

University of Melbourne Student Union

Minutes of the Students' Council

Meeting 14/09

INQUORATE, CONFIRMED

2 PM, 15 July 2009

Location: MUVT Room 1&2, 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 – Staff Leave, Leave of Absence Applications
Nyx Mathews appointed as Acting Wom*n's Officer (23 June).
Stefania Capogreco & Ezekial Gould as Acting Queer Officers (30 June).
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- 2.6 Minutes from Meeting on 03-06-2009

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 3.1 Indigenous Department Vandalism Motion
- 3.2 Cage Free Campus Society
- 3.3 Corporate Charges Invoice (MUSUL)
- 3.4 Balance Sheet Transfer (MUSUL)
- 3.5 Food Co-Op and MUSUL
- 3.6 Tuesday Band and BBQ
- 3.7 Student Newspaper Policy
- 3.8 Book Co-Op
- 3.9 AGM/SGM Venue Confirmation

4. General Manager Report

5. Office Bearers' Reports

- 5.1 President
- 5.2 Secretary
- 5.3 Activities
- 5.4 Arts
- 5.5 Clubs and Societies
- 5.6 Education Academic Affairs
- 5.7 Education Public Affairs

- 5.8 Environment
- 5.9 Indigenous
- 5.10 Media
- 5.11 Queer
- 5.12 Welfare
- 5.13 Wom*n
- 6. Standing Committee Reports**
 - 6.1 Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee Election
- 7. Other Reports**
- 8. Motions on Notice**
 - 8.1 CCC Rally
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Next Meeting**
- 11. Close**

Due to the number of apologies received, the Secretary sent notice on July 13 that the meeting would not reach quorum.

Agenda Item 1: Procedural Matters

1.3 Attendance

Not taken

1.4 Apologies

Stephanie Gold, Dan Musil, Clinton Markwell, James Smith, Phoebe Kelloway, Liam Byrne, Sisi Ying, Goldie Pergl, Mark Peart, Ezekial Gould (Acting Queer), Nyx Mathews (Acting Wom*n's), Carla Drakeford (President)

Agenda Item 10: Close

Certified by Chair:

Signed:

Dated:

University of Melbourne Student Union

Minutes of the Students' Council

Meeting 13/09

UNCONFIRMED

2 PM, 3rd June 2009

Location: MUVT Room 1&2, 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 12 (19-05-2009)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 3.1 Indigenous Department Vandalism Motion
- 3.2 Cage Free Campus Society
- 3.3 Thank you Candice Motion
- 3.4 Corporate Charges Invoice (MUSUL)
- 3.5 Balance Sheet Transfer (MUSUL)
- 3.6 Food Co-Op and MUSUL
- 3.7 Candidates in Perspective
- 3.8 Tuesday Band and BBQ
- 3.9 Student Newspaper Policy
- 3.10 Book Co-Op

4. 26 May AGM/SGM

- 4.1 VSASU
- 4.2 Application for Extension to hold AGM

5. General Manager Report

- 5.1 Report
- 5.2 Electoral Regulations

6. Office Bearer Reports

- 6.1 President
- 6.2 Secretary

- 6.3 Activities
- 6.4 Arts
- 6.5 Clubs and Societies
- 6.6 Education Academic Affairs
- 6.7 Education Public Affairs
- 6.8 Environment
- 6.9 Indigenous
- 6.10 Media
- 6.11 Queer
- 6.12 Welfare
- 6.13 Wom*ns
- 7 Standing Committee Reports
- 8 Other Reports
- 9 Motions on Notice
 - 9.1 Motion Regarding Indian Students
- 10 Other Business
- 11 Next Meeting
- 12 Close

Meeting opened at: 2.09 PM, by Carla Drakeford

Agenda Item 1: Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Carla Drakeford chair the meeting

Moved: Carla Drakeford

CWD

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So Acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

Students' Council:

Dominique Ottobre, Kaitlin Ferris, Phoebe Kelloway, Josh Schmidt, Liam Byrne, Mark Peart, Dan Musil, Brendan Thomas-Noone, Goldie Pergl, Jesse Overton-Skinner, Rudolph Hosri, James Smith, Clinton Markwell, Sisi Jing.

Office Bearers:

Chris Kloester (Activities), Adelaide Rief (Arts), Carla Drakeford (President), Frances Lewis (Welfare), Nyx Mathews (Wom*n's), Yoshua Wakeham (Media), Tristan Clack (Welfare), Shaun Khoo (Secretary), Katherine Klaus (Clubs and Societies), Tim Arnot (Education –Public). Chris Summers (Arts).

Other

Charlie Goodman
Jonathon Donegan
Lydia Bevege
Justin Bare UMSU Manager

Candice Cranmer- minute taker

Absent

Office Bearers

Laura Harris (Education- Academic), Gemma Leigh-Dodds (Education Academic), Sadia Schneider (Education-Public), David Liubinas (Activities), Stefania Capogreco (Queer), Ezekiel Gould (Queer), Rachel Barrett (Environment), Sam Cossar-Gilbert (Environment), Gillian Kilby (Media), Bhakthi Puvanenthiran (Media), Zoe Sanders (Media), Piper O'Dowd (Clubs and Societies), Kyle Lancaster (Indigenous), Ruby Warber (Indigenous).

1.4 Apologies

Steph Gold, Onagh Bishop, Bianca Parassulo

1.5 Proxies

Steph Gold to Lydia Bevege

Onagh Bishop to Kaitlin Ferris or (in her absence) Dominique Ottobre.

Bianca Parassulo to Dominique Ottobre or (in her absence) Kaitlin Ferris.

1.6 Membership

Secretary Shaun Khoo reports several changes to membership:

- Onagh Bishop resigned as a General Representative and was ticket appointed to Mature Age Representative.
- Kaitlin Ferris was appointed to General Representative
- Bianca Parassulo was appointed to General Representative
- Taylor Kendall resigned from Queer Representative
- Mark Peart was appointed to Queer Representative.

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

The Chair takes a speaking list and discussion of agenda order is initiated.

It is brought the Chair's attention that Agenda Item 1.6 Membership as tabled in the Meeting Papers has not been discussed.

The Chair suspends the speaking list for the primary business of Membership.

Membership –Agenda Item 1.6 Membership

Speaking List is taken and discussion occurs through it.

Shaun Khoo's recommendation is read to Students' Council:

That Students' Council moves \$600 from the Whole of Union line to the Legal Costs line to obtain legal advice on the implementation of rule 51.1(e) of the Constitution.

Discussion regarding Membership continues.

2.20PM Queer Report is circulated.

James Smith and Clinton Markwell arrive at 2.20 PM

Several other motions regarding subsequent Agenda Items are also circulated.

The Chair reads a motion tabled by Chris Kloester:

The motion moved by Onagh Bishop at the last Students' Council meeting about waiting for further information be considered fulfilled. Therefore the Membership report be accepted and Students Council should not seek legal advice.

Moved: Chris Kloester

Seconded: Shaun Khoo

Copies of a letter signed by Queer Officers – Stefania Capogeco and Ezekiel Gould are circulated and tabled.

Discussion continues briefly.

Procedural Motion: To put the motion tabled by Chris Kloester to a vote
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Moved: Chris Kloester
LOST – no votes

Sisi Ying arrives at 2.26 PM

Discussion continues via the speaking list.

Chris Kloester leaves at 2.27PM

Queer Committee Meeting minutes are requested. Copies of minutes from the last 3 Queer Committee Meetings are passed around Students' Council by Mark Peart.
Shaun Khoo speaks to his report and reads from the Constitution –section 51.1(e).
Discussion regarding the report continues until extensive speaking list is exhausted.
Justin Baré, UMSU Manager informs Students' Council of the process taken to obtain legal advice.

Discussion regarding the specifics of Chris Kloester's motion and the Secretaries reports –tabled in meeting 12 and 13 occurs.

Discussion regarding possible re-drafting of the above occurs.

Due to confusion, Kaitlin Ferris request Chris Kloester's motion is withdrawn. As seconder of this motion, Shaun Khoo withdraws seconding the motion and it is withdrawn.

The chair reads all tabled motions regarding membership. It is established that accepting the report without the recommendation includes the termination of some Office-Bearers. Further amendments are made.

Motion 2: That the Secretary's Report with recommendation: *That Students' Council moves \$600 from the Whole of Union Line to the Legal Costs line to obtain legal advice on the implementation of rule 51.1(e) of the Constitution* -is accepted.

Moved: from the Chair

LOST For: 6 Against: 11 Abstentions: 0

Motion 3: That the membership report be accepted without the recommendation

Moved: Kaitlin Ferris

Seconded: Jessie Overton-Skinner

CARRIED For: 11 Against: 6 Abstentions: 0

Motion 4: That the termination of the Queer Officer's positions be postponed until after student conferences ie 25th July.

Moved: Dan Musil

Seconded: Mark Peart

LOST For: 6 Against: 11 Abstentions: 0

Justin Baré leaves at 2.48 PM

1.7Adoption of Agenda

The Chair returns to the suspended speaking list and adds to it.

James Smith leaves at 2.55 PM and proxies to Clinton Markwell

Extensive discussion over agenda order occurs.

Sisi Ying leaves at 3.00 PM and proxies to Goldie Pergl

Quorum count -11, the meeting continues.

Motion 5: That the Agenda now reads:

- 2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes
- 3.1 Motion Regarding Indian Students
- 3.2 Welfare Report – Recommendation (Frances Lewis)
- 3.3 VCASU

3.4 NTEU
3.5 Corporate Charges Invoice (MUSUL)
and returns to all that remains.
Moved: Dominique Ottobre Seconded: Liam Byrne
CWD

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Previous Minutes Meeting 12 (19-05-09).

Dominique Ottobre informs that she did not exercise proxy for Onagh Bishop on Motion 3 and that she moved that all Office Bearer reports without recommendations are moved on block and that a typo has occurred in motion 16.

Motion 6: That the minutes of Meeting 12, held on the 19th of May 2009 be accepted (with corrections) as a true and accurate record.
Moved: Goldie Pergl Seconded: Dominique Ottobre
CARRIED

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Motion Regarding Indian Students

Motion 7: That standing orders be suspended to table a motion –moved by Dominique Ottobre and seconded by Jesse Overton-Skinner.
Moved: Dominique Ottobre Seconded: Jesse Overton-Skinner
CWD

Frances Lewis speaks to the tabled motion – Motion to Condemn Racist Attacks on Indian Students.

As mover of the tabled motion also regarding the attacks on Indian Students Dominique Ottobre waves her right to speak and passes it to Kaitlin Ferris who speaks to the motion.

Chris Summers arrives at 3.13 PM

Liam Byrne speaks to the motion moved by Frances Lewis as its seconder.

Procedural Motion: To put the tabled motions to a vote.
Moved: Goldie Pergl
LOST For: 8 Against: 9

Jesse Overton-Skinner speaks to the motion moved by Dominique Ottobre as its seconder. Discussion via a speaking list occurs and amendments are suggested.

Motion 8: The University of Melbourne Student Union strongly condemns the racist attacks on Indian students. We condemn the appalling response by the Victorian Police to the attacks in denying the racist nature of the attacks and blaming the victims. We also condemn the National Labour Party Students for not seriously addressing the real issues of racism in Australia, and ignoring the demands of Indian Students. We also condemn the federal and state governments for failing to address the concerns of Indian Students and for fostering racism through their treatment of international students. We call on the government to provide:

- Adequate funding for support services for international students. This includes housing and employment services, counselling, translation etc.
- Affordable and liveable housing for students near universities so they are not forced to live in the outer suburbs
- Increase staff at train stations and on trains, and increased lighting and surveillance cameras
- Transport concession cards for all international students.

Moved: Frances Lewis Seconded: Liam Byrne
CARRIED For: 6 Against: 0 Abstentions: 11

The second motion moved by Dominique Ottobre lapses.

3.2 Recommendation for Welfare Report, Frances Lewis

Frances Lewis speaks to her report regarding the recommendation tabled with the papers.

An amendment to the motion is suggested.

Motion 9: The University of Melbourne Student Union supports the right of all women to choose what happens to their bodies. UMSU stands with pro-choice protestors in Brisbane who are calling for the charges to be dropped. UMSU condemns these charges and demands they be dropped immediately and abortion be de-criminalised.

Moved: from the Chair

CARRIED Abstentions: 1

3.3 VCASU AGM/SGM

VCASU

Carla Drakeford speaks about the AGM held 26th May 2009 and accordingly the position of VCASU.

Discussion surrounding representation at VCA occurs.

Motion 10: That UMSU Student Council under rule 135 of the Constitution, empowers the current elected council and Office Bearers at the VCA to continue in their representative functions until such time as a department can be established on the condition that VCA representatives agree to this course of action.

Moved: Kaitlin Ferris

Seconded: Dominique Ottobre

CWD

AGM

Discussion via a speaking list occurs regarding the date of the next meeting.

Motion 11: That an AGM/SGM (be held) on Tuesday 4th August 1.45PM in a venue to be confirmed. Activities officers to be approached to start Bands and BBQ earlier.

Moved: Kaitlin Ferris

Seconded: Dominique Ottobre

CWD

3.4 NTEU Motion

Quorum count -11

Josh Schmidt speaks to the motion.

Charlie Goodman leaves at 4.02PM

Discussion via speaking list occurs

**Rudolph Hosri leaves at 4.06 PM proxying to Jesse Overton-Skinner
4.07PM Goldie Pergl leaves and returns shortly. Charlie Goodman returns.**

Discussion continues

Procedural Motion: To put the vote

Moved: Dominique Ottobre

CARRIED For: 14 Against: 3

Motion 12: The NTEU has planned a new phase of industrial action, including a four hour work stoppage commencing at 1pm on Monday June 15th and protest outside the Sidney Myer Asia Centre at the opening of the University of Melbourne Festival of Ideas, bans on overtime and from Friday June 12th an indefinite ban on the recording or transmission to the University of student assessment results. UMSU as a fellow union, will show solidarity with the NTEU by supporting these and any other actions the membership of the NTEU deems necessary in its fight against university management. We will actively encourage students to come support staff by joining the rally on June 15th, and to observe the 4-hour work stoppage by not going to class or using the library or any other University of Melbourne facility. We will also produce material ie leaflets and

posters that responsibility for inconveniences caused by such actions ultimately lies with University management and the Vice Chancellor Glyn Davies, in their refusal to honestly negotiate with the NTEU in their contempt and exploitation of staff.

Moved: Josh Schmidt

Seconded: Frances Lewis

CARRIED

For: 14

Against: 3

Abstentions: 0

3.5 Corporate Charges

Carla Drakeford speaks about issues surrounding corporate charges.

Justin Baré arrives at 4.21PM

Justin Baré speaks about corporate charges charged to UMSU by MUSU and how previous Students' Council bodies have dealt with them.

Phoebe Kelloway leaves at 4.26PM

Discussion occurs regarding UMSU's payment to MUSU.

Kaitlin Ferris suggest that all figures discussed regarding payment become 'in camera' or struck from the minutes/ records.

Discussion regarding payment and who is to negotiate such a payment continues.

Motion 13: That UMSU empowers the President to negotiate the terms and amount of the payment up to _____ with the proviso it is approved by Students' Council.

Moved: from the Chair

CWD

Agenda Item 9: Next Meeting

Next meeting on:

Agenda Item 10: Close

Meeting closed at: 4.32 PM by Carla Drakeford

Certified by Chair:

Signed:

Dated:

1.6 Membership

Tim Arnot and Frances Lewis have applied for Leave of Absence for 7 September to 12 September.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes Unresolved Motions

Indigenous Department Vandalism Motion

That UMSU condemns the actions of Office Bearers who have posted without permission on the Indigenous Departments office window. This action represents an impingement on the rights of the office, a breach of section 11 of Union House Rules and shall not be tolerated. UMSU supports the Indigenous Department's right to convey any legal political message it so chooses that is within the regulations of the Union's constitution.

Moved: Sean Armistead

Seconded: Kyle Dadleh

Cage Free Campus Society

That Students' Council joins with the Cage Free Campus Society in calling for all University of Melbourne eateries to go "cage-free" and that a Students' Council representative presents a resolution to the University Council calling for a complete cage-free egg policy on campus.

Moved: Katelyn Grimmer

Seconded: Sam Cossar-Gilbert

8. Motions on Notice

Motion

That University of Melbourne Student Union Students Council endorses the Melbourne-wide **Concession Cards Coalition** and its demands for transport concession cards for international and postgraduate students.

That UMSU Students Council endorses the rally on Wednesday 12th August at 2pm at the State Library, called by the Concession Cards Coalition.

That UMSU Students Council strongly encourages all office bearers to attend the rally on 12th August.

That UMSU Students Council directs the President to notify all UMSU members of the rally on 12th August, and encourages them to attend.

That UMSU Students Council approves the expenditure of \$500 from the Whole of Union Fund to go towards the Concession Cards Coalition campaign, for the production of material (posters, leaflets, banners etc) for the rally on 12th Aug and for future events hosted by the Concession Cards Coalition.

Moved: Tim Arnot

Seconded: Josh Schmidt

Correspondence
Issues J09-A10027 – J09-A10030
Tuesday Band and BBQ

The Raise an Issue system was established to assist students in contacting their student representatives if they were unsure of who to contact or unable to meet with a student representative. The following issues have been raised and are relevant to Students' Council. In this document the personal details of the students have been removed because it is stated on the forms that their details will not be published or disclosed to a third party outside of UMSU. Students' Councillors are able to inspect copies of the forms received by contacting the Secretary.

J09-A10027

Relates to: Tuesday BBQS!

Description: Bring them back please! I can't function without them!

J09-A10028

Relates to: Union issues

Description: Cancellation of Tuesday music & BBQ @ Northcourt!
... Wa happened?!

J09-A10029

Relates to: Student Union Issues

Description: Just wondering why there was no sausage sizzle dizzle and no rocking band playing? It was the whole (reason) I came to uni today. Not impressed...

J09-A10030

Relates to: Union Services

Description: The Tuesday music and BBQ at north court was cancelled!!

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy



Introduction

On Friday, 27 March 2009, a Draft Student Newspaper Policy Discussion paper was released. Submissions were solicited from student representatives, the Media Collective and the wider University community.

Aims

The aims of this policy development process are to:

- Develop an editorial policy in line with student expectations
- Resolve tensions in the regulatory framework governing *Farrago*
- Ensure a level of consistency in the approach to producing *Farrago* from year to year

Regulatory Framework

Farrago is governed by three documents, the Constitution, Procedures for Student Representatives and Financial Regulations.

The Media Department, which publishes *Farrago*, has the aim of promoting “greater Student participation in all forms of media” and providing “opportunities for Students to gain skills in publishing, editing and design.” (C77) The Media Officers, who are elected annually, are responsible for producing *Farrago*, ensuring “all Media Department publications do not contravene the aims and purposes of UMSU” and furthering the aims of the Department. (C59)

Procedures for Student Representatives describes *Farrago* as “an independent publication of UMSU” and gives the Media Officers “discretion as to the content of each edition”, but also reinforces the requirement that “*Farrago* shall not publish material that is contrary to the aims and objectives of UMSU.”

Policy Development

This document presents proposed policy. The proposed policy presented here is based on the editorial policy of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (current 1 March 2009), ideas from previous attempts at producing Student Newspaper Policy at the University of Melbourne and elsewhere in Australia and submissions received here from the Media Officers, Media Collective and students generally.

Where substantive changes have been made to the original draft policy, end-notes have been included which refer to the submission which the amendment was based on. A total of six submissions were received, of which three proposed some amendments.

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

Contents

1. Introduction and Values
2. Editorial Responsibility
3. Student News
4. Student Opinion
5. Topical and Factual Content
6. Creative Content
7. User-generated Content
8. Content Standards
9. Student Politics and Elections
10. Complaints and Grievances
11. Supporting Community and Charitable Causes
12. Sponsorship and External Funding

1. Introduction and Values

This shall be the policy of UMSU Inc and it shall apply in all relevant matters relating to the Media Department and its production of *Farrago*.

Farrago has a long history of providing various students a voice on campus. Founded in 1925, *Farrago* has existed through multiple incarnations of the Student Union, including the Students' Representative Council (1907-1989), Melbourne University Student Union Inc (1989-2004), Interim Students' Representative Council (2005) and the present UMSU/MUSUL structure.

UMSU is committed to the following values in the publication of *Farrago*:

- Truth
- Balance
- Independence
- Respectful discourse
- The rights of all groups, including the marginalised, to be heard

2. Editorial Responsibility

UMSU recognises that the Secretary is the publisher in name only and has no power to determine the content of *Farrago* or to authorise its publication.

Ultimate editorial responsibility lies with the Media Officers. The Media Officers shall have the exclusive privilege of determining the content of *Farrago* including but not limited to soliciting content, publishing content or not publishing content. The Media Officers are only obliged to publish two types of content, unless they are not submitted on time, breach this policy, content standards¹ or there are legal reasons to not publish: Officer Reports and election coverage which includes details of polling places, times and candidate statements.

The Media Officers shall also be responsible for ensuring that *Farrago* abides by all necessary legal requirements, including but not limited to defamation, privacy

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

and tape-recording. The Media Officers shall ensure that adequate training is available for students participating in Media Department activities such that they are aware of and abide by the necessary legal requirements.

The Media Officers shall also be responsible for:

- Avoiding all conflicts of interest and ensuring that any potential conflict of interest is adequately disclosed.
- The development, administration and application of a style guide.
- Ensuring that all submissions which are received are acknowledged and authors are advised of editorial decisions.²
- Ensuring that all authors of published content are satisfied with the work that is credited to them before publication including,
 - Ensuring that authors are informed of and satisfied with substantive edits
 - Where a Club, Society or Group has submitted content for publication that the Club, Society or Group is informed of and satisfied with substantive edits.³

As set out in rule 59 of the Constitution and rule 9.2 of Procedures for Student Representatives, it is the responsibility of the Media Officers to ensure that Media Department publications do not contravene the aims, purposes and objectives of UMSU. For the purpose of these rules, the aims, purposes and objectives of UMSU are those which are included in its Statement of Purposes:

1. To advance the welfare and interests of Students;
2. To represent Students of the University within the University and to the community;
3. To provide amenities and services, principally for Students and other members of the University community, and incidentally to the public, but in all cases not inconsistent with agreements made with MU Student Union Limited or the University, as the case may be, from time to time;
4. To provide an independent framework for Student social and political activity;
5. To develop, maintain and support Student clubs, societies and associational life generally;
6. To promote and defend the rights of Students to education on the basis of equality, without regard to race, colour, sex, sexuality, gender identity, age, physical disability, mental illness, economic circumstances, political religious or ideological conviction, or national or social origin;
7. To provide a democratic and transparent forum in which Students' affairs and interests can be governed in an effective and accountable manner; and
8. To promote free and accessible government-funded education.

3. Student News

News content relates to reporting of the facts involved in and surrounding current events and affairs.

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

News content shall be as unbiased, independent and accurate as possible. Much of the news content included in *Farrago* shall relate to Student interests.

Interviewees shall not be paid. Interviewees are free to answer “no comment” to any question. No legal indemnity or promise of legal assistance is granted by UMSU to an interviewee for any legal actions which may arise in relation to their comments.

Once a student has identified themselves as participating in the production of content for *Farrago*, it shall be assumed that comments are *on the record* unless it is agreed otherwise.

Comments may be:

- *On the record*: what is said may be disclosed and attributed to the interviewee or source,
- *On background* or *non-attributable*: what is said may be disclosed but not attributed to the interviewee or source, or
- *Off the record*: what is said may not be disclosed or attributed to the interviewee or source.

Students participating in producing student news shall abide by all relevant laws and may not use concealed recording equipment.

Information about the author’s background (including employment, affiliations or activity) which may be relevant to the story should be succinctly reported alongside the article.

News articles should be prepared with due care, especially when dealing with sensitive subjects such as sexuality, violence or suicide. It is important to ensure that the language and tone is not disrespectful and that the article does not encourage or advise others to do harm to themselves or others.

4. Student Opinion

Content which presents the particular point of view or opinion of the author may be published in *Farrago*. The disclaimer, prescribed in rule 9 of Procedures for Student Representatives shall be sufficient for informing the public that the opinions expressed in *Farrago* are not necessarily those of UMSU. The Media Officers are free to publish an additional disclaimer alongside opinion pieces to remind readers that the opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Media Officers, Media Department or UMSU.

An opinion piece is bound by the same rules relating to Student News except the need to be unbiased and independent. An opinion piece must still present facts accurately, abide by relevant laws and treat interviewees and sources properly.

In making a decision whether or not to publish content which expresses the particular point of view or opinion of the author, the Media Officers shall not discriminate between content based on the opinion which is expressed.⁴

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

Opinions which disagree with or criticise UMSU, its position, actions or conduct may be published in *Farrago*. The publication of diverse and contrary views, even if they question the aims, purposes and objectives of UMSU shall be considered part of the aim of UMSU to “provide a democratic and transparent forum in which Students’ affairs and interests can be governed in an effective and accountable manner.” The publication of diverse and dissenting views is also consistent with the values of balance, independence and the rights of all groups, including the marginalised, to be heard.

5. Topical and Factual Content

Topical and factual content covers a broad range of content which is not news, opinion or creative content. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, research articles, reviews and interviews.

Such articles must abide by the same rules as News content regarding being independent and accurate, the treatment of interviewees or sources and the disclosure of relevant aspects of the author’s background. Topical and factual content may present the particular point of view or opinion of the author.

An extra emphasis shall be placed on accuracy and if the Media Officers deem it necessary, may seek a review from someone with relevant expertise in the area. This may include, but is not limited to, a student undertaking a relevant major or an academic who is an expert in the field.

6. Creative Content

Creative content refers to cartoons, short stories, poems, drawings, paintings and other artistic contributions to *Farrago*.

Creative content may also include satire and parody which may critique the objects which it represents, such as society, the University or UMSU. Such content may be published in the interest of providing a “democratic and transparent forum”. If such satire or parody critiques UMSU, its aims, objectives, purposes, positions, actions or conduct, such content shall be considered part of the aim of UMSU to “provide a democratic and transparent forum” in the same way as Opinion Content.⁵

7. User-generated Content

Content generated by users should be published in *Farrago*, primarily in the form of Letters to the Editor.

A Letter to the Editor or other user-generated content is not bound by the same rules as other types of content. Such content is free to present the view of its author and shall only be edited for legal reasons, grammar or layout (space) considerations. There shall be no guarantee that the facts presented in such content are accurate.

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

Publication of a Letter to the Editor shall be a major avenue for anyone exercising a right of reply.

8. Content Standards

Farrago and other Media Department publications may not contravene the aims and purposes of UMSU. A Media Department publication shall not be considered to be in breach of this requirement for simply publishing content which criticises or is in disagreement with UMSU, its purposes, aims, objectives, positions, actions or conduct. The consideration of diverse views is consistent with UMSU's aims to "provide an independent framework for Student social and political activity" and to "provide a democratic and transparent forum in which Students' affairs and interests can be governed in an effective and accountable manner."

In order for material in *Farrago* to contravene this requirement, it must go beyond criticism or dissent from UMSU, its purposes, aims, objectives, positions, actions or conduct.

UMSU recognises that some students contributing to *Farrago* may only be willing to contribute if allowed to remain anonymous or use a pseudonym. In the interests of providing a democratic forum, where all groups have the right to be heard, anonymous or pseudonymous contributions shall be permitted and the Media Officers shall be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of an anonymous or pseudonymous author's identity. The Media Officers should prevent the use of anonymous or pseudonymous publications from interfering with the values of this policy: truth, balance, independence, respect and the rights of all groups, including the marginalised, to be heard.

The Media Officers may determine as a matter of their discretion, whether to publish content which may be offensive. The Media Officers should include the following considerations in their decision-making process:

- How substantial is the potential of the content to offend?
- What is the contribution of the content to debate or student interest?
- How closely linked is the potential to offend to the substance of the work?
- Will the article cause harm or promote harmful practices?

If an article can be revised so that its substance remains largely intact, but its potential to offend is reduced, then the Media Officers should strongly consider requesting the author to revise it.

If potentially offensive content is highly likely to cause harm or promote harmful practices, it should not be published.

If legal advice is obtained that the publication of potentially offensive content would be in breach of the law, then it should not be published. If the Media Officers decide to disregard legal advice and publish such content, then UMSU will not indemnify the Media Officers or the author from any legal action which arises against them personally from the publication of such content.

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

Where errors are discovered, they should be corrected in the next edition of *Farrago*.

9. Student Politics and Elections

UMSU recognises that the student body is free to determine the political alignment of the Media Officers in the annual elections. However, the Media Officers must abide by regulations which forbid the use of UMSU resources not available to all students during an UMSU election. The Media Officers may not use their editorial powers to endorse one or more candidates in the UMSU elections.

Each year an edition of *Farrago* must provide coverage of the UMSU election which shall be available for a period of time that includes the duration of the polling. This edition of *Farrago* must carry candidate policy statements and details of polling in accordance with Electoral Regulations.

Informing the student body about the world of student politics is important. Additional election coverage may be published provided that it is produced by students who do not hold elected positions in UMSU or other student representative associations recognised by the University. This may include but is not necessarily limited to:

- Interviews with candidates
- Reports on candidate debates
- Reports on student political groups
- Opinion pieces

10. Complaints and Grievances

Errors occur at all levels of the Media and Student Media is no different. Where a person feels that they, another person or another group have been treated unfairly, they shall have a right of reply. This right of reply can be exercised by contacting the Media Officers who shall advise what avenues can be taken. These avenues shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the publication of a Letter to the Editor.

If a person feels that their right of reply provides insufficient reparation for the damage caused they may register a complaint. A complaint may only be registered by someone who is affected either as the subject of unfair treatment or as the member of a group which has been treated unfairly.

A complaint in the first instance should be registered with the Media Officers in writing or by email. A complainant is entitled to receive a response and to have their confidentiality respected.

A complaint should be made in a timely manner, no more than five academic days or two weeks, whichever is the lesser, following the release of an edition of *Farrago*. The Media Officers may report on and respond to complaints after this time, but are not required to. Similarly a response to a complaint should be made

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

in a timely manner, which should be no more than five academic days following the receipt of a complaint.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the response received, they may, within five academic days, appeal to the Secretary in writing or by email. The appeal must describe the nature of the complaint and the desired outcome. The Secretary must then convene a meeting of the Media Complaints Committee.

The Media Complaints Committee shall be composed of:

- One Media Officer as a non-voting representative,
- Three voting representatives elected by and from the voting representatives of Students' Council

If a voting representative is the complainant, they will be ineligible to sit on the Media Complaints Committee.

The Media Complaints Committee must meet within five academic days of the appeal being received by the Secretary and may do so electronically or in person. The complainant must be invited to the meeting or included in electronic correspondence. If the membership of the Committee must also be determined, there may be an additional five academic days over which time the Committee must be elected. The Media Complaints Committee may dismiss the complaint, recommend that the Media Officers issue an apology or retraction or refer the matter to Students' Council if it is believed that a more serious penalty is required. In order to make recommend an apology, retraction or more serious penalty, the committee must be convinced that the publication of material mentioned in the complaint constitutes a breach of this policy and/or provisions of the Constitution and Regulations with respect to *Farrago* and Media Department publications. The outcome of the Media Complaints Committee should be reported to Students' Council and if the Media Officers do not comply with the recommendation, Students' Council may direct that they do so.

If the complainant or the Media Officers are not satisfied with the outcome of the Media Complaints Committee, they may appeal to Students' Council by writing to the Secretary.⁶ Students' Council may uphold, overturn or modify the decision. If the complaint remains unresolved then the matter may be referred to a General Meeting called in accordance with rule 16 of the Constitution.

Apart from this process or pursuant to legal advice, Students' Council may not direct the Media Officers to publish or not publish material or otherwise direct the Media Officers with respect to the content of *Farrago*.

11. Supporting Community and Charitable Causes

Farrago may publish content which promotes community and charitable causes. This may be done through publishing opinion or topical and factual pieces written by students or through publishing advertising material from community or charitable groups.

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

The Media Officers may waive a part or all of the fees involved in placing advertising material in *Farrago* and may determine if and how much of such fees will be waived. The Media Officers may not provide such waivers for advertising material promoting community or charitable causes in the following circumstances:

- The waiver could be interpreted as an endorsement of a particular religious, political, economic or social point of view.
- The waiver would undermine the aims and purposes of UMSU,
- The waiver would promote a group not in line with UMSU Financial Regulations.

12. Sponsorship and External Funding

The Media Officers and UMSU Staff may solicit advertising material and set the fees for placing advertising material in *Farrago*. External funding may also be accepted, provided that it does not compromise the independence of *Farrago*.

It must be clear that advertising material is not student content. Where this is not immediately obvious, it should be noted alongside the advertising material, "This is a paid advertisement."

The Media Department may, in accordance with Financial Regulations, give preference to environmentally and socially responsible companies and may refuse association with environmentally or socially irresponsible companies.

Proposed Student Newspaper Policy

Notes

¹ The publication of Officer Reports should not occur where it is in breach of this policy or content standards, based on submission P.O.(04-05-2009).

² Based on submission T.L.(01-05-2009).

³ This point was raised by both S.R.(04-05-2009) and T.L.(01-05-2009).

⁴ This statement has been inserted based on submission T.L.(01-05-2009).

⁵ The paragraph on satire has been modified to take into account submission T.L.(01-05-2009).

⁶ This point of appeal has been modified because it seems inappropriate to appeal directly to the Grievance Tribunal and (as of early May) it remains to be seen whether or not the positions on the Tribunal will be filled.

UMSU BOOK CO-OPERATIVE PROPOSAL

5th May, 2009

Background:

Unlike many other universities, Melbourne University does not have a book co-operative or second-hand bookshop. The need for a second-hand book service is filled by ad hoc services such as the MUOSS Book Fair and online exchange services run by student societies such as the Commerce Student Society and Law Students Society. While these are important in addressing the high cost of new textbooks and the need for cheaper second-hand alternatives, they fall short of a sustainable, well organised public service that is available to all students, and which occupies an accessible physical space on campus.

There is a great opportunity to expand and complement these services by having a permanent on-campus space for a book exchange. There is a desperate need for student run initiatives that support fellow students in their studies. The current situation forces the majority of students to purchase expensive new books (the average full time student spends over \$500 per year), which are then discarded at the end of semester. This is a waste of useful textbooks, and a burden on both the environment and on student finances.

The idea of a student run book co-operative is not new and similar proposals have appeared before, with substantial student support. With the vacancy of the 'Marketing and Research' office in union house there is a great opportunity to realise the longstanding idea of having a second hand book co-op.

Vision:

We aim to start up a small book co-operative at Melbourne University that provides students with a space to exchange second hand books and course materials, making them more affordable. It would also minimise environmental impact and wastage. The co-operative would be student controlled and contribute to creating a vibrant student community on campus.

Implementation and Timeline:

Phase One: Set up (May-June 30th)

- Book Exchange System: Simple 1 for 1 book swap will be initially used.
- Bring in portable and demountable shelving.
- Source books, zines and course materials.
- Establish volunteer roster and organising group, with regular Book Co-op meetings fortnightly.
- Book Co-op opening hours will be four days a week (Monday – Thursday) for lunchtimes only between 12.30-2.30pm.
- Promote and publicise the Book Co-op on campus and in union materials.

Phase Two: Consolidation (commencing at the start of second semester)

- Begin to facilitate a system that allows students to re-sell and buy old text books and readers based on the MUOSS book fair model and other successful book co-ops. Our current ideas about how this system would function are:
 1. Students who want to sell books write their name, the price of the book, and contact details on an envelope, which is then attached to the cover of the book. The student will receive no money until the book is sold.
 2. A student who wishes to buy a book brings it to the desk, pays for the set price. The volunteer puts the cash inside the envelope for the seller and keeps it safe and secure in the lock box.
 3. The volunteer then contacts the seller to let them know they can pick up their money.
 4. Second hand books must be priced at a maximum of 75% of current full price.
- Work with MUOSS book fair.
- Will continue to be run by student volunteers.
- Install more shelving
- Hold Book Co-op events, such as book club and readings to increase the community aspect and support network.
- Have regular Book Co-op meetings fortnightly.
- Opening hours will be four days a week (Monday – Thursday) for lunchtimes only between 12.30-2.30pm.
- Further publicise and promote the Book Co-op on campus, in union materials and online.

Phase Three: Long term sustainability (2010 and onwards)

- Evaluate and assess the project to establish long term goals, systems and services, some of these could be:
 1. Become a registered co-operative
 2. Take a 10% commission on sales to pay staff.

Materials:

- Book shelves
- Books, zines and course materials
- Envelopes
- Shelving
- Information and publicity materials
- Money box
- Display stand

For both Phase One and Phase Two of this project we need no materials or assistance from MUSUL, as the departments of UMSU would provide all of the funding. We estimate the cost will be under \$500, as most of the material will be second hand or donated.

Location:

We would like the Book Co-operative to be in the currently vacant 'Marketing and Research' office on the first floor of union house. This space would be ideal for setting up a Book Co-op. It is perfectly situated opposite the food co-op, where there is a high volume of student traffic, making it visible and accessible to students. The space is small and will not pose a large burden to MUSUL's resources.

We understand that the space is to be used during certain times of the year to run the 'student tax help service'. We envisage that this would not be a problem and that we could come to an arrangement that would be amenable to both parties. This could involve modifying the opening hours of the Book Co-op during the tax period. The only ongoing requirement would be that the books continue to be stored in that space. We understand the importance of formalising a mutual understanding as to how we will share the space.

Potential challenges:

1. *Lack of student support and involvement*- We think this is unlikely given the location and the large need of cheap second hand books. The success of the food co-op and other student initiatives is a promising indicator. Furthermore, it is a small and inexpensive project, so in the unlikely case of failure, no burden will have been placed on Union resources.
2. *Difficulty Sourcing books*- We do not believe this will be a problem as we have already contacted second hand shops who are willing to donate books. The popularity of the MUOSS book fair and online book selling services demonstrate that students want to sell their second hand textbooks.
3. *Monetary Issues (Books or money being lost or stolen)*- The transfer of money will not happen until we are well established. The system we are proposing (see Phase Two) is very simple. People who volunteer at a book co-op are unlikely to steal money and it is a system based on good will, like any other enterprise. We will train our volunteers to understand the proper processes. It is a similar system to that used by the MUOSS book fair, which is effective and well established.

Organisation:

The establishment and implementation of this task will be completely organised by students. This is a collaborative project between the Environment, Arts and Education Academic departments. We will establish a specific Book Co-op organising group with regular fortnightly meetings, to provide ongoing direction.

MUSUL's role:

This project would not require any resources or financial support from MUSUL. We simply require usage of the 'Marketing and Resource' office.

Membership:

A Book Co-op would provide a valuable Union service that directly involves students, for the direct benefit of students. This could be beneficial in encouraging students to join UMSU.

*This proposal represents a broad outline of a vision for a UMSU Book Co-operative.
We welcome further discussion, consultation and amendments.*

Memorandum



To: Carla Drakeford, UMSU President
Shaun Khoo, UMSU Secretary

From: Justin Baré, UMSU Manager

Date: June 1, 2009

Subject: Report to Students' Council

1. Electoral Regulations

In 2008 the Returning Officers made a number of recommendations in relation to changes to the UMSU Electoral Regulations. Attached to this report is a revised set of Electoral Regulations that would give effect to some of the proposed recommendations. The key changes are:

- Extending polling to 5 pm on Friday
- Allowing vote counting to commence at 12 pm on Friday
- Allowing the Returning Officer to disallow ticket registration of tickets with names similar to an existing ticket name
- Introduction of the ability to indicate preferences for above the line voting so that voters can preference tickets as they see fit
- Clarification of the jurisdiction of the Returning Officer to enable them to handle complaints lodged prior to the provisional declaration of the poll

Additional changes proposed include establishing a polling station at the VCA, as proposed in 2008. It is also proposed to preclude students who have created a casual vacancy from being renominated to fill that vacancy via the ticket appointment process.

There may also be a need to introduce some interim measure to allow for the election of positions in any new UMSU department at the Faculty of VCA and Music, dependent on the outcomes of the proposed merger.

Students' Council should note that the UMSU Electoral Tribunal is responsible for amending the UMSU Electoral Regulations; however, it will typically act on the advice of Students' Council.

2. Insurance

UMSU is in the process of renewing its insurance cover for the period June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010.

UMSU has four types of insurance:

1. Public Liability – provides cover to UMSU for costs up to \$10 million arising from personal injury or bodily harm sustained during participation in a sanctioned UMSU activity, including Clubs and Societies. This includes cover for costs associated with defending any legal claims that may arise.
2. Professional Indemnity – provides cover to UMSU in relation to advice given (for example, by the Advocacy Service) and for the publication of *Farrago*. This cover also includes legal defense costs.
3. Travel Policy – travel insurance for student representatives and staff undertaking union-related travel.
4. Voluntary Workers – provides insurance cover to UMSU for costs incurred as a result of injury or loss to a volunteer working on behalf of UMSU. Includes payment of medical costs not covered by Medicare and a weekly injury benefit.

Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance account for 97% of the total cost of insurance for UMSU. The total cost of insurance for the relevant period will be \$81 370. This figure includes GST so the total expenditure will be within the budget allocation.

3. Correspondence regarding Entertainment Programme

UMSU recently received correspondence in relation to its scheduled Entertainment programme which included a query regarding any cancellation of scheduled performances.

As part of the UMSU Budget process for 2009 the Entertainment department received a reduced allocation compared with 2008. As part of this process it was agreed that there be no performances scheduled for the final three weeks in either semester. Accordingly, no performances have been cancelled.

The Entertainment Co-ordinator, Tony Ennis, advises that the cost of reinstating performances for the final three weeks of Semester 2, 2009, would be \$13 500.

Justin Baré

UMSU Manager

Memorandum



To: Carla Drakeford, UMSU President
Shaun Khoo, UMSU Secretary

From: Justin Baré, UMSU Manager

Date: July 7, 2009

Subject: Report to Students' Council

1. Leave Application – UMSU Budget

I have received an application for leave from a staff member in the Advocacy Service for the period December 1 2009 to January 27 2010.

This is a peak period of demand for the Advocacy Service – based on the past two years it is expected that between 250 – 300 students will require the assistance. Accordingly, it is essential that the service be fully staffed over this period.

The a replacement advocate for the relevant period is expected to be around \$10 000, including superannuation and other on-costs. This cost may be reduced by a period on unpaid leave that is taken as part of the overall leave.

In order to fund the cost of a replacement of advocate it is recommended that Students' Council allocates sufficient funds to Student Advocacy from the Salaries, Honoraria and Superannuation lines of its budget.

It is anticipated that UMSU expenditure in each of these areas will be less than budgeted. This is due to:

- Changes to or temporary vacancies in Office Bearer positions
- Office Bearer leaves of absence for elections and at other times
- No indexation of management salaries in 2009.

It is expected that the cost of a casual appointment will not exceed \$10 000. A more specific figure will be available in the coming weeks.

Recommendation

That Students' Council transfer up to \$10 000 from the Salaries and Wages, Honoraria and Superannuation lines of the Students' Council budget to the Casual Wages and Superannuation lines of the Student Union Advocacy Service budget in order to fund a replacement staff member in December 2009 and January 2010.

2. Victorian College of the Arts

There are a number of issues associated with the liquidation of the VCASU and the creation of a new VCAMSA department of UMSU.

Liquidation

The liquidation was not completed according to the timeline we understood to be in place. As a result of this there is a deficit of around \$10 000 to be acquitted as part of the liquidation process. This is, in large part, due to the fees charged by the liquidator. In the first instance MUSUL has discharged all liabilities owed to the liquidator in order to finalise the matter. The final responsibility for this liability will need to be resolved at some point.

A number of utilities have been transferred to UMSU - phone, internet service provision etc - and these will need to be cancelled and new arrangements consistent with UMSU's current practices negotiated. At this point we will continue to have access to the office and there will be power provided, however, until funding issues are resolved it is unclear what arrangements will be in place for phone and internet. I hope to meet with the Acting Provost to seek University support for the new VCASMA in these ways.

All of the physical assets of VCASU have been purchased from the liquidator by MUSUL and will be managed by UMSU as part of the student representative function of the proposed department and consistent with existing arrangements between UMSU and MUSUL.

Elections and the UMSU Constitution

The Electoral Regulations have been amended to allow for the provisional elections to the positions proposed in the changes to the UMSU Constitution. Polling will also take place at VCA. The Electoral Tribunal has requested that an additional amendment to the Constitution is proposed and that the Electoral Tribunal be given the power to call, conduct and declare provisional elections. I have included an amendment to this effect and the revised version of the proposed Constitutional amendments is attached.

UMSU and the Faculty of VCAM

The VCA integration committee has proposed that the Student Union is launched at VCA at an event in the week commencing July 27. We are also in the process of preparing materials to distribute to students of the Faculty in relation to UMSU and how certain Student Union services will be made available to students of the Faculty.

It is anticipated that the cost of these materials and the launch event will be no more than \$2 000. Whilst the President has approached the Acting Provost for financial support for this activity it is unclear whether this will be provided. In any event, if that funding is provided to UMSU, Students' Council would be required to authorise any expenditure. In the event that the funding is not provided Students' Council may choose to fund this activity from the whole of union fund.

It is recommended that UMSU authorise expenditure of up to \$2 000 for the Student Union launch at the Southbank campus.

Support of UMSU Departments and presence on the campus for the launch will be arranged by the UMSU Marketing and Research Officer.

Recommendation

That Students' Council approve expenditure of up to \$2 000 from the Whole of Union Fund to fund Student Union promotional material and a Student Union launch at the Southbank Campus.

Justin Baré

UMSU Manager

107 QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

Deleted: 3

- ▼ Each member of the Electoral Tribunal must:
 - (a) have been admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria more than five years before her or his appointment; and
 - (b) not have stood for election in an election of a student body at the University in the ten years prior to appointment.

108 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Deleted: 4

The members of the Electoral Tribunal shall be appointed as follows:

- (a) one member shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor;
- (b) one member shall be appointed by the Dean of the Faculty of Law; and
- (c) one member shall be appointed by the Students' Council.

109 TERM OF OFFICE

Deleted: 5

A member of the Electoral Tribunal holds office until:

- (a) the member resigns in writing;
- (b) if appointed by the Vice Chancellor or the Dean of the Faculty of Law, the member is replaced by the person having the power to appoint that member; or
- (c) if appointed by the Students' Council, the member is removed by resolution of the Students' Council approved by two thirds of the voting Members of that Students' Council but not during the election period.

110 POWERS OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

Deleted: 06

The Electoral Tribunal has power :

- (a) to make Regulations governing the conduct of UMSU elections and Referenda;
- (b) to appoint a Returning Officer for UMSU elections and Referenda;
- (c) to call UMSU elections;
- (d) to give directions in relation to elections;
- (e) to hear appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer;
- (f) to declare the results of UMSU elections;
- (g) to hear appeals against the results of UMSU elections;
- (h) to do such additional things relating to elections and referenda as are determined by the Students' Council by Regulation.
- (i) to exercise the powers described in rule 110 (a)-(h) in relation to provisional elections, and,**
- (i) to make regulation governing its own proceedings.

Deleted: and

111 MEETINGS OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

Deleted: 07

Meetings of the Electoral Tribunal may be called by any member of the Electoral Tribunal by notice in accordance with rule 108.

112 NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

Deleted: 08

112.1 At least five days notice must be given of a meeting of the Electoral Tribunal outside of an election period.

Deleted: 08

112.2 At least 12 hours notice must be given of a meeting of the Electoral Tribunal during an election period.

Deleted: 08

112.3 Notice must be given to each member of the Electoral Tribunal, and

Deleted: 08

- (a) to the Returning Officer (if appointed);

Secretary's Report



1. General Meeting

At meeting 13/09, Students' Council directed an AGM & SGM to take place on August 4, at a venue to be confirmed. As no confirmation of venue has been received, I have not organised a meeting for this date. With the assistance of the General Manager, I have sought information on possible venues.

North Court has traditionally been a venue for UMSU General Meetings, however, Students' Council has expressed an unwillingness to schedule GMs in North Court.

The only other possible option around Union House is the Grand Buffet Hall.

Other options on campus include the Public Lecture Theatre and Copland Theatre.

2. Regulations and Policy.

On 18 March Students' Councillors requested further clarification regarding proposed amendments to Standing Orders.

Rule 3.3 now reads:

3.3 A regular meeting is a meeting held in accordance with the meeting schedule or is otherwise a part of the regular program.

3.3.1 The Students' Council may delegate to the Secretary the power to set meetings on the regular program during periods not covered by the meeting schedule and may determine the conditions of this delegation.

This is because previously rule 3.3 restated requirements already set out in rule 85 of the Constitution. The amendment to rule 3.3 creates two types of regular meeting (regular program or meeting schedule).

Rule 3.3.1 does not create any new powers for the Secretary and effectively reduces the power of the Secretary. It is possible under current conditions the interpret meetings not set explicitly as special meetings as regular meetings as the Constitution overrides Regulations. The ambiguities in the interpretation of the regular/special meeting distinction arise not from the Constitution, but from the Constitution interpreted in the context of Standing Orders.

Rule 3.3.1 seeks to alter current convention which leaves the Secretary to set meeting times and dates outside of the semesterly meeting schedule. The word 'may' implies that the Secretary does not automatically have the power to make executive decisions to set meeting times (except perhaps in the case of a newly elected Students' Council

that is yet to meet for the first time). The power of Students' Council to govern its program of meetings is foregrounded by rule 3.3.1 which diminishes the power of the Secretary to act unilaterally. Additionally, the regulatory environment of UMSU Inc. is much different to that of MUSU Inc. and is clearly designed to prevent unilateral action.

Rule 5.1 and 5.2 are amended:

Rule 5.1 previously defined special meetings as those not on the regular programme of meetings set at the start of each semester.

Rule 5.2 previously defined a special meeting as held when four voting representatives requested a meeting. This contradicts with 5.1 since a meeting could be outside of the regular programme set at the start of each semester yet not be held at the request of at least four voting representatives.

The rules now read:

5.1 Special meetings are meetings held outside of the regular program.

5.2 A special meeting shall be held when:

5.2.1 at least four voting representatives request in writing or by email that one be held; or

5.2.2 Students' Council directs that a special meeting be held.

This amendment aims to clearly define a special meeting, the conditions under which special meetings are held and to remove contradictions.

Rule 5.4 is amended to correct a typo (by to be).

Rule 8.2 is amended to include reference to a new appendix which sets out a model agenda for a Special Meeting. This model agenda is consistent with the current rule 5.4.2 of Standing Orders which does not allow for business other than that included in the request for a special meeting to be set on the agenda.

Rules 11.3, 13.2, 14.10, 19.4 and (thanks to Dominique for pointing this out) 19.5 are amended to renumber appendices.

Rules 26.8 and 26.9 are new, added to further clarify definitions. The definition of 'meeting schedule' is consistent with rule 84 of the Constitution and rule 26.9 defines regular program against the criteria for a special meeting. This leaves no meeting uncategorised.

26.8 'meeting schedule' means the schedule set at the first meeting of the Students' Council in each semester.

26.9 The 'regular program' includes meetings set on the meeting schedule or any meeting outside of the meeting schedule which is not requested by at least four voting representatives or directed to be held as a special meeting.

Recommendation 2.1:

Students' Council adopts the amended Standing Orders as circulated including the amendment to the typo in rule 5.4 and the originally omitted renumbering of appendices in rule 19.5.

If this recommendation is accepted, then it is proposed additionally that the policy included in this report be adopted as well, which has been developed in accordance with expectations representatives have expressed and current practice. It has also been developed to work with the amended Standing Orders.

Meeting Notifications Policy

Committee meetings are an important part of the governance of UMSU. The department's priorities and activities are set and discussed within these meetings so it is important that they are a democratic forum.

Every representative on an UMSU Committee has the right to:

- Receive adequate notice, as set out in the Constitution, of the time, date and location of a meeting.
 - Rule 88.1 of the Constitution requires four academic days between the day notice is sent and the day the meeting is held for a regular meeting.
 - Rule 88.2 of the Constitution requires two academic days between the day notice is sent and the day the meeting is held for a special meeting, unless more than half the voting representatives of the committee notify the Secretary that they believe a meeting should be held with less notice.
 - These rules apply to Committee meetings in accordance with Rule 100.1 of the Constitution.
- Be consulted by the relevant Officer regarding the setting of the time, date and location of a meeting and the setting of a meeting schedule.
- Be included in the decision-making of the Committee.

For meetings which are not set on the meeting schedule or otherwise held according to the direction of the Committee, Officers, as part of their duties, shall consult with all the representatives on their committees regarding availabilities for meetings. The time, date and location of meetings should then be passed on to the Secretary such that adequate notice can be sent.

Recommendation 2.2:

Students' Council adopts the Meeting Notifications Policy.

Proposed Amendments to Procedures for Student Representatives

Proposed amendments were circulated to Students' Council members detailing amendments to the Regulations.

Rule 1.1 of Procedures for Student Representatives previously referred to C152 and C153 which presently relates to Meetings of the Staffing Sub-Committee and Budget Process. This has been updated to refer to C155 and C156 which refer to Regulations other than Electoral Regulations and the Provisions of Regulations.

Rule 3.2 is amended to capitalise the 't' of 'the' at the beginning of the sentence.

Rule 10.3 read 'The UMSU logo shall appear in Appendix A' and has been amended to read "... shall appear as in Appendix A".

Rule 14 has been added to allow the Indigenous, Queer and Wom*n's departments to appoint a Committee Secretary from their restricted constituency when the Secretary is not a member of that restricted constituency. It does not require the committees to do so, but does so to increase the level of autonomy available to that committee.

Rule 15 sets out a process for the election of Finance and Staffing Sub-Committees, consistent with the Constitutional requirement to elect these committees before their term commences (C141) and sets out a process for this election. Students' Council(-elect) may determine the conduct of the election or may allow it to follow the regulations.

Rule 16 sets out a process for the appointment of the Students' Representative Network and outlines some basic rights and responsibilities for representatives. In conjunction with rule 15 it is hoped that these amendments will allow for a longer opening of applications and more time for Staffing Sub-Committee to meet and consider applications. That applications for SRN should be opened and considered by Staffing Sub-Committee seems to be a relatively uncontroversial convention and therefore it seems reasonable for the process to be automatic.

Recommendation 2.3:

Students' Council adopts the amendments to Procedures for Student Representatives.

3. Staffing and Finance Sub-Committee Elections

At the end of Semester 1, I enquired as to whether any Students' Councillors would object to the opening of Staffing and Finance Sub-Committee elections, no objections were received. Nominations were opened and were sufficient to fill Finance Sub-Committee only. The following representatives have therefore been elected unopposed: Onagh Bishop, Kaitlin Ferris, Dominique Ottobre, Goldie Pergl, Jesse Overton-Skinner and Stephanie Gold.

Clubs and Societies OB report 5

In bullet format, for an easier read!

What C & S has been up to...

- C & S has had a busy year so far with a number of new clubs seeking to start up with C & S while on the other hand a number of clubs have unfortunately been disaffiliated. A lot of new clubs are happily going through the process of affiliation. Unfortunately this resulted in us having to make up many new club packs (which have since been made). Thanks to Shaun Khoo for helping be Fiona's slave on this task.
- Both of us have been RO-ing for various clubs and Kath has been steadily going through the AGM's from previous years.
- Clubs have been applying for a steady stream of grants and have held many a successful event.
- Here is a Budget update:
So far this year we have spent \$20,700 on grants, \$9,289 on Orientation, \$31.60 from the Special Projects line for a locksmith to make keys for Club lockers which will soon be made available, \$55.25 from the Special Projects line for BBQ equipment, and \$91.80 from the Stationery line for the New Clubs Packs.
- Our committee has had a few membership changes that has seen Jason Ball leave us and be replaced by Jonathan Donagan. While Jonathan Hunt is to be replaced by John Harris on the 15th of June since Jonathan is leaving for far greener pastures. Clubs Council has kindly decided to continue with the 'J' name theme.

We don't really have much to report this time, but Students' council has managed to approve our last report. We've also attached the regulations that we need to submit to council at the bottom of this report.

Regulations

The Clubs and Societies committee recommends that the following regulation amendments:

C&S Committee Meeting 8 (April 2 2009)

Compulsory Training Regulations

6.1.r. fails to attend training or information sessions deemed by a motion of the C&S Committee as compulsory.

Motion 5: That the compulsory training regulation be recommended to Students' Council.

Moved: Jono Hunt Seconded: Sam Rankin

CWD

C&S Committee Meeting 11 (May 15 2009)

Motion 16: That the Officers recommend new regulation 5.6.k to Students' Council. The regulation reads: 5.6.k Clubs that fail to submit the membership list containing the information and using the format stipulated by a motion of the Clubs and Societies Committee will receive no funding until such time as they submit the membership list in the correct format.

Moved: Jono Donagan Seconded: Jesse Overton-Skinner

CWD

Club statistics

Number of Completed Affiliations: 1

Education Students Association

Number of clubs in the process of Affiliation: 14

Number of clubs disaffiliated this year: 6

Breakfirst

Cross-culture Dialogue Society

Turkish Students on Campus

Urban Yoga

Department of Forestry and Ecosystems Science Student Club

Mechanical Engineering Society

Tea Statistics

Number of teas (max): 15

Number of teas (current):11

Number of tea pots: 2

Education Report

1/6/09:

Recently we have been organizing more in preparation for the Exam Support Stalls and also trying to improve SRN.

Exam Support Stalls

In the last couple of weeks we have worked hard to secure financial support for hiring the marquee, which will allow us to spend more of the money allocated for the support stall on supplies for students. We have been working on a roster for keeping watch at the stall (and volunteers!??) which has been quite logistically difficult given the early starts!

We are in the process of creating an FAQ sheet and helpful hints guide for volunteers to ensure the support stall is as engaging and helpful as possible. We have also designed and ordered a new sign to be made so that the exam support stall will be more visible and clear on what service the union is providing.

Education Conference 2009

We published a short article about ed con and the student subsidy available for union members in the last edition of Farrago. This week we will be publicizing widely on posters around the universities, on the ed ac web site page, and leaving applications ready to be picked up at reception and info desk.

This year the itinerary is set for a fascinating debate and policy fest on higher education in Australia. Applications are due in time for the subsidy offer by June 12th.

SRN

We have opened up an online avenue for SRN members to communicate to one another on facebook and on the Union twitter site. The idea is that any information from university meetings will be uploaded and online for students to see, with the exception of a couple of committees that deal with sensitive and private information.

We also held a meeting last week to discuss how SRN members felt they were going and to nut out any problems, as well as distribute info about ed conference.

Summary of University Committee meetings:

As always, we have also been attending various university committees. Here is a short summary of just a couple...for more info please let us know!

SPC:

- Significant debate around access for international students and whether the university should adopt a new English test that is done entirely by computer. We disagreed with this, pointing out the nuances in spoken English that are essential to effective communication
- The enter scores for indigenous students and other special entrant students was discussed, and a change to the targeted group so that less privileged schools manage to get the most applications through by using an anomaly or loophole, ie, Ballarat Grammar School being classified as disadvantaged because it is a regional school, which falls into the same category as for instance, Shepparton High.
- Potential scope for university making a profit from selling their curriculum 'packages' to overseas universities...watch this space....

TALQAC:

- Debated the pro's and con's of having merely an optional online survey for students to give feedback on how they felt their degree as a whole was going as opposed to compulsory QOTs
- The strain on student centre's and lack of direction was made clear
- Noted relative contentment with level of feedback on QOTS, (averaging mostly 4). This is obviously skewed because many non-plussed students put 4 as an 'average'.

Semester 2...

- We will be following up University Bookshop to ensure the student discount is viable and that the percentage profit for the university is not excessive compared to other universities. We have reason to believe that the Melbourne Uni Bookshop is making a killing on students buying its books for a very small discount in comparison to other universities, where union members receive a 20-25% discount. Hmmmmmm
- Success!!! MUSIL officially gave the green light for the proposal put together for a book co-op on level one. The Book co-op will become one of our central projects for semester two. We hope to make the space as effective as possible and create another student hub on level one whilst working closely with other departments and the with the food co-op. We have attached the co-op proposal for your reference.
- Peer Support Program

Education (Public Affairs) report for Students' Council 11/09 (6/5/2009)

Students for Palestine

Palestine Solidarity Week was a fantastic success throughout Melbourne, with students getting involved from La Trobe, Monash, Swinburne, and RMIT. Here at Melbourne Uni the week included a range of exciting events. These included:

- Pinboard displays of the history of Palestine
- Information stalls in North Court on Monday, with a Students for Palestine stall, and an Islamic Students Society club stall, with cultural music and a sheesha pipe
- On Wednesday night Antony Loewenstein spoke on campus, which was a great success with over 180 people attending
- On Friday all the students from other campuses converged on Melbourne Uni for the Solidarity Feast, which included comedy acts, music from The Brothahood, traditional Palestinian music and dancing as well as a suite of Middle-eastern food

The feast in particular was a great success and capped off the week really well, with over 300 people in attendance! Clearly the largest event the Student Union has hosted all year and a great testament to the work that Students for Palestine is doing, namely, raising awareness about the history of the struggle for Palestinian rights and emphasising the need for solidarity with Palestinians here in Australia.

Throughout the week, members of the Students for Palestine collective and the Education public OBs as well as Frances Lewis, Welfare OB, emphasised the importance of the Student Union in taking a stand against war and racism and being a progressive space that fights for the rights of the oppressed. With many hundreds of students at the events throughout the week, Palestine Solidarity Week provided us with a unique opportunity to discuss the necessity of being members of the union with students, particularly in the atmosphere of Voluntary Student Unionism and the obvious stifling effect this has on unions' ability to give students a voice and play progressive roles in the world.

We are now excitedly planning for the Al-Nakba rally happening 15th May at 5:30pm at the State Library. Al-Nakba, or 'the catastrophe,' is an annual event of remembering the dispossession of Palestinians 61 years ago, which is significant to millions of Arabic and Muslim people, as well as supporters of Palestinian rights, around the world. The rally demands an end to the siege of Gaza and the Israeli occupation of Palestine, recognising the Palestinian right of return, and calling for Australia to participate in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign against Israel. We encourage all supporters of Palestinian rights to attend this rally.

Deregulation forum

UMSU hosted a public forum which was attended by an Ed public officer on the deregulation of Education on April 7th, raising the issues of the government's plans to deregulate higher education. This comes in the context of the mass discrediting of the free market due to the catastrophic collapse of financial institutions around the world

that heralded this ideology. The government's verbal commitment to increasing the accessibility of higher education is a noble one, but is not backed up by any promises of greater funding for education nor greater planning. Instead, the 'market forces' which have contributed to the misery of millions around the world in the Global Financial Crisis are meant to be the saviour of education. This represents nothing more than another attempt by university administrations to grab more money from students while providing less, and allowing the Labor government to get away with not promising any extra funding for education.

Fair Fares

The Fair Fares rally on Wednesday 29th April was a great success. It was well attended by international and postgraduate students from around Melbourne, who marched to Parliament steps in the city. The denial of international students concession cards by the state government is downright racist, and this action is the first step towards challenging the many ways in which international students are discriminated against.

It was a real shame that not more of the student union was present to support international and postgraduate students in their fight for concession cards. If the union can't take up the most basic demand for equal rights for students on campus then how can it appeal to those students who are not yet members to join?

ABCC rally

On Tuesday 28th April the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), with support from a number of other unions, took action against the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC). The ABCC is a body set up under Howard and continued with the Rudd Labor government, and has extreme draconian powers against construction workers. Under this body construction workers are denied basic rights that everyone else enjoys. They have no right to silence if questioned, are not allowed to tell workmates, friends or family of what happened in an interview with the ABCC and face fines of many thousands of dollars and up to 6 months' gaol if these laws are broken. This is a deliberate attack on one of the strongest, most militant unions in Australia. The rally last week was a significant step for the union, which has been bled dry by this body through fines and restricted activity. There were up to 15,000 people who marshalled at Trades Hall and marched through the city, and the message from the front was more militant and determined than it had been in the past. It is important for us to see that the ABCC is an attack on all workers, and if they can get away with this watchdog on one of the strongest unions in Australia then it is surely going to be implemented elsewhere. The Education (Public Affairs) officers both attended and were impressed by the size and determination of the demonstration, and fully support workers taking further action against this body. We encourage unionists to show solidarity with the CFMEU workers and support further actions against the ABCC when they take place.

Al-Nakhba

We are also building for the upcoming Al-Nakba commemorations happening on 15th May. Al Nakba, Arabic for "the catastrophe," is the events of 1948 when hundreds of Palestinian villages were demolished to make way for the state of Israel, entire villages of people massacred, and hundreds of thousands displaced, most still living in refugee camps today 60 years later. With the recent attacks on Gaza it is, now more

than ever, imperative that the student union and all those who are against war and racism stand up against the oppression waged by the Israeli state and stand in solidarity with the Palestinians. The Students for Palestine group is organising a Teach In at 3:30pm on Friday 15th May at room 4, lvl 8, Building 10 of RMIT in the city to raise awareness of the plight of the Palestinians. After that we will be going straight to the rally outside the State Library at 5:30pm. We encourage all who support the fight for Palestinian rights to attend these Al-Nakba events next Friday.

Education (Public Affairs) Report for Students Council 3/6/2009

Save the Victorian College of the Arts Campaign

Last Monday 25th May Tim headed down to the VCA to participate in a meeting called around defending the VCA from subject, course and staff cuts that Melbourne University is proposing. Since the takeover of the VCA by Melbourne University, the administration here at MU have been planning to 'streamline' the VCA much like they have done with the Arts faculty under the auspices of the Melbourne Model. Here we saw massive cuts to courses and subjects, particularly specialist subjects, and whole majors such as gender studies. It was also accompanied with large numbers of staff redundancies, as well as increasing the workloads of existing staff without remuneration.

It is clear that Melbourne University plans a similar attack on the VCA, with talk of demands that they slash up to 48% of their total budget! Whole courses are looking at being scrapped, while undergrad courses will be turned over to being broad degree factories, with any hope of specialization reserved for post-graduate study, which is of course much more expensive.

Melbourne Uni is about to implement this within the next 18 months, and it has shaken up a large number of new students who were not aware, but now realise that their courses are in jeopardy. Last Monday 18th an emergency meeting was called which attracted between 80-100 VCA students, approx 10% of the whole campus! At the meeting Tim attended, it was decided that there will be a performance piece coupled with a mini-speakout/ awareness raising event, next Friday 5th June at 3:30pm at Federation Square. They will be getting former alumni to speak in defence of the college, and are hoping to attract more media attention and build some momentum coming into next semester.

NTEU strike

The National Tertiary Education Union strike last Thursday 21st was a great first step for the NTEU on Melbourne Uni and indeed throughout Victoria, as teachers and staff, having been ignored by administrations around the state took action to demand long-deserved basic working rights.

It was a great experience for us office-bearers to be on a picket where we actually work, and get the chance to talk to students about the need to show solidarity with the staff and in support of their own education not come onto campus for that day. We had limited success in turning students away, but the real highlight of the day was the centralized rally itself down outside the State Library in the afternoon, which got around 450 people along to it.

It was very unfortunate that the union itself did not shut down on Thursday to show solidarity with the staff in helping keep the campus as dead as possible. Office Bearers coming onto campus certainly showed their allegiance that day. They sent a message that they are on the side of the university administration, that is forcing down wages and conditions, rather than with the university staff, teachers and their union who were fighting for basic rights such as better staff-student ratios, greater job security and decent pay.

Al Nakba

Friday 15th was the 61st commemoration of Al-Nakba, or the catastrophe, remembering the displacement of 750,000 innocent Palestinians because of the establishment of Israel in 1948. Students for Palestine held a highly successful teach-in that afternoon which attracted 150 people who heard from La Trobe academic Patrick Wolfe, and Palestinian nurse Riyad al-Adassi.

We then went across to the rally outside the State Library. This was a great, loud and passionate show of support for Palestine and outrage at Israel's continued aggression towards the Palestinian people. It really highlighted the truth of one of the most popular slogans, "you can kill, you can lie, but Palestine will never die."

Haneen Zoabi

On Tuesday 19th Students for Palestine were please to host Haneen Zoabi, the first woman elected from an Arab party to the Israeli government, the Knesset. Around 250 people came to hear Haneen speak about the inbuilt racism of the Israeli state, and the day to day humiliation Palestinians face. It was great to hear such a courageous, outspoken critic of Israel, fighting for Palestinian rights from within Israel. The event was a great success which really helped solidify and

raise the profile of the group as a serious organization that takes a defiant stand in support of the Palestinians.

Environment Office Bearers' Report

Rachel Barrett Sam Cossar-Gilbert

Environment Collective Meetings

Collective meetings have been well attended by enthusiastic members both new and old. The meeting hour has been divided into time for a different workshop/activity each week organised by collective members and the remainder of the time for working groups to form and organise.

Sustainable Food Group

This group has secured garden patches and a green house for a student run vegetable garden on campus and plan to start planting next week. The group has also organised for free seeds to be available to students through the Environment Office.

Melbourne University Bike Co-Op

The Bike Co-Op has received vast amounts of interest from students and continues its quest to get a space to operate from. Bike workshops have been run on and off campus and a series of bike mechanics courses will take place throughout the year.

Environmental Education Group

This working group aims to open channels of information and publicise ways in which students can be involved in environmental campaigns. A zine to this effect, which will also link the various environment groups on campus and provide opportunities for student contributions, is in the works.

Climate Action Group

Members of this working group were involved in the CPRS actions that took place on Friday 27th March at various MPs' offices around Melbourne. The following day some members travelled to the Latrobe Valley at five am to participate in an action to highlight the inefficacy of turning of lights to stop climate change (Earth Hour was to happen the same evening) and attempt to 'turn off' a coal-fired power station instead.

Students of Sustainability (SoS)

SoS will be held in Melbourne this year, at Monash, Clayton. Collective members have been involved in the cross-campus organising network for the conference in July.

Ride-to-Uni-Breakfasts

One such event has been organised so far, in conjunction with the Bike Co-Op who put on a workshop along side the breakfast table. The Breakfast was success and attracted several new members to be involved with the Environment Department.

Motion 1

That Students' Council approve the spending of the Environment Committee of sum of \$100 on and electric frying pan, a toaster and a kettle to be used for the 'Ride-to- Uni-Breakfasts' put on by the Environment Department.

Motion 2

That \$1000 be authorised to reimburse UMSU officer bearers for buying food for Play with Your Food and to pay UMSU entertainment for gas, to be taken from the Whole of Union line.

Welfare Report for Students Council on 31st March

Frances Lewis

I continue to liaise with reps from the Youth Disability Advocacy Service around attendant carer funding and am investigating what further I can do to raise awareness of the issue. It is appalling that students with physical disabilities requiring a fulltime carer are denied funding for the carer, meaning they are denied access to university unless they can pay for the carer themselves.

I also have been liaising with the GSA and MUOSS around concession card campaign which is going really well. This is vital as more reports come out of the discrimination and harassment (including physical assault) of international students, the high cost of public transport just being one aspect.

I attended the National Union of Students National Day of Action. It was an absolute farce; outside people from both sides of the Labor Party, there was basically no one. It is hardly surprising given that all we have heard from Labor Students is support for Rudd. It is dishonest to say you are running a campaign to scrap VSU when you have been campaigning *for* Rudds new Services Fee, which as we know will go straight to the University Admin and has no guarantees that student bodies will see any of it or that it can be used for political campaigns to represent students interests. This is a fee that represents a continuation of political VSU and the political silencing of students. Maybe if the Labor students weren't so interested in their careers and getting a cushy office job in a MPs office, they might actually run a critical campaign that forces the government to improve the living standards of students.

I also continue to be involved in the Students for Palestine collective, with Palestine Solidarity Week looking to be real success. However there appear to be students here in the Student Union with no union principles who support the slaughter of Palestinians, with my committees decision to fund a BBQ and PA system for the week being appealed. It is thoroughly undemocratic that a minority can block a decision made by a democratically elected body. It is also preventing me from following my job requirements of tackling racism. In the current climate celebrating Arabic culture is a vital way to show the relevance of the union to students who have generally not seen the point of the union. The Welfare Department is NOT a service provider but a campaign body to campaign around racism, discrimination and to promote diversity and tolerance.

Recommendation 1:

UMSU recognises that students with physical disabilities requiring a full-time attendant carer receive federal funding for such a carer during school. UMSU also recognises that these students stop receiving this funding when entering tertiary education, and that this is a major barrier to these students attending university and gaining tertiary qualifications. Therefore UMSU calls on the Rudd Government to provide funding for attendant carers for students undertaking any kind of tertiary study.

Recommendation 2:

1. UMSU recognizes that many students work long hours on top of their study in order to make ends meet. UMSU therefore condemns the proposed HECS HELP volunteer scheme, as it will only benefit wealthier students and not those who need the HECS fee reduction.
2. UMSU recognises that the Bradley Review does not go far enough to tackle student poverty. It also recognizes that a voucher system, where funding follows students not institutions, will prevent already underfunded universities from receiving crucial resources. UMSU condemns the governments implementation of a deregulated, demand-driven funding scheme. UMSU also calls on the government to
 - a. Lower the age of independence to 18
 - b. Increase the Youth Allowance and Austudy payments to at least match the Henderson Poverty Line of \$370 a week.
 - c. Tie Rent Assistance payments to the CPI index.

Students Council Meeting 22 April Welfare OB Report [Frances Lewis]

Firstly, the concession card Day of Action, to demand travel concessions for international and postgraduate students is next Wednesday, 29th April. I think it is vital that everyone comes along to show their support. I have been liaising with the president of the GSA and MUOSS to make sure this is as successful as possible, and have been staffing information stalls collecting petitions and letting people know about Wednesday's action. There is also going to be a forum on the issue, with some state government officials agreeing to come and speak, it will be a great opportunity to grill them as to why precisely they deny travel concessions to such a large section of the student population.

I am also trying to get a campaign around Attendant Carer funding for tertiary students started. I think it outrageous that students miss out on higher education because they don't receive funding for a carer, without whom they cannot physically attend classes or study. Therefore I have the recommendation below, but also a attempting to spread a survey being undertaken by YouthLaw, alongside YDAS (Youth Disability Advocacy Service), to determine the full effect of this on students.

I also continue to be involved in Students for Palestine, with our hugely successful Palestine Solidarity Week last month. Countless people came to look at the exhibition, outlining the history of the creation of Israel on Palestinian land and the frequent massacres and atrocities committed by Israel against the Palestinians and their neighbours such as Lebanon. The music, the shisha pipe and the halal barbeque created a real atmosphere. It was wonderful to see the Melbourne University Islamic Society (UMIS) host a stall at the event.. The event showed to students involved in UMIS that the union does not buy into the stereotyping of Muslims prevalent in the media. Given the On Wednesday 180 people turned up to hear Antony Loewenstein speak. A prominent Jewish critic of Israel, he spoke on the need for more Jewish people to feel confident to oppose Israel's actions, and how there is nothing anti-Semitic about criticising Israel's military attacks on innocent civilians. The week finished with the Feast, attended by over 300 people, who enjoyed amazing home-cooked middle eastern food, a live oud performance (a traditional middle eastern instrument) and comedy from one of the "Salam Café" crew. It was great to have so many people celebrating a culture that is being destroyed and denigrated on a daily basis. It is outrageous that people in the union are still attempting to block funding for such a cultural awareness event, particularly when as Welfare Officer my job involves tackling racism. Perhaps I should only concern myself with white, English speaking students and ignore the vast number of Muslim and Arab students on campus who suffer racism, discrimination and harassment here on campus and around the city.

Recommendation 1:

UMSU recognises that students with physical disabilities requiring a full-time attendant carer receive federal funding for such a carer during primary and secondary school. UMSU also recognises that these students stop receiving this funding when entering

tertiary education, and that this is a major barrier to these students attending university and gaining tertiary qualifications. Therefore UMSU calls on the Rudd Government to provide funding for attendant carers for students undertaking any kind of tertiary study.

Recommendation 2:

1. UMSU recognizes that many students work long hours on top of their study in order to make ends meet. UMSU therefore condemns the proposed HECS HELP volunteer scheme, as it will only benefit wealthier students and not those who need the HECS fee reduction.
2. UMSU recognises that the Bradley Review does not go far enough to tackle student poverty. It also recognizes that a voucher system, where funding follows students not institutions, will prevent already underfunded universities from receiving crucial resources. UMSU condemns the governments implementation of a deregulated, demand-driven funding scheme. UMSU also calls on the government to
 - a. Lower the age of independence to 18
 - b. Increase the Youth Allowance and Austudy payments to at least match the Henderson Poverty Line of \$370 a week.
 - c. Tie Rent Assistance payments to the CPI index.

Welfare report – 1st June 2009
Tristan Clack

I have now reached the mid-point of my term as welfare officer and the following is a list of recent activities

- Meetings continue with University officials and other interested parties concerning affordable and accessible student housing. There was also a forum (which I attended) called *Transnational and Temporary: students, community, and place-making in central Melbourne*, which was hosted by the Melbourne city council and many ideas were expressed concerning housing and the improvements that are needed not only to affordability but better integration between local and international students which involves everything from better apartment design to facilitate improved communal living through to breaking down the administrative divide between the two groups as in most institutions they are treated separately
- Sexual health campaigns still continue as this is an issue that won't go away. Through consultation with interested parties the campaign will be taken into second semester by postering known "hotspots", articles in student journals as well as advocating for more condom vending machines around campus. Plus the continuing sexual health awareness days where information and contraceptives are distributed using anonymous bags, as these methods have been proven to be effective as a means of getting the message across and do not cost the welfare department a single cent to operate
- Welfare committee has been consistently inquorate since my last report and as such no money has been approved or spent.
- Concession cards for all students campaign is continuing with events that are currently being planned for next semester. These include but not limited to badge making and having stalls to distribute them; a forum where students can come and ask questions directly to public officials (this event is subject to government personnel availability).

I will be continuing to work vigorously through the winter break by working together with housing associations, DHS and the university on affordable housing solutions; advocating for more sexual health promotions and continuing the good fight for concession cards for all students.

Welfare Report for Students Council, 3 June 2009

Over the weekend I attended the demonstration called by the Federation of Indian Students Australia to protest the recent violent racist attacks on Indian students. Upwards of 5000 Indian students came out to protest against the attacks. Their anger was mainly at the police, and the fact they are denying that these attacks are racist, and have actually blamed the victims. They suggest that students should just not draw attention to themselves, and that the problem is they make themselves targets by talking loudly in their native language and carrying luxury items like laptops, iPods and mobile phones. This really is a disgusting, racist, response, and it is great to see the clear rejection of this.

It is no surprise that these attacks have been happening given the way international students are treated. They are treated as cash cows by the universities and the government. The response of Universities Australia was that the attacks were terrible because it would impact on the international student market as it would turn students off from coming to Australia. It was good to see there was a lot of anger about this at the demo, with lots of speeches and placards stating how much money they bring to Australia, and about how Universities are happy to take their fees but don't care about their welfare, and how the government as well. For example, "I pay tax, I pay fees, I get stabbed... in Australia." And the protestor's anger towards the police proved justified as police moved in and brutally attacked the protestors, leaving several hospitalised.

I have been attempting to get in touch with MUOSS and the Melbourne University Indian Club to organise a forum and to discuss other ways that the Student Union, and particularly the Welfare Department, should respond. I think it is also now even more important the student union force the government to address some of the material inequalities that International students face such as lack of concession cards, manipulation and exploitation by housing agents and employers, and manipulation by universities and colleges. These factors combined mean students face poverty, are forced to live in outer suburbs with unsafe train stations as there is no affordable and liveable student housing close to universities, and made to feel as if they are less important and less worthy than other students.

I also staffed the NTEU picket line as staff struck to demand better working conditions and better pay. It was outrageous to see Office Bearers of the student union cross the picket line. It seems that some people clearly have no idea what unionism is, and do not understand the basic principle of showing solidarity and supporting strikes. Supporting a strike does not involve just saying you support it, but means respecting a picket line and not undermining a strike.

Platform:

International students, especially Indian students, are increasingly victims of racist attacks. Students have been beaten unconscious on trains, and others stabbed in the chest and head with screwdrivers by racists who gatecrashed a party. At least two have died of their injuries. These were clearly racially motivated, yet the Victorian Police have claimed they were not racist attacks, and have instead blamed the victims, saying they should just not draw attention to themselves and not travel on trains late at night. This is a reprehensible and racist response that lets the attackers off the hook. Similarly, the state government has refused to act on the issue, and refused to address the material inequalities that international students face, such as lack of concession cards, manipulation and exploitation by housing agents and employers, and manipulation by universities and colleges. Even the National Union of Students president David Barrow said that Australia is not a racist country and dismissed that the attacks were racist.

It was inspiring to see over 5000 students protest on Sunday against these attacks, with their anger targeted at the police and their dismissive attitude towards the attack. They were also angry about the way the government and universities purely use them as an easy way to make money, taking their money without any concern for their welfare. It is therefore vital that the Student Union stands with Indian students as they demand to be heard and to be treated with respect.

Motion

The University of Melbourne Student Union strongly condemns the racist attacks on Indian Students. We also condemn the appalling response by the Victorian Police to the attacks in denying the racist nature of the attacks and blaming the victims. We call on the government to provide:

- adequate funding for support services for international students. This includes housing and employment services, counselling, translation etc.
- affordable and liveable housing for students near universities so they are not forced to live in the outer suburbs
- increased staff at train stations and on trains, and increased lighting and surveillance cameras
- Transport concession cards for all international students