

University of Melbourne Student Union

CONFIRMED Minutes of the Education Committee

Meeting 2/17

3 PM Tuesday 24 January 2017

Location: OB Space, Union House

Meeting opened: 3:17PM

1. Procedural Matters

1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Sinead Manning be elected Chair

Mover: Roger

Seconder: Kasey

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

Acknowledged.

3. Attendance

Committee: Alexander Gouslbra, Conor Clements, Kasey Lancaster, Mindi Suter, Katherine Polazzon, Jana Chalhoub (arrived 3:27PM)

OBs: Sinead Manning, Roger Samuel, Caley McPherson

Observers: Yasmine Luu, Hannah Billett, Gulsara Kaplun

4. Apologies:

Jade Eckhaus, Daniel Lopez

5. Proxies

Jade Eckhaus to Robert Narai

6. Membership

Nil

7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the Agenda as presented be adopted

Mover: Conor

Seconder: Robert

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

2. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Motion 3: to confirm the previous minutes of 8/12/2016 as a true and accurate record, with the amendment that Daniel gestured general support for the NUS, and intends to have NUS flyers on the Education stall during Summerfest. NUS are also encouraged to submit materials to the department which the Education Officers will consider putting in the Summerfest tote bags.

Comments: The initial Motion read “Motion 3: to confirm the previous minutes of 8/12/2016 as a true and accurate record”, and was changed to the above after committee discussion. Mindi alleged that Daniel said at the first committee meeting that the NUS would be featured on the tote bag design, which Sinead and Roger deny. They remember the previous committee discussion as pertaining to the Summerfest calendars, in Daniel did state his intent to include NUS event dates, and welcomed date suggestions from the committee.

There was confusion around Motions 13 & 14 in the previous minutes, which Roger clarified by explaining that one was for the printed version of the Counter Course Handbook and the other was for the new online version.

3:27PM Jana arrived

Robert enquired about the budget outline from the previous minutes, and Sinead ruled that it had already been passed and this was a review only.

Mover: Katherine

Seconder: Alexander

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Nil

4. **Correspondence**

Nil

5. **Office Bearers' Reports**

Education (Public)

Sinead did not speak to the Education (Public) report.

KEY EVENTS

Policy Engagement Program (PEP)

We met with Stephanie DiBattista on the 7th December to discuss the structure of our new volunteering program. From this meeting, we have outlined the application process and training for the program. We also met with Communications & Media on the 9th December to discuss design.

PEP has been included in the UMSU Volunteering Drive, and advertising on Facebook began on the 16th January. Applications are through a google form, and applicants will be interviewed over the coming weeks.

Student Success Changes

The restructure to Student Success was discussed at Academic Board on the 8th December by Tom Crowley. On the 9th December, the NTEU staged an action which Sinead spoke at expressing the education department's dismay with the changes and the apparent lack of consideration given to the consulting period. The latter of these is implied by the fact that the final plan was released less than 24 hours following the consultation period closing. Despite an increase in the level required for Learning Strategists (Academic Skills), the finalised change plan will result in a loss of job and a loss of experience. The latter will significantly affect students who require specialised advice from Academic Skills, Careers, Global Mobility, and/or Student Advice.

The NTEU protest was attended predominantly by students, rather than professional staff. Which reiterates that staff issues, especially those that result in centralisation without specialisation, are student issues.

UMSU's main concern with the finalised change plan is the changes of the Careers department. With the restructure, the existing role of Careers Consultant has been made redundant, and services will instead be provided by advisors with lower level qualifications. Sinead wrote a statement on behalf of the President for Farrago regarding changes to the Careers department.

We met with Maddy McMaster on the 19th January to discuss the direction of Student Success, focusing on Careers. Whilst there may be a reduction in one-on-one careers counselling, it will still be available. Student Success will be focusing on small groups and the creation of networks and experiences to improve employability. We raised concerns about the potential loss of expertise and specialisation in the new model, as well as accessibility for financially disadvantaged students and the support offered to international students. As Maddy has been in her job for less than a fortnight, her responses were very generalised. She took note of our concerns and we will be meeting again in a month. Daniel spoke to the value of having not only experiences embedded in learning, but learning embedded in experience (for instance, internships that have educative components).

Education Committee

Education committee met for the first time on the 8th December at 5.15pm. The minutes will be available through the UMSU website once they are approved. Committee members were pleased with the budget, including the increase of money and amount given to the campaigns, projects, and special events line. There was some robust discussion, but all motions were passed (with some amendments). It's looking to be a great year with a wonderful committee.

National Union of Students National Conference

Sinead attended the National Union of Students National Conference from the 12th-16th December. Her report was submitted to council, and can be provided upon request.

'Meet and Greet' with Deputy Provost Susan Elliott

On 19th December, the President, General Secretary, Education (Academic), and Education (Public) OBs met with Deputy Provost Sue Elliott. This was a general meeting to broadly discuss our respective agendas for 2017. The closure of MUSUL, and the changes to the role of UMSU General Manager were discussed, as were the upcoming infrastructure changes (particularly the Melbourne Metro, Student Precinct, and Science Buildings).

From this, a number of Student Representative meetings have been set up, dealing with: Higher Education Policy; Major Projects (infrastructure); and Asialink & Diplomacy. These meetings will take place in late January 2017.

Sue Elliott highlighted several areas the university is keen to improve regarding students. These included improving orientation, issues around international student rights, increasing the friendships/relationships between local and international students, increasing English language support for both local and international students, and the peer support program (part of Academic Skills). Certainly, the Education (Public) Office can help with some of these issues, alongside other departments. In particular, we are looking to increase the available information around students' rights (such as the Working While Studying booklet).

The Policy Engagement Program (PEP) was also raised at this meeting. Sue Elliott offered to put the Education (Public) Office and our volunteers in contact with the University's Higher Education Policy Unit, and the Government Team. She also highlighted the Women in Politics program at the University.

Faculty Clubs Network

We met with the Clubs Officers on the 19th January to discuss the Branch Out program, as well as the Faculty Education Network. We are excited to get to know education officers throughout clubs and societies. We are ensuring an open communication between clubs and the education department, facilitated through meet-ups, Facebook and the upcoming clubs wiki. We will be reaching out to the clubs that have already signed up to our department in the coming days.

Young Workers Centre Meeting

Education Public is keen to create partnerships and explore ways of better advocating for student's right at work. The department has begun liaising with the Young Workers Centre, which is a one-stop-shop for young workers who want to learn more about their rights at work or who need assistance in resolving workplace issues. A host of organising and campaign ideas were discussed, including O-weeks stalls, workshops, organising meetings, camps, and assistance with on-campus campaigns for student's rights at work.

Victorian Education Action Network (VEAN) Meeting

On the 12th January, the VEAN met to discuss the National Union of Students (NUS) Free Education campaign and upcoming NDA on March 22nd. This meeting was almost entirely attended by members of the Labor Party and Socialist Alternative.

At one point, a senior NUS representative criticised student media for its critical portrayal of the NUS and stated he would actively pursue student reporters in order to make them publish positive articles and advertisements. Sinead would suggest that improving the NUS would lead to better articles being published about it.

FUTURE PLANS

General Education Forum

The first General Education Forum is scheduled for the 30th March in Training Room 1. This will be an opportunity for PEP and SRN members, as well as the OBs, to present their work. As well as for students to come to us with issues and concerns. The General Education Forum will act as the Education Collective for 2017.

EdPub@Pub

The first EdPub@Pub event has been scheduled for 5.30pm 2nd March at Tsubu. This is a chance for students to engage informally with the department. Future EdPub@Pub events will have speakers or themes as appropriate.

Summerfest 2017

The education department has been planning events for Summerfest 2017. These include an education chill out zone, filming a fee deregulation short film, a papier mache Simon Birmingham (to play carnival games with), a stall with the Young Workers Centre, an excursion to the exhibition "Don't be too Polite: Posters and Activism" at the Potter on campus (with curator talks), a human library picnic, and a roaming silent disco during the UMSU sleepover. There will be a competition running throughout Summerfest too (What's in the box? Your art could be in the box!). We will also run regular events in week one such as EdPub@Pub, as well as PEP and SRN meetings.

- Education stall, with chill out zone, and carnival-game: 21st February
- Filming: 21–23rd February
- Sleepover silent disco: 24th February
- Young Workers Stall: Date TBA
- Potter excursion/coffee: 28th February
- EdPub@Pub: 2nd March
- Human Library Picnic: 2nd March

EXPENSES

The following motions regarding expenditure were passed at the Education Committee meeting on the 8th December:

Motion 7: That the remaining money be moved from the 2016 Education budget to pay for tote bags and a DJ for the 'Dance Against Dereg' event, for Summer Fest/ O-Week.

Motion 8: That \$500 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for badges/buttons and edible giveaways for Summer Fest/ O-Week.

Motion 9: That \$1500 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for a DJ for the 'Dance against Dereg' event in Summer Fest/ O-Week.

Motion 10: That \$2000 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for an Education booklet for Summer Fest/ O-Week.

Motion 11: That \$400 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for magnets for Summer Fest/ O-Week.

Motion 12: That \$1000 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for desk calendars for Summer Fest/ O-Week.

Motion 13: That up to \$3,800 be moved from the Printing budget line to pay for the printing of the 2017 Counter-Course Handbook.

Motion 14: That up to \$3000 be passed from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for the creation of a new Counter-Course Handbook website, to advertise and to incentivise submissions.

Motion 15: That up to \$50 be passed from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for advertising of volunteering programs, particularly PEP through Facebook advertising.

Education (Academic)

Roger spoke to the Education (Academic) report.

The Student Representative Network

The Student Representative Network (SRN) have been appointed and contacted, with governance training due to be held in early February. We are working with Advocacy to get this organised, and are also getting the new SRN online portal and forum ready for use this year. We're excited to get it launched and all users engaged, so that our SRN members can report on university committees and advocate on students' behalf as effectively as possible.

The Counter Course Handbook

The Counter Course Handbook in 2017 will be published in two forms; print and online via our new website. We have been working with a talented web designer to get this up and running as quickly as possible, with the launch date tentatively set for early February. The printed edition will remain similar to years past, and is almost ready to go to print. We are encouraging subject review submissions now, via our Facebook page and reaching out through clubs - take this chance to have your say! We encourage all students to submit a review of their favourite/most hated subjects, to build a strong resource helping all students in the future. Once the website is up and running reviews will be able to be submitted at any time directly.

Projected pricing of the Counter Course Online has increased, with the new quote being \$5,380. This rise is due to further research and planning by the web designer, and the moderation facility which is required for legal reasons. We have been told that this is a final quote, but would still like to have some small flexibility with our budget, just in case, and to keep room for incentivising and promoting the site.

Academic Skills and Careers Services changes

The proposed changes to the Academic Skills service have been resolved, with the same level of support remaining available to students. The Careers service is undergoing a complete restructure, and we have been in touch regarding future plans and changes. Along with the President, General Secretary and Education (Public) departments, we intend to stay involved at every step of the process to ensure that students are not neglected.

Summerfest activities

With Education (Public), we have been planning events and promotional materials for the orientation period. These will take the form of a stall with attached activities; a silent roaming disco during O-Week; a visit to the Potter Museum; a 'Human Library' opportunity to hear and share academic experience and advice, amongst others.

We are also compiling a new Education Guide, with information about the department, student concerns and ways to get involved.

Tote bags and other promotional merchandise will be ordered within the next week, and the Education Guide and printed version of the Counter Course Handbook will be sent to the Comms department and then to print on Sunday, January 22nd.

By next report, we will have our printed materials sent to the Comms department and the printer; Summerfest merchandise ordered and events advertised; the Counter Course Online will hopefully be launched, and governance training for the SRN will be organised.

Motion 5: To approve and accept the Education (Public) and the Education (Academic) Office Bearers' Reports en bloc.

Comments: Mindi requested that discussion be had around each report separately. After it was decided that Education (Public) would be discussed first, she said that PEP sounded great and enquired about the selection process. Sinead outlined that interviews would be held, with a selection panel composed of the Education (Public) officers and a more objective UMSU party such as Goldie or Yas. Training will be provided for PEP volunteers. It's an ongoing project which will continue long term. PEP will have a different structure to the EAGs and Education Collectives of years past, but no roles or opportunities will be lost in this new structure.

Conor enquired as to when interviews would be held, and Sinead said to expect it in the next few weeks. Hannah asked if PEP would be open to first year students. It will be open through O-Week.

Mover: Kasey Seconder: Alexander

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

6. **Other Reports**

Nil

7. **Motions on Notice**

Motion 6: That up to \$600 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for illustrations and graphic design.

Motion 7: That an additional \$3000 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events budget line to pay for the Counter Course Online website, and for advertising and incentivising.

Comments: Sinead spoke to having to pay the designer. Roger spoke to the need for extra funds for the Counter Course Online, and advice received from the Comms department that this amount remains standard for the work required.

(Motions 6 & 7 are moved en bloc)

Mover: Conor Seconder: Katherine

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

8. **Other Business**

VEAN Meeting / NUS Campaign

Mindi spoke about the most recent VEAN meeting, noting the high attendance and activity on other campuses including poster runs, radio, and working groups. She urged members of the committee to read the minutes online and submit any ideas for building the campaign. Mindi also spoke on the NUS Welfare/ Centrelink campaign and asked if committee members were engaging with it.

Sinead spoke about her NUS NatCon report, and let everyone know that if they were interested in reading it, it's available online or they can message her and she will send it to them.

Gulsara, UMSU Clubs and Societies Officer, spoke on the new Branch Out initiative connecting clubs. The Faculty Education Network will allow the Education Officers of each faculty club to interact with each other and with the UMSU Education Committee and OBs. The initiative is currently opt-in, and has won the support of 30/50 faculty clubs. Club regulations will change to ensure that Education Officers from faculty clubs will have to liaise with each other and the UMSU department, and the role will be formalised.

9. **Next Meeting**

TBA

10. **Close**

Meeting closed at: 3:46 PM