

University of Melbourne Student Union

Minutes of the Education Committee

Meeting 5/09

CONFIRMED

5:30 PM at Friday, 13th March 2009

Location: OB space 1st floor, Union House



Agenda

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 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- 2.1 Minutes from meeting on 05-02-2009
- 2.2 Minutes from meeting on 19-02-2009
- 2.3 Minutes from meeting on 06-03-2009
- 2.4 Minutes from meeting on 10-03-2009 (waiting for minutes to be received)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. Office Bearers' Reports

- 5.1 Education (public affairs) office bearers' report

6. Motions on Notice

- 6.1 Reimbursement for Stationery
- 6.2 Reimbursement for Campaign B
- 6.3 NUS t-shirts
- 6.4 Donation to Bushfire Appeal
- 6.5 Palestine Solidarity Week

7. Other Business

- 7.1 Meeting Schedule for Education Committee

8. Next Meeting

9. Close

Meeting opened at: 5:30 PM, by Gemma Leigh-Dodds

Agenda Item 1; Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Gemma Leigh-Dodds be chair for ed committee 5/09
Moved: Gemma Leigh-Dodds Seconded: Laura Harris
CWD

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

1.3 Attendance

Liam Byrne, Phoebe Kelloway, Onagh Bishop, Hannah Hayman, Sadia Schneider, Tim Arnot (Education Public Affairs), Laura Harris and Gemma Leigh-Dodds (Education Academic Affairs).

Acknowledgment that the meeting is valid despite less notice being given on account of the majority (four members) confirming to hold the meeting at this time, and with the remaining three proxying with no objections.

Absent

Nicholas Baum, Yoni Cukierman, Evan Wallace

1.4 Apologies

None

1.5 Proxies

Yoni Cukierman to Jesse Overton-Skinner, Evan Wallace to Matt Incerti and Nicholas Baum to Rachel Lim.

1.6 Membership

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted.
Moved: Phoebe Kelloway Seconded: Hannah Hayman
CARRIED

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion 3: That the minutes from previous Education Committee meeting be confirmed.
Moved: Chair
CARRIED

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising from the Minutes

Agenda Item 4: Correspondence

Agenda Item 5: Office Bearers' Reports

5.1 Education Public Affairs Office Bearer Report

Discussion around the report included Onagh seeking clarification over why money was being spent on NUS t-shirts if the Ed Public office wasn't supporting the NUS Demand a Better Future Campaign. Ed Public officers said they weren't running the campaign because it wasn't critical of the Rudd Government.

Procedural Motion: That committee suspend discussion around the NDA, that the motions be put to a vote and return to the discussion.
Moved: Liam Byrne
CWD

oppressions. He noted that the week was to celebrate culture, and that there was a long history of solidarity and support for Palestine from around the world. Countries he specifically named were Sri Lanka, Ireland and Malaysia.

Matt asked A) How was the Ed Public office was assisting with the events and what were the events planned? What was the solidarity being organised against? B) He voiced concern over the violence that had been seen previously on campus, and made specific reference to 2006, as a result of tension around the Palestine/Israel debate. He wanted to know how the Ed Public department would deal with violence on campus as a result of Palestine Solidarity Week.

Sadia answered that the primary objective of the week was to raise-awareness as there is a deprivation of knowledge on the issue. There would be information provided such as history of the region and the occupation and photos of the region on pin boards including newspaper articles and maps. The main event for the week will be on Tuesday and will involve a 'bazaar' style event for clubs and societies to have their own stalls with info about their club, the union and Palestine. There will also be Palestinian art and music. Sadia stated that Skif had been invited to have a stall, and this was an example of diversity in the event and allowed as many voices as possible. On Wednesday, the main event will be a forum in the evening where Antony Loewenstein will speak. There will also be an open-air Arabic lesson. Sadia said this will be a chance for Palestinian culture can be embraced out in the open, which is important especially because of all the anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment that exists. The last night of the week will hold a cross-campus feast with Arabic and Palestinian music, comedy and a performance by The Brotherhood. This night will also be a fundraiser for a hospital in Gaza.

Matt then asked who would be providing the information that would be displayed.

Sadia answered that it would be up to a democratic collective and that clubs and societies could add particular information.

Liam then asked to answer the second part of Matt's initial question.

He said that we are now in a very different political climate to 2006, in relation to violence on campus, and that the event is supposed to be inclusive.

Procedural Motion: That speaking time be limited to 1 minute, 30 seconds.

Moved: Tim Arnot

CARRIED

Hannah asked if MUJSS was invited to the event, would they come and set up a stall. There was discussion as to whether anyone present was a member of MUJSS.

Procedural Motion: That the motion be voted upon.

Moved: Jesse Overton-Skinner

For: 3 Against: 4

LOST

Hannah asked that it be noted that when she asked a direct question, it was not answered and a procedural was moved.

Jesse and Rachel said they are members of MUJSS but they would not speak on behalf of MUJSS. Jesse responded that in moving the procedural, it was not her intention to ignore the question.

Rachel asked if the Ed Public office would be running cultural awareness weeks for other ethnic groups. She said she would specifically like to see the Ed Public office hold a cultural diversity initiative in relation to Chinese culture.

Tim responded that the issue of Palestine is one of crucial importance to people from Middle-Eastern backgrounds. It is a key issue for people today and this is evident through the outpouring of students to the cause around the world.

Onagh asked that in the next Ed Public report there be a break down of which clubs and societies were involved, and suggested that the Ed Public office bearers show some leadership in inviting a wide range of student groups.

Procedural Motion: That the speaking list be closed during the next speaker.

Moved: Hannah Hayman

CWD

Speaking list closed.

Discussion continued around the fact that emails had been sent by the Ed Public office to UMSU affiliated Clubs and Societies inviting them to take part in Palestine Solidarity Week.

Certain Ed Committee members that are also on executives of UMSU affiliated Clubs and Societies stated that they had not received invitations to be a part of Palestine Solidarity Week. The two that were noted were Jesse (not a voting member of Education Committee), executive of the Labour Club, and Onagh, executive of the ALP Club.

Liam then said that Liberals and anyone who didn't support Palestine would not be invited. He stated that the week was a political statement, not just a cultural week and that it will be diverse.

Laura then said that the discussion between the Ed Public officers and the Ed Academic officers had given the impression that this week would be inclusive, and specifically that it was imperative that the UMSU support this week so that UMSU was seen as being inclusive and relevant to students. The statement by Liam that certain students and student clubs and societies affiliated with UMSU would not be welcome went against this previous description of the week.

Onagh then said that it was in the spirit of the Union to be inclusive and encourage diversity. She said it would be to the detriment of the event if people didn't know about it. She sought clarification from the Ed Public officers that an email would be sent out to all clubs

Sadia confirmed that this email would be sent.

Speaking list exhausted.

Motion 8: That the cross-campus group students for Palestine (formerly Students for Gaza) is planning a Palestine Solidarity Week to begin on Land Day, Monday 30th March. In the event that Students' Council does not allocate funding for Palestine Solidarity week, the following expenditure to be approved. To support this series of cultural and awareness-raising events on campus and to help celebrate Middle-Eastern and Muslim cultures, the Education Committee allocates \$650 to the Palestine Solidarity Week to come from Campaign B line.

Moved: Sadia Schneider

Seconded: Tim Arnot

CARRIED

For: Onagh Bishop, Hannah Hayman, Liam Byrne, Phoebe Kelloway

Against: Jesse Skinner, Matt Incerti, Rachel Lim

Agenda Item 7: Other Business

7.1 Meeting Schedule for Education Committee

Motion 9: That the Education Committee meet every fortnight on Monday at 2.15pm.

Moved: Onagh Bishop, Seconded: Gemma Leigh-Dodds

Motion amended to say: That the Education Committee next meet at 2:15pm, Monday March 23rd and that the meeting schedule for the rest of semester be set at this meeting. Amendment ratified by mover.

CARRIED

For: Liam Byrne, Phoebe Kelloway, Onagh Bishop, Hannah Hayman

Against: Jesse Skinner, Rachel Lim, Matt Incerti.

Agenda Item 8: Next Meeting

Next meeting: 2:15pm, Monday 23rd March in Office Bearer Space

Agenda Item 10: Close

Meeting closed at: 7:10 PM

Certified by Chair:

Signed:

Dated: