

University of Melbourne Student Union

Confirmed Minutes of the Education Committee

Tuesday 9th June 2015

12 PM

Location: Training Room One, Level Three, Union House

Meeting was declared inquorate by Conor Serong at 12:30pm.

Attendance

Office Bearers: Nellie Montague, Conor Serong

Committee Members: None.

Note: As it is the exam period and there was no urgent business to discuss, committee members were advised by the Office Bearers to prioritise their studies.

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

Note: In addition to the minutes of the most recent meeting, two meetings held in April which were declared inquorate also have unconfirmed minutes which require confirmation.

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
09/06/2015

Meeting 8

Training Room One, Union House

Key activities:

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.

NUS Education Conference

The National Union of Students' Education Conference 2015 will be held at the University of New South Wales, from 6-10 July. UMSU Education offered subsidies to students who plan to attend, but require financial assistance. We received a high volume of applications, and were able to offer over twenty students a subsidy to assist their attendance. Each recipient is required to submit a written report to the Education Committee within four weeks of the Conference ending.

NUS Quality Survey

The National Union of Students' Quality Survey will close on 15 June. Along with other Office Bearers, we have promoted the survey via social media, in-person to students, via email and through the UMSU newsletter and website.

Lorna Stirling Fund Committee

Through my role in the Student Representative Network, I sit on the Lorna Stirling Fund Committee, which meets annually to allocate grants to students wishing to embark on exchange or attend international events with the aim of establishing channels of information and learning between students and countries. This Committee met late in May, and awarded several students grants.

Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee

Again, as part of the Student Representative Network, I sit on the newly formed Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee (ACCC), chaired by the Provost, and attended by many senior academic and professional staff, including Pro Vice-Chancellors, the President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President of the Academic Board, and many others. While this Committee met four times in 2015 without student representatives, Steve Brown of the GSA and myself were formally welcomed as committee members at the most recent meeting held on 4 June. A broad range of academic topics were discussed, and I will be preparing a report to submit to the Student Representative Network should anyone be interested in learning more.

Isegoria App

I am involved in meetings with Miguel, who pitched an app to Students' Council recently. In our first meeting, he allayed a number of the concerns raised by Councillors and Office Bearers, and took several questions on notice. We are scheduled to meet on 10 June with the Communications Department to discuss how a potential venture would impact the work that the department does. Following on from discussions in Council, we are aiming to have a draft agreement that can be presented to the next Council meeting for consideration.

CounterCourse

We will be encouraging student submissions to our online database of reviews of subjects, majors and other university experiences. We have been distributing CounterCourse bookmarks and may investigate the possibility of a secondary run of CounterCourse Handbooks.

24-hour Study Spaces

We have begun examining the feasibility of opening up a portion of Union House which would be available as a 24-hour study space in Semester 2. This is only in the very early stages and there is nothing concrete to report on yet.

Budget Expenditure since last report:

There has been some expenditure in the form of Education Conference subsidies. Once all of these payments have been made, they will be compiled into one expenditure report for enhanced clarity.

University of Melbourne Student Union

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

To Education Committee
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Academic Misconduct Hearings

As final assessments are coming in quite a few academic misconduct hearings are being held. We have been sitting on the hearing committees as student representatives and talking with faculties and UMSU Advocacy about how to best inform students and faculties of the processes and policies around this difficult task.

Exam Support Stall

UMSU Advocacy is again running the Exam Support Stall at REB to provide resources and information to students doing exams. A number of Office Bearers are helping; along with other volunteers, to run the stall and provide this invaluable service.

EdCon

EdCon is coming up in July, subsidies have been allocated and paperwork is slowly coming in. We will be running a number of workshops to discuss educational issues and we hope there will be some interesting guest speakers and worthwhile discussions. A detailed report will be forthcoming after the conference.

Quality Survey

This survey closes on the 15th June and we are continuing to advertise it. Hard copies completed by students are being uploaded to the NUS website.

Glyn Meeting

A very successful meeting was held with Professor Glyn Davis, 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 and UMSU Education Officers Conor Serong, Nellie Montague and Shanley Price, President Rachel Withers, and General Secretary Hana Dalton. Discussions were had around funding for Universities and how to frame a debate so deregulation is not the only option put on the table. Further meetings and collaborations have been committed to and we look forward to seeing these happen.

Campaign Planning

Planning is underway for numerous campaigns for next semester including a 'Know Your Rights' and an 'Anonymous Marking' campaign to ensure students are getting fair and equitable treatment at the University.

Countercourse

Bookmarks advertising submissions are being promoted all over campus. We are looking at doing a bigger online and physical presence push after exams/start of semester 2.

Second Hand Book Stall

We are working alongside UMSU International to run a second hand book stall in week 2 of Semester 2. More information regarding the process and types of books to be sold will be coming soon.

Women in Higher Education Week

In collaboration with the Women's Department and the NTEU we will be running a number of activities during Women in Higher Education Week (also known as Bluestocking Week) which will be held in week 3 of semester 2.

5. Motions on Notice

Nil.

6. Motions not on Notice

7. Other business

Nil.

8. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday 1 July, at 12pm in Training Room One, Union House.

9. Close

