

Disabilities committee meeting
Minutes to be confirmed
Meeting 7; 5pm, 13th June 2017
Location: OB Space, Union House

0. Meeting opening

Meeting opened at 5:28pm

1. Procedural matters

1.1. Election of chair

That Yasmine Liu be elected chair
Mover: Alston Chu
Seconder: Lee Winter
Carried without dissent

1.2. Acknowledgement of traditional custodians of the land

Done by Yas

1.3. Attendance

Committee:

Christian Tsoutsouvas
Amy Bartholemeusz
Lee Winter
Jacinta Dowe (by phone, departing 5:55pm)
Russel Wong (arriving 5:40pm)

Observers:

Yasmine Liu (general secretary)
Sinead Manning (education public officer)
Yan Zhuang (president)
Mary Ntalianis (media officer)
Daniel Beratis (students' councillor)
Gavin Wayne (students' councillor)
Sonia Lim
Alston Chu
Cassandra Prigg

1.4. Apologies

None received

1.5. Proxies

None received

1.6. Membership

No changes

1.7. Adoption of agenda

That the agenda be adopted
Mover: Yasmine Liu
Carried without dissent

2. Confirmation of previous minutes and subsequent matters

Gavin enquires as to the status of the harm reduction grant mentioned in the minutes of meeting 5

Alston and Cassandra note that having deferred the motion until the receipt of a formal student grant application, the department has yet to receive such an application

That the minutes be confirmed
Mover: Yasmine Liu
Carried without dissent

3. Correspondence

None received

4. Office bearers' reports

Done verbally

5. Business & motions on notice

5.1. Auslan (again)

Alston voices his belief that as UMSU needs to pay GST, additional money will need to be passed in order to pay VicDeaf for the provision of semester 1 Auslan classes
Yas corrects, explaining that the finance department handles GST payment and recovery transparently to departments and committees

5.2. Disabilities Conference

Cassandra reports her ongoing organisational work on the inaugural disabilities conference

Recaps on the NUS's lack of progress for the natcon motion for a conference attached to natcon

Details current planned date: the 16th & 17th of September

Recounts the UMSU president's correspondence with chancellery to attain spaces

Voices the importances of a feasibility & scoping given the conference's inaugural nature

Reports on correspondence with other student unions, disability activists, and initiatives

Invites questions

Russel enquires as to theme and targetting

Cassandra indicates that the theme is "Radical Existence & Community Resistance" and that the conference is primarily targeted towards students

Yas enquires as to expected attendance

Cassandra suggests a speculative attendance of 50-100, emphasising the importance of carefully considered scoping

Procedural: to move point 6 before 5.3

Mover: Yas

Carried without dissent

6. Other business & motions not on notice

No other business raised

5.3. Office Bearer Appointment

That Yas be elected returning officer

Mover: Yas

Carried without dissent

Yas describes applications received, and calls for final nominations

Yas closes nominations at 5:46pm

Yas invites statements in ballot order, ensuing what Alston describes as “quality bants”

Amy begins her statement

Expresses her passion for fighting for student rights

Describes her access to relevant resources, connections, & skills

Describes her personal experiences meeting difficulty when attempting to access services

Expresses acknowledgement of the previous work that has been put into the department

Russel asks about Amy’s year level

Amy responds that she is a 3rd year Bachelor of Arts student

Cass asks about Amy’s lack of attendance

Amy responds that she has been busy with class, and with activity in the PoC, welfare, and education departments

Considering this, Russel asks about prioritisation of department commitments

Amy responds that she would hope the situation would not occur, but would prioritise the disabilities department as officer

Sonia asks what Amy’s first action upon election

Amy responds that her first actions would be continuation of regular events and collaboration with external organisations

Russel asks what should be changed about the department

Amy responds that not much should be changed, expresses respect for the work of previous officers

Daniel asks about concrete differences between Amy and the previous officers

Amy responds, highlighting her involvement with external organisations and other departments

Sinead asks if Amy’s goals can be achieved through committee, and of her experience with the union

Amy responds that she is still learning and was recently appointed to her position on committee

Raw minute-taking shifts from Alston to Sinead

Cass and Alston begin their statement

Alston describes the length of his involvement with the union and department

Alston expresses his belief in community building as a method to produce material improvement, references the strong cultural identity of the Deaf community

Alston describes his connections within the union, and with other office bearers

Cass expresses that she feels Alston and she have done a really good job in the term thus far and describes activities, touching on screenings, support group, collective, Auslan, advocacy, chancellery, UMSU’s DAP, creative arts collaboration, disability conference

Cass describes Alston and her’s complementary strengths and expresses her belief that two co-office bearers would have greater capacity than a singular office bearer

Cass expresses that she aims tow work towards broad accessibility, intersectionality, and investing work into the future

Russel asks about the circumstances of Cass’s missing council and subsequent cessation of officership

Cass responds, expressing that difficulty attending things is a part of disability, and that she does not anticipate this situation to reoccur due to her improving health

Sonia asks about the number one objective

Alston responds that the number one objective would be SEDS & host program cross-promotion to ensure collective intake

Cass responds stating that the department is multifaceted and intersectional, making specifying individual objectives or goals as important difficult

Lee asks the candidates what they are most proud of having done

Cass responds that it is the AAP, elaborating on its importance

Alston responds that it is connection building with the uni

Gavin asks about tangible steps to avoid repeated breach of the attendance requirement, given that it is a key duty as outlined in the constitution

Cass responds stating that the union could make improvements in commitment accessibility and that her health has improved, details changes she has made

Alston responds detailing personal experiences, expressing that he feels the most important changes are not tangible

Gavin suggests that organisational changes could be made at constitutional working group

Lee asks if reappointment would be sought if the situation were to happen again

Cass responds that she does not anticipate this should happen, but that if it did it would be a result of seriously deteriorated health, and that she feels it would be then appropriate for her to resign

Sonia asks what the most important thing to achieve would be given that there are only a few months left in the term

Cass responds that she does not accept the premise, and that many objectives are already being worked on

Raw minute-taking shifts from Sinead to Alston

Yas reads the written statements submitted by Elle Ketterer and Brandon Bezuidenhout and calls for final comments

Yas details that ballots will be optional, preferential, and proportional

7. Next meeting

To be confirmed

8. Close

Meeting closed at 6:20pm