

5.1 Increase to Education Conference subsidy allocation

Preamble: We have been advised that we have received a number of applications for subsidies to the National Union of Students Education Conference. While no determination on the quality or success of these applications has yet been made – as applications have not yet closed – it is entirely possible that there will be insufficient allocation to allow for applicants to receive required levels of funding. We therefore propose increasing the amount of money allocated to the Conferences budget line, and approving it for expenditure. Given that photocopying has proven cheaper than anticipated, we propose taking money unlikely to be spent from the photocopying and paper budget line. In the event that some or all of this additional money is not required – as determined by the panel approving applications – the Committee can decide to return the remaining portion to its original, or another, budget line.

Motion 1: That \$1,500 be transferred from the Education Department's Photocopying and Paper budget line to the Education Department's Conferences budget line, and that this amount be approved for expenditure in the form of provision of subsidies to successful applicants for the National Union of Students' Education Conference 2015, in line with the requirements established at the last meeting of the Education Committee (12/05/2015, Item 5.3, Motion 7).

Mover: Conor Serong

Seconded: Anneke Demanuele

Carried without dissent.

6. Motions not on Notice

None.

7. Other business

Conor briefly spoke to a motion that was in the agenda for the meeting of the Students' Council held on 26 May 2015, but which was not discussed due to quorum being lost. This motion regarded the purchasing of bottled water for the exam support stalls run by Advocacy, which the Education Department wishes to be involved in. Conor flagged that while the motion did not pertain to the Education Department's budget, there was potential for it to be brought to a future meeting of the Education Committee for discussion in the event that Students' Council decided not to pass money from another budget line. The Committee acknowledged this and no questions were raised.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 9 June 12pm, location TBA.

9. Close

Meeting closed at 12:32pm.