

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

CONFIRMED Minutes

12 PM, 3.2.2015

Meeting 4

Location: Training Rooms

Meeting opened at 12.25 by Rachel Withers

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Rachel Withers be elected Chair

Mover: Patrick Clearwater

Seconder: Rachel Withers

CARRIED

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

OBs: Rachel Withers (President), Hana Dalton (General Secretary), Lynley Eavis (Media), Madeleine Cleeve Gerkins (Media), Simon Farley (Media), Martin Ditmann (Media) James Baker (Activities), Hayden Michaelides (Activities), Susannah Gordon (Disabilities), Sasha Chong (Disabilities), Lucy Curtis (Wom*ns), Andrea Bozic (Queer), Lloyd Rouse (Queer), Isabella Vadiveloo (Creative Arts), James Bashford (Welfare), Allison Ballantyne (Wom*ns), Daniel Sullivan (Environment), Bonnie Leigh-Dodds (Creative Arts), Van Rudd (VCA), Tyson Holloway-Clarke (Indigenous)

Councillors: Karly Banks, Ezgi Bridger (Disabilities Rep), Patrick Dollard, Stephen Mitas, Benjamin Fourniotis (Graduate Rep), Danielle Bagnato, Jincheng Zou (Sabrina), Sarah Xia, Ada Chan, Lachlan Gell, Lia Vassiliadis, Steven Connolly

Others: Maddee Clark, Patrick Clearwater, Lachlan McCall, Liam Leyden, Rebekah Drake, Bren Carruthers, Michael O'Donnell

Apologies

Lauren Englefield (Environment), Stephen Smith (C&S)

1.4 Proxies

Destan Dikbas to Sarah Xia

Akira Boardman to Ezgi Bridger

Amba-Rose Atkinson to Maddee Clark

Itsi Weinstock to Karly Banks

Glenn Davies to Patrick Clearwater

Jakob von der Lippe to Danielle Bagnato

Karly Banks to Marlo Zambelli

Feifei Liao to Ada Chan

Steven Connolly to Lachie Gell

Charles Gerrand to Liam Leyden

1.5 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the ordering of the agenda be changed to 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 4 and 5

Mover: Rachel Withers (Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion 3: That the Minutes of inquorate meetings 1, 2 and 3 be confirmed as a true and accurate record

Mover: Rachel Withers (Chair)

CARRIED

3. General Manager's Report and Introduction to UMSU

Justin Baré gave a brief introduction to UMSU, outlining UMSU's key relationships, funding situation and a brief history.

Justin also talked about the Facilities and Services Agreement with MUSUL which has been in negotiation since 2013, and suggested that the President be delegated the power to sign the FSA since we are hopefully close to signing the final documents. Council will also get a copy circulated.

Motion 4: That UMSU Students' Council delegates the responsibility of signing the FSA to the President of UMSU, Rachel Withers

Mover: Patrick Clearwater

Seconder: Simon Farley

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

4. Other Reports

Report from Rose Steele and Tom Nock – President and General Secretary of the National Union of Students,

Rosa and Tom spoke briefly about the history of NUS, the importance of a central Student Union and some of the campaigns that NUS has run. They talked further about their budget, and issues with the sustainability of the organisation.

There was discussion about the cuts to the NUS Disabilities, Environment and Indigenous Departments, the need for a culture change within the organisation and the ongoing viability of the organisation.

Rosa and Tom reported that they had made significant headway in the financial transparency of the organisation - and all financial annual returns are up to date with the relevant authority. There are further plans for reducing the burden of funding the NUS by diversifying the income streams available.

A proposed budget was requested by Councillors.

5. Motions on Notice

5.1 2015 UMSU Budget and preamble

Preamble: The University of Melbourne Student Union 2015 budget sets out an ambitious plan against a turbulent funding environment. The key theme of the budget is **community**—building a student union that students naturally feel they belong to. Major initiatives aimed at this are:

- developing UMSU's volunteer programmes, particularly through the UMSU Mentoring Network;
- funding MUDFest, which is anticipated to be one of the highlights of the 2015 calendar;
- seed funding for UMSU Student Radio;
- allocating the Student Initiative Fund, providing short-term funding to student-led projects;
- introducing a Special Activity Weeks fund, to bring back Disorientation Week, fund existing well-loved weeks such as Stress Less Week, as well as provide for an UMSU 10th Birthday Party;
- introducing a fund for events held at campuses which do not presently have a filled Committee (that is, University of Melbourne campuses other than Parkville and the VCA). This ensures that all students have access to SSAF-funded activities.

From Justin Baré's budget memorandum:

As a result of flaws in the implementation of the revised Collective Agreement staffing costs were not accurately budgeted for in the 2014 UMSU Budget. For 2015 this means that there will be a one-off spike in the salaries budget relative to the previous year.

In 2014 UMSU staffing costs — excluding AV@Melbourne and the Advocacy Service which are not funded from the main SSAF allocation — were budgeted to be \$2 115 742. In 2015 the equivalent figure is \$2 393 561.

This is an increase of \$277 909. UMSU's SSAF allocation will increase by \$122 434.

These increased staffing costs had to be absorbed into the budget as decreases in other lines in order for the budget to remain balanced.

Office bearer honoraria has been cut by \$100 for full-time office bearers and \$66 for part-time office bearers, saving close to \$2,000 that may otherwise have been felt by another department or budget line. Education, Welfare, Environment, Indigenous, Queer, Wom*n's and Disabilities have risen by \$1000 each, while Media, VCA and Arts have been reduced (nb: some of this money has been used for MUDFest).

These cuts have aimed to have minimal effect on service provision to students.

Overall, the budget is balanced, which is appropriate given uncertainty over the future of the Student Services and Amenities Fee.

Motion: That the Students' Council—

1. adopts the budget set out in Appendix A as the University of Melbourne Student Union budget for 2015;
2. fixes the honoraria for the Media Officers at 1.0 × the full time rate for the term 1 Jan 2015 — 30 Nov 2015;
3. directs the President to write or review policies for expenditure of:
 - a. Whole of Union and the Student Initiative Fund;
 - b. the Special Activities Week fund; and
 - c. the non-Parkville events fund;
4. provides that the NUS Affiliation fee will be paid only after the National Union of Students has:
 - a. sent minutes of the 2014 National Conference (Annual General Meeting), Education Conference to its affiliates; and posted them publicly on its website or Facebook with an undertaking to publish them on the website in the future;
 - b. sent a list of all affiliated organisations, and their assessed affiliation fees (including the minutes of the Fees Review Committee, National Executive and other decision-making organs relevant to those fee reviews) to its affiliates; and posted them publicly on its website or Facebook with an undertaking to publish them on the website in the future;
 - c. sent the 2014 reports of the Accreditation Committee to its affiliates; and posted them publicly on its website or Facebook with an undertaking to publish them on the website in the future;
 - d. certifies that it has submitted its Annual Return for 2014 to the relevant authority and has provided a written commitment to submitting the outstanding Annual Returns, with ongoing reports on progress until done so;
 - e. provided to the Students' Council a copy of its proposed budget for 2015.

Moved: Rachel Withers

Seconded: Pat Dollard

Questions from the floor regarding the Contingency line in the Budget, its outcome on the SSAF negotiations later in the year, and the reasoning behind its existence.

Justin Baré outlined his preference for a Contingency line in the budget – as our turnover increases, there are inevitable unplanned financial impacts. Justin recommends Council develops a policy regarding this fund, and that this is a prudent financial decision.

Ezgi Bridger requests an amendment to the proposed motion

Amendment 1: To move \$14,000 from the contingency budget line to the NUS Affiliation Fee budget line, to move \$1000 from the contingency budget line to the VCASA Budget Line, and \$2000 from the Off Campus Grants Budget Line to the VCASA Budget Line.

Mover: Ezgi Bridger

Seconder: James Bashford

This amendment is not acceptable to the mover of the original motion, Rachel Withers.

Discussion surrounding NUS National Conference, funding levels to NUS and the need for a strong central union during a Liberal government.

Discussion surrounding bullying allegations and National Conference, the need for a culture change within the NUS, and whether such a change is possible.

Discussion surrounding VCA funding, the concept of the VCA Union Dept being a whole Union, and the need for Parkville OBs to go down to the VCA and run more events/integrate more with the campus.

1:55 pm - Bonnie and Bella left

Discussion surrounding the off-campus grants budget line. More discussion surrounding the need to integrate with NUS, and that OBs should try to involve themselves with NUS to improve it.

Request that UMSU should start applying local pressure to the Uni and politicians – as the top Uni in the country, we should be petitioning our VC to make change for good.

Martin Ditmann requests that the amendment be split into two, so the VCA part is dealt with differently from the NUS part – this is not acceptable to the mover of the amendment.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: To put the amendment to a vote

Mover: Karly Banks

CARRIED

Motion 5; Amendment 1: To move \$14,000 from the contingency budget line to the NUS Affiliation Fee budget line, to move \$1000 from the contingency budget line to the VCASA Budget Line, and \$2000 from the Off Campus Grants Budget Line to the VCASA Budget Line.

Mover: Ezgi Bridger

Seconder: James Bashford

MOTION LOST

Maddee Clarke requests an amendment to the original motion, adding a part 4f:

Amendment 2: f) demonstrated what steps it will take to support the Indigenous, environment, international and disabled students to the satisfaction of the relevant autonomous offices at UMSU

This is amenable to the mover of the original motion, Rachel Withers and seconder Pat Dollard

Motion 6: That the Students' Council—

1. adopts the budget set out in Appendix A as the University of Melbourne Student Union budget for 2015;

2. fixes the honoraria for the Media Officers at 1.0 × the full time rate for the term 1 Jan 2015 — 30 Nov 2015;

- 3.** directs the President to write or review policies for expenditure of:
- a.** Whole of Union and the Student Initiative Fund;
 - b.** the Special Activities Week fund; and
 - c.** the non-Parkville events fund;
- 4.** provides that the NUS Affiliation fee will be paid only after the National Union of Students has:
- a.** sent minutes of the 2014 National Conference (Annual General Meeting), Education Conference to its affiliates; and posted them publicly on its website or Facebook with an undertaking to publish them on the website in the future;
 - b.** sent a list of all affiliated organisations, and their assessed affiliation fees (including the minutes of the Fees Review Committee, National Executive and other decision-making organs relevant to those fee reviews) to its affiliates; and posted them publicly on its website or Facebook with an undertaking to publish them on the website in the future;
 - c.** sent the 2014 reports of the Accreditation Committee to its affiliates; and posted them publicly on its website or Facebook with an undertaking to publish them on the website in the future;
 - d.** certifies that it has submitted its Annual Return for 2014 to the relevant authority and has provided a written commitment to submitting the outstanding Annual Returns, with ongoing reports on progress until done so;
 - e.** provided to the Students' Council a copy of its proposed budget for 2015.
 - f.** demonstrated what steps it will take to support the Indigenous, environment, international and disabled students to the satisfaction of the relevant autonomous offices at UMSU

Mover: Rachel Withers

Seconder: Pat Dollard

CARRIED

Maddee Clarke and Leah Vassiliadis left at 2:15pm

QUORUM LOST

Meeting closed at 2:16pm