

**Confirmed minutes of the Education Committee**

**Meeting 5 of the Education Committee**

**Tuesday 24 May 2016**

**Meeting opened: 13:48 PM**

**Location: Graham Cornish A, Level Two, Union House**

**1. Procedural Matters**

**1.1 Election of Chair**

**Motion 1:** That Akira Boardman be elected Chair.  
**Mover:** Akira Boardman **Seconder:** Amelia Saward  
  
Carried without dissent.

**1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners**

So acknowledged.

**1.3 Attendance**

Committee members: Daniel Sullivan, Timothy Dunn, Amelia Saward, Roger Samuel

Office Bearers: Dominic Cernaz (Education Public), Akira Boardman (Education Public)

**1.4 Apologies**

Paul Sakkal (Education Public), Stylianos Nikias

**1.5 Proxies**

Nil.

**1.6 Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion 2:** That the agenda be adopted as presented.  
**Mover:** Akira Boardman **Seconder:** Timothy Dunn  
  
Carried without dissent.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Minutes from meeting of May 9

**Motion 3:** That the previous minutes of May 9 are adopted.  
**Mover:** Akira Boardman **Seconder:** Roger Samuel  
  
Carried without dissent.

### 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

### 4. Office Bearers' Reports



University of Melbourne Student Union

Report of  
Akira Boardman and Dominic Cernaz  
Education (Public Affairs) Officer

To Education Committee  
9/05/2016

#### 4.1 Education (Public Affairs) OB Report

#### Key activities

##### UMSU Budget Breakdown

We held the UMSU Budget Breakdown was held in South Court prior to the NDA on May 11. It was seen as a way to increase engagement, particularly amongst those that don't like to go along to rallies. Various UMSU departments were involved in the process and spoke at the event, outlining the attacks in the Federal Budget. We also had a BBQ and a strong UMSU presence with plenty of purple and the marquees.

##### Enrolled people to vote & election

We heavily promoted Enrol to Vote material as part of the lead up to the Federal Election. It's part of our role to ensure students are aware of how the election will effect Higher Education and, as a result, we want to make sure all students will be able to have their say.

##### NDA 2

The second NDA was viewed as a budget response and part of ensuring that higher education is an election issue. It was held on May 11, beforehand we held the UMSU Budget Breakdown before going to the State Library with a contingent from the Uni. Plenty of students came out and we were happy with the result

##### Constant stalls

In order to engage the student population we have run multiple stalls across the semester. They have been an extremely effective way to engage students. We often have people wanting to discuss broader federal education policy, as well as on campus issues and also issues specific to them. These have included issues regarding Stop1, timetabling problems or wanting to find out more about deregulation.

##### Ran the EAG all semester

Throughout the year we have run the Education Action Group roughly every fortnight. It has been really successful and been a productive tool in planning events and having discussion. It is an important forum for us to come together and work together.

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Report of  
Tom Crowley and Paul Sakkal  
Education (Academic Affairs) Officers**

**To Education Committee  
9/05/2016**

**Key Activities**

**The Student Representative Network**

The most important part of the Education Academic office's work is its interaction with policymakers in the university hierarchy. This happens on university committees, on which student representatives are entitled to sit, from faculty standing committees all the way up to the powerful Academic Board. There are dozens of student representative committees, too numerous to be filled by two Education Academic officers alone (although we do sit on several each). To assist us in our representative duties, we recruit a network of student representatives each year. As well as sitting on committees, these representatives meet as a group every fortnight at meetings we chair, so as to discuss the major academic policy issues of the day and increase our sample size in gauging 'students' perspective' on major issues. This year, the SRN is 70-strong, the biggest it has ever been. The discussions we have in SRN meetings are productive and useful, and coordinating our representatives is an important part of our regular work.

**Academic and General Misconduct Hearings**

When students are accused of misconduct, the university mandates that their sentence be handed down by a jury of three, of which one must be a student. The Education Academic office trains and provides students to serve as jurors on these misconduct hearings. We have trained close to a dozen representatives, and have ourselves sat on multiple hearings throughout the academic year. This is an important duty, and one we take very seriously. We are pleased to note that the university has recently passed a series of changes to the range of penalties that can be handed down to students. These new penalties have been arrived at after extensive consultation with UMSU and, in our belief, are fairer for students.

**Calculators in exams**

The university services division responsible for oversight of examinations announced late last year a proposal to implement a single prescribed calculator for all exams, and to provide this calculator to students, a policy which received in-principle support from student representatives. Without consultation, the university altered this policy to require students to buy a specific type of calculator. We did not feel that this financial imposition for the sake of administrative convenience was justified, especially given that most students would already have a perfectly functional and acceptable scientific calculator but find themselves unable to use it. We made this clear to the university and achieved a positive outcome; the policy was referred back to the Examinations Reference Group, on which one of the Education Officers sits, for re-evaluation.

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

**Mover:** Akira Boardman

**Secunder:** Roger Samuel

Carried without dissent.

## 5. Motions on Notice

### 5.1 Amendment to Education Department Budget

**Preamble:** We have become aware that the Grants budget line is not appropriate for conference subsidies. The same motion was passed last year as the it was found the current amount of \$2000 to be inadequate.

**Motion 5:** That \$1500 allocated currently to the Campaigns Special Projects and Events budget line be transferred to the Grants budget line

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz                      **Seconder:** Timothy Dunn  
Carried without dissent

### 5.2 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.

Dominic spoke on this motion

Daniel Sullivan spoke on the importance of the written reports

**Motion 6:** To pass up to \$3,500 from the Grants budget line for the purpose of subsidies to be given to students attending the NUS Education Conference, and to empower a panel comprising of at least two of the Education Officers (Akira Boardman and Dominic Cernaz, Tom Crowley and Paul Sakkal).

Preference will be given to

- i) first time attendees
  - ii) applicants whose attendance is contingent upon financial support
  - iii) those part of a marginalised group
- a) Applicants must
- i) be truthful when providing information and filing out the form
  - 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 that has been distributed via social media.

Applications will close at 5PM on Sunday 29 May and will be processed on Monday 30 May

Applications will be considered blind, without personal information to ensure equity.

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz                      **Seconder:** Roger Samuel  
Carried without dissent

**6. Motions not on Notice**

**6.1 Purchasing of pen giveaway at SWOTVAC Support Stall**

Dominic Cernaz spoke on the purchasing of branded pens with a political message

**Motion 7:** To pass up to \$350 from Campaigns Special Projects and Events budget line for the purchasing of pens as a giveaway

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz  
Carried without dissent

**Second:** Akira Boardman

**6.2 Purchasing of stickers for the SWOTVAC Support Stall**

Dominic Cernaz spoke on the purchasing of branded stickers with a political message

**Motion 8:** To pass up to \$250 from Campaigns Special Projects and Events budget line for the purchasing of stickers to put on cups at the SWOTVAC Support Stall.

**Mover:** Dominic Cernaz  
Carried without dissent

**Second:** Timothy Dunn

**7. Next Meeting**

TBA.

**8. Close**

Meeting closed at 13:57