

University of Melbourne Student Union

Minutes of the Students' Council

Meeting 6/09

CONFIRMED

2 PM, 31st March 2009

Location: Joe Nap B, 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
 - Zoe Edwards appointed
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- 2.1 Minutes from the Meeting on 18-03-09 (attached)

3. Appeals Against Committee Decision

- 3.1 Education Committee and Students for Palestine (attached)
- 3.2 Welfare Committee and Students for Palestine (attached)

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 4.1 NUS Queer Campaign (attached)
- 4.2 Cage Free Campus Society Correspondence (attached)
- 4.3 Concession Cards Motions (attached)
- 4.4 Gaza Motion (attached)
- 4.5 Environment Department Capital Expenditure

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearers' Reports

- 6.1 President (attached)
- 6.2 Secretary (attached)
- 6.3 Activities
- 6.4 Arts (attached)
- 6.5 Clubs and Societies (attached)
- 6.6 Education Academic Affairs (attached)
- 6.7 Education Public Affairs (attached)
- 6.8 Indigenous (attached)

- 6.9 Media (attached)
- 6.10 Queer
- 6.11 Welfare (attached)
- 6.12 Wom*ns

7. Standing Committee Reports

- 7.1 Staffing Sub-Committee
- 7.2 Finance Sub Committee (yet to meet)
- 7.3 VCASU Merger Committee

8. Motions on Notice

- 8.1 That UMSU condemns the actions of the 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

9. Other Business

10. Next Meeting

11. Close

Meeting opened at: 2.20 PM, by Secretary Shaun Khoo

Agenda Item 1: Procedural Matters

Meeting Papers, UMSU Standing Orders and Environment Office Bearer's Report are circulated.

1.1 Election of Chair

<p>Motion 1: That Carla Drakeford chair the meeting Moved: Shaun Khoo CARRIED</p>

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

Students' Council

Brendan Thomas-Noone, Josh Schmidt, Phoebe Kelloway, Dan Musil, Taylor Kendall, Onagh Bishop, Dominique Ottobre, Clinton Markwell, James Smith, John Shipp, Stephanie Gold, Kyle Dadleh, Goldie Pergl, Sisi Ying, Liam Byrne (at 3.25pm)

Office Bearers

Piper O'Dowd (Clubs and Societies), Yoshua Wakeham (Media), Gillian Kilby (Media), Zoe Sanders (Media), Rachel Barrett (Environment), Sam Cossar-Gilbert (Environment), Gemma Leigh-Dodds (Education-Academic), Laura Harris (Education-Academic), Carla Drakeford (President), Chris Kloester (Activities), Tristan Clack (Welfare), David Liubinas (Activities), Shaun Khoo (Secretary), Cosima Nyx Mathews (Wom*ns), Kyle Lancaster (Indigenous), Tim Arnot (Education -Public),

Frances Lewis (Welfare), Bhakthi Puvanenthiran (Media), Katherine Klaus (Clubs and Societies), Sadia Schneider at 2.40pm (Education-Public),

Others

Catherine McInnis
Katelyn Grimmer
Bruno Friedel
Jesse Overton-Skinner
Matt Incerti
Miranda Kiraly
Jackson Renolds
Josh Anderson
Astrid Høgestøl
Jenny Munt
Jonathan Donagan
Jonathan Hisbert
Rowan Duncan
Alexander Davis
Patrick Clearwater
Ollie Walsh
Daniel Baker
Nina Flanagan
Tim Forster
Max Kaiser (at 4.02pm)
Sam Rankin
Evan Wallace
Candice Cranmer (minute taker)

Absent

Office Bearers

Adelaide Rief (Arts), Stefania Capogreco (Queer), Ezekiel Gould (Queer)

1.4 Apologies

Scott Bloodworth, Zoe Edwards
Chris Summers (Arts)

1.5 Proxies

Liam Byrne to Phoebe Kelloway
Scott Bloodworth to Bruno Friedel
Zoe Edwards to Onagh Bishop
Rudolph Hosri to Jesse Overton-Skinner

Upon leaving:

Goldie Pergl to Sam Rankin
Evan Wallace to Mathew Incerti
James Smith to John Shipp
Sisi Ying to Evan Wallace

1.6 Membership

Zoe Edwards appointed to Students' Council

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Several people make their intention to speak know. The Chair devises a speaking list - discussion and suggestions for agenda order occur.

<p>Motion 1: That Agenda Item 5 Correspondence is moved to Agenda Item 3</p>

<p>Moved: Goldie Pergl</p>

<p>CARRIED For: 11 Against: 4</p>
--

Motion 2: That Agenda Item 4.4 Gaza Motion is moved to Agenda Item 8.2
Moved: John Shipp
LOST For: 6 Against: 10

Motion 3: That the Environment Office Bearer Report be added as Agenda Item 6.13
Moved: Rachel Barrett
CWD

Brendan Thomas-Noone announces to Students' Council that he is filming for a T.V program and there will be cameras outside, after the meeting if any one would like to say a few words.

The Agenda will now read as follows:

2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes from the Meeting on 18-03-09 (attached)

3 Correspondence

4 Appeals Against Committee Decision

4.1 Education Committee and Students for Palestine (attached)

4.2 Welfare Committee and Students for Palestine (attached)

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.1 NUS Queer Campaign (attached)

5.2 Cage Free Campus Society Correspondence (attached)

5.3 Concession Cards Motions (attached)

5.4 Gaza Motion (attached)

5.5 Environment Department Capital Expenditure

6 Office Bearers' Reports

6.1 President (attached)

6.2 Secretary (attached)

6.3 Activities

6.4 Arts (attached)

6.5 Clubs and Societies (attached)

6.6 Education Academic Affairs (attached)

6.7 Education Public Affairs (attached)

6.8 Indigenous (attached)

6.9 Media (attached)

6.10 Queer

6.11 Welfare (attached)

6.12 Wom*ns

6.13 Environment

7 Standing Committee Reports

7.1 Staffing Sub-Committee

7.2 Finance Sub Committee (yet to meet)

7.3 VCASU Merger Committee

Procedural Motion: To put the motion to a vote

Moved:

LOST For: 7 Against: 9

Further discussion on appeals process and conditions as stated in the constitution.
Shaun Khoo reads from the constitution regarding the appeals process.

Procedural Motion: To put the motion to a vote

Moved: Jessie Overton-Skinner

CARRIED For: 16 Against: 1

Motion 5: The Education Committee Appeal be rejected due to lack of certainty to Student Councillors as to whether the Education Committee Appeal was received.

Moved: Onagh Bishop Seconded: Bruno Friedel

CARRIED For: 9 Against: 8

For: Josh Schmidt, Liam Byrne via Phoebe Kelloway, Phoebe Kelloway, Dan Musil, Taylor Kendall, Scott Bloodworth via Bruno Friedel, Zoe Edwards via Onagh Bishop, Onagh Bishop, Dominique Ottobre,

Against: Brendan Thomas-Noone, James Smith Clinton Markwell, Stephanie Gold, Sisi Ying, Rudolph Hosri via Jesse Overton-Skinner

Point of Order is called for regarding validity of this motion.

Chris Kloester calls for Dissent in the Chair's Ruling.

Secretary Shaun Khoo takes the Chair.

Discussion about this ruling occurs through the Chair, who seeks to put it to a vote.

Motion 6: Dissent in Chair's ruling

Moved: Chris Kloester

LOST For: 7 Against: 10

For: Rudolph Hosri via Jesse Overton-Skinner, Sisi Ying, Goldie Pergl, Kyle Dadleh, Stephanie Gold, James Smith, Clinton Markwell

Against: Brendan Thomas-Noone, Josh Schmidt, Liam Byrne via Phoebe Kelloway, Dan Musil, Taylor Kendall, Scott Bloodworth via Bruno Friedel, Zoe Edwards via Onagh Bishop, Onagh Bishop, Dominique Ottobre

The Chair is returned to Carla Drakeford

James Smith leaves and proxies to John Shipp at 3.09pm

Quorum count -11 voting members –the meeting continues

Agenda Item 4.2 Welfare Committee and Students for Palestine

Charlie Goodman leaves at 3.10pm

Sisi Ying leaves and proxies to Evan Wallace at 3.10pm

Frances Lewis speaks to the Welfare Committee and Students for Palestine document (attached).

Extensive speaking list drawn up.

Liam Byrne arrives at 3.25pm

Quorum count 3.25pm - still quorate –the meeting continues

Goldie Pergl leaves and proxies to Sam Rankin at 3.27pm

Kyle Lancaster leaves at 3.28pm

Discussion via the speaking list continues

Cosima Nyx Stone leaves at 3.35pm

Discussion via the speaking list continues

Quorum count -12- meeting continues, the Chair reads the extensive speaking list which continues accordingly.

Frances Lewis leaves at 3.46pm and returns at 3.48pm

Cosima Nyx Stone returns at 3.50pm

Katherine Klaus leaves at 3.51pm

Procedural Motion: To close the speaking list

Moved: Sam Cossar-Gilbert

CARRIED For: 10 Against: 7

Evan Wallace leaves at 3.54pm
Sam Cossar-Gilbert leaves at 3.56pm

The Chair reads a motion received from (mover) Onagh Bishop and seconded by Gemma Leigh-Dodds - to Students' Council and closes the speaking list.

The Chair reads another motion received by (mover) John Shipp and seconded by Kyle Dadleh. The speaking list continues.

Bhakthi Puvanenthiran leaves at 4.13pm

The Chair, receives a foreshadowed motion from (mover) Josh Schmidt, seconded by Phoebe Kelloway.

Procedural Motion: To put the motions to a vote

Moved: John Shipp

CARRIED For: 9 Against: 7

Motion 7: That the Welfare Committee Appeal be upheld

Moved: John Shipp Seconded: Kyle Dadleh

LOST For: 6 Against: 9 Abstentions: 1

For: Rudolph Hosri via Jesse Overton-Skinner, Sam Rankin, Kyle Dadleh, James Smith via John Shipp, Stephanie Gold, Clinton Markwell via Miranda Kiraly,

Against: Dominique Ottobre, Zoe Edwards via Onagh Bishop, Onagh Bishop, Scott Bloodworth via Bruno Friedel, Taylor Kendall, Dan Musil, Phoebe Kelloway, Josh Schmidt, Liam Byrne

Abstentions: Brendan Thomas-Noone

Procedural Motion: To suspend standing orders so as the foreshadowed motion does not have to be voted upon.

Moved: John Shipp

LOST For: 6 Against: 10

Foreshadowed Motion: That the Appeal pertaining to the Welfare Committee be dismissed

Moved: Josh Schmidt Seconded: Phoebe Kelloway

CARRIED For: 9 Against: 6 Abstentions: 1

For: Dominique Ottobre, Zoe Edwards via Onagh Bishop, Onagh Bishop, Scott Bloodworth via Bruno Friedel, Taylor Kendall, Dan Musil, Phoebe Kelloway, Josh Schmidt, Liam Byrne

Against: Rudolph Hosri via Jesse Overton-Skinner, Sam Rankin, Kyle Dadleh, James Smith via John Shipp, Stephanie Gold, Clinton Markwell via Miranda Kiraly,

Abstentions: Brendan Thomas-Noone

Onagh Bishop speaks to the motion moved by her and seconded by Gemma Leigh-Dodds (motion 8)

Procedural Motion: For the motion to now be put

Moved: John Shipp

CARRIED For: 12 Against: 4

Motion 8: In light of the intense debate that these appeals have ignited, the Student Council asks the Welfare Officers to call a special meeting as soon as possible to seek clarification as to the additional moneys requested (approximately 300) and discuss safeguards for security for the week as well as clarifying the diversity of the clubs and organisations involved.

Moved: Onagh Bishop Seconded: Gemma Leigh-Dodds

CARRIED For: 11 Against: 3 Abstentions: 2

For: Scott Bloodworth via Bruno Friedel, Brendan Thomas-Noone, Zoe Edwards via Onagh Bishop, Onagh Bishop, Dominique Ottobre, Clinton Markwell via Miranda Kiraly, Stephanie Gold, James Smith via John Shipp, Kyle Dadleh, Goldie Pergl via Sam Rankin, Rudolph Hosri via Jesse Overton-Skinner

Against: Josh Schmidt, Phoebe Kelloway, Liam Byrne

Abstentions: Taylor Kendall, Dan Musil

Agenda Item 5: Matters Arising from the Minutes

Agenda Item 5.1 NUS Queer Campaign

Liam Byrne speaks to the Motion to Endorse NUS 'Statement for Equality' (attached)

Motion 9: UMSU Students' Council endorses the NUS National Queer Offices 'Statement for Equality'

Moved: Liam Byrne

Seconded: Ezekiel Gould

CWD

Sadia Schneider and David Liubinas leave at 4.35pm

Agenda Item 5.2 Cage Free Campus Society Correspondence

Carla Drakeford speaks of her correspondence with Katelyn Grimmer of the Cage Free Campus Society and invites Katelyn (who has left the meeting) back to speak at the next Students' Council meeting.

Quorum count -9 members –the meeting continues.

Agenda Item 5.3 Concession Cards Motion

Tristan Clack speaks to the Concession Card Amendment Motion (attached).

The Chair reads the motion:

Motion 10: UMSU recommends the abolishment of section 2.20DA of the 'public transport amendment act of 2007' on the grounds that it unfairly discriminates against postgraduate and international students. UMSU further endorses the public rally on

Moved: Tristan Clack

Seconded: Frances Lewis

CWD with amendments

Quorum count -10

Stephanie Gold and Kyle Dadleh left at 4.42pm

Quorum count 8 –Quorum lost

Agenda Item 9: Next Meeting

Next meeting on: 2pm, Wednesday April 22 in Graham Cornish A/B

Agenda Item 10: Close

Meeting closed at: 4.42pm PM

Certified by Chair:

Signed:

Dated:

University of Melbourne Student Union

Minutes of the Students' Council

Meeting 5/09

UNCONFIRMED

2 PM, 18 March 2009

Location: MUVT Room 1, 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

Scott Bloodworth appointed to be Mature Age Representative.

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes from Meeting on 06-03-09 (attached)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Education Public Report (attached)

3.2 Welfare Report (attached)

3.3 RMIT Motion (attached)

3.4 NUS Queer Campaign

3.5 Gaza Motion (attached)

3.6 Process for Setting Committee Meetings (see Secretary's Report)

3.7 Meeting Schedule (attached)

4. Correspondence

4.1 Cage Free Campus Society (attached)

5. Office Bearer's Reports

5.1 President's Report (attached)

5.2 Secretary's Report

5.3 Education Public 2 (attached)

6. Other Reports

6.1 VCASU Merger Committee

6.2 Finance Sub-Committee Election

7. Motions on Notice

7.1 MUDFest (attached)

"That UMSU, in recognising the membership potential, opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration and widespread benefits to the student community, allocate \$5000 from the Whole of Union fund to the MUDFest Department (Cultural Services) to assist in the running of MUDFest 11, August 10-29 2009"

7.2 Concession Cards (attached)

8. Other Business

9. Next Meeting

10. Close

Meeting opened at: 2.20 PM, by Shaun Khoo

Agenda Item 1: Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

<p>Motion 1: That Carla Drakeford chair the meeting Moved: Carla Drakeford CARRIED</p>
--

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So Acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

Students' Council

Rudolph Hosri, Josh Schmidt, Brendan Thomas-Noone, John Shipp, James Smith, Clinton Markwell, Kyle Dadleh, Dominique Ottobre, Sisi Ying, Phoebe Kelloway, Goldie Pergl, Liam Byrne, Dan Musil (arrives at 2.28pm)

Office Bearers

Shaun Khoo (Secretary), Carla Drakeford (President), Zoe-Zora Sanders (Media), Gillian Kilby (Media), Kyle Lancaster (Indigenous), Ruby Warber (Indigenous), Sam Cossar-Gilbert (Environment), Adelaide Rief (Arts), Chris Summers (Arts), Cosima Nyx Stone (Wom*ns), Stefania Capogreco (Queer), Ezekiel Gould (Queer), Chris Kloester (Activities), David Liubinas (Activities), Francis Lewis (Welfare), Tim Arnot (Education –Public), Laura Harris (Education –Academic), Bhakthi Puvanenthiran (Media)

Others

Jesse Overton-Skinner
Charlie Goodman
Matt Incerti
Jackson Reynolds
David Haidon
Lydia Bevege
Rachael Lim
Sam Rankin

Justin Baré –UMSU General Manager
Candice Cranmer –minute taker

Absent

Students' Council

Taylor Kendall

Office Bearers

Gemma Leigh Dodds (Education –Academic), Sadia Schneider (Education-Public), Tristan Clack (Welfare), Rachel Barrett (Environment), Yoshua Wakeham (Media), Katherine Klaus (Clubs and Societies), Piper O'Dowd (Clubs and Societies)

1.4 Apologies

Stephanie Gold
Onagh Bishop

1.5 Proxies

Stephanie Gold to John Shipp
Onagh Bishop to Dominique Ottobre
Goldie Pergl to Sam Rankin (at 4.02pm)
Rudolph Hosri to Jesse Overton-Skinner (at 4.02pm)

1.6 Membership

Shaun Khoo (Secretary) reports that Scott Bloodworth has been appointed as the Mature Age Representative on Students' Council.

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Liam Byrne suggests Agenda Item 6.1 VCASU Merger Committee is moved to Agenda Item 3.1, as VCASU representatives - Jackson Reynolds and David Haidon are present to speak at the meeting. Discussion of Agenda order.

Motion 2: That Agenda Item 6.1 VCASU Merger Committee is moved to Agenda Item 3.1 and that a motion from the Environment Department be added as Agenda Item 8.1

Moved: From the Chair
CARRIED For: 9

Motion 3: To suspend standing orders to allow the inclusion of the Activities Report as Agenda Item 5.4 and the Indigenous Report as Agenda Item 5.5

Moved: From the Chair
CWD

Motion 4: That Agenda Item 3.5 Gaza Motion is moved to Agenda 7.3

Moved: John Shipp

CARRIED For: 5 Against: 3 Abstentions: 4

For: Rudolph Hosri, Stephanie Gold via John Shipp, James Smith, Clinton Markwell, Kyle Dadleh.

Against: Josh Schmidt, Liam Byrne, Phoebe Kelloway

Abstentions: Goldie Pergl, Dominique Ottobre, Brendan Thomas-Noone, Sisi Ying

The Agenda now reads:

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes from Meeting on 06-03-09 (attached)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 VCASU Merger Committee

3.2 Education Public Report (attached)

3.3 Welfare Report (attached)

3.4 RMIT Motion (attached)

3.5 NUS Queer Campaign

3.6 Process for Setting Committee Meetings (see Secretary's Report)

3.7 Meeting Schedule (attached)

4. Correspondence

4.1 Cage Free Campus Society (attached)

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1 President's Report (attached)

5.2 Secretary's Report

5.3 Education Public 2 (attached)

5.4 Activities Report

5.5 Indigenous Report

6. Other Reports

6.1 Finance Sub-Committee Election

7. Motions on Notice

7.1 MUDFest (attached)

"That UMSU, in recognising the membership potential, opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration and widespread benefits to the student community, allocate \$5000 from the Whole of Union fund to the MUDFest Department (Cultural Services) to assist in the running of MUDFest 11, August 10-29 2009"

7.2 Concession Cards (attached)

7.3 Gaza Motion (attached)

8. Other Business

8.1 Environment –Capital Expenditure

9. Next Meeting

10. Close

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Amendments to Students' Council Meeting 3, 12-12-09, referencing Taylor Kendall's comments to be amended to be expressed as gender neutral pronouns.

Amendments to Students' Council Meeting 4, 06-03-09 –that Chris Lewis (proxy for James Smith) is recorded as leaving the meeting at 4.07pm instead of James Smith.

Motion 5: That the minutes of Students' Council Meeting 4 on 06-03-09, are a true and accurate record.

Moved: From the Chair

CWD

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 VCASU Merger Committee

Discussion about the election of a VCASU Merger Committee occurs

Applications had opened and were now closed - no nominations were received.

The Chair invited voting members of Students' Council to nominate for one of the four positions.

Goldie Pergl and Dominique Ottobre nominate.

Motion 6: That Goldie Pergl and Dominique Ottobre are elected onto the VCASU merger committee

Moved: From the Chair

CWD

The opportunity for voting members of Students' Council to nominate for the Merger Committee in the future is left open.

Jackson Reynolds and David Haidon from VCASU speak of impending closure.

Tim Arnot arrives 2.33pm

Discussion surrounding the merger occurs and Justin Baré is asked to clarify some points about constitutional amendments regarding the merger.

Agenda Item 3.2 Education Public Report (attached)

Tim Arnot speaks to the report and iterates that the recommendations, outlined at the last Students' Council meeting had not been voted upon.

A speaking list is drawn up.

Procedural Motion : That we just talk to the recommendation

Moved: Liam Byrne

CARRIED For: 8 Against: 2 Abstentions: 3

Lengthy discussion via the speaking list occurs regarding the recommendation for Palestinian Solidarity Week.

Tim Arnot is named at 2.50pm.

Jessie Skinner speaks about her attendance at the Education Committee Meeting and especially regarding expenditure relative to this recommendation. She requests that it is noted at Students' Council that at this meeting there were no minutes to be confirmed and receipts for reimbursement were requested but not presented at the meeting.

Speaking list added to and continued.

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

Moved: David Liubinas

CARRIED For: 10 Against: 4

Clinton Markwell speaks, the speaking list is then closed.

Discussion occurs via the last speakers.

Charlie Goodman seeks to ask two questions but is informed that speaking list has closed.

Procedural Motion: That the speaking list is re-opened to have two questions answered

Moved: Charlie Goodman

CARRIED For: 11 Against: 3

Laura Harris arrives at 2.59pm

Speaking list extended for Tim Arnot to answer Charlie Goodman's questions.

Cosima Nyx Stone leaves at 3.01 pm

A point of order is called to have a list of the clubs that will be included in the Palestinian Solidarity Week.

Procedural Motion: To move to a vote

Moved: Liam Byrne

LOST For: 6 Against: 8

The recommendation from the Education (Public) report, regarding the Gaza Collective is read by the Chair.

Two motions are also raised to be voted upon.

The Chair moves that the recommendation from the Education (Public) be recorded first.

Motion 7: The cross-campus group Students for Palestine (formerly Students for Gaza) is planning a Palestine Solidarity Week to begin on Land Day, 30th March. To support this series of cultural and awareness-raising events on campus and to help celebrate various Middle-Eastern and Muslim cultures, the Students' Council allocates \$1000 to the Palestine Solidarity Week, to be taken from the Whole of Union fund.

Moved: Tim Arnot Seconded: Phoebe Kelloway

LOST

For: Phoebe Kelloway, Liam Byrne, Josh Schmidt

Against: Stephanie Gold via John Shipp, James Smith, Clinton Markwell, Kyle Dadleh, Goldie Pergl, Onagh Bishop via Dominique Ottobre, Brendan Thomas-Noone, Sisi Ying

Abstentions: Rudolph Hosri, Dan Musil

Motion 8: A change to the motion of 'Gaza Collective' changing the term 'Political Solidarity Week' to 'Palestinian Cultural Celebration Week' and the event limited to cultural awareness and apolitical stances.

Moved: Rudolph Hosri Seconded: John Shipp

LOST For: 5 Against: 7 Abstentions: 2

Motion 9: Council censures Tim Arnot for referring to an individual in council as a 'racist' and refusing to withdraw this offensive remark.

Moved: Charlie Goodman Seconded: Matt Incerti

The nature of a censure motion is discussed

Procedural Motion: To vote on Motion 9

Moved: Tim Arnot

LOST For: 5 Against: 9

Discussion on this motion occurs and clarification is sought. Charlie Goodman seeks to clarify that this is a motion to recognise/account for behaviour at Students' Council meetings.

Procedural Motion: To put the motion to a vote

Moved:

CARRIED For: 10 Against: 4

Motion 9: Council censures Tim Arnot for referring to an individual in council as a 'racist' and refusing to withdraw this offensive remark.

Moved: Charlie Goodman Seconded: Matt Incerti

CARRIED For: 9 Against: 3 Abstentions: 2

James Smith leaves and proxies to Lydia Bevege at 3.16pm

Tim Arnot reads the second recommendation from the Education (Public) Report (2. Services Fee)
A speaking list is drawn up.

John Shipp leaves at 3.17pm and returns at 3.18pm

Sisi Ying leaves at 3.18pm and returns at 3.22pm

Carla relinquishes the Chair for the duration of the discussion regarding the Services Fee.

Shaun Khoo chairs the meeting. The speaking list is closed at 3.21pm.

Discussion via the speaking list occurs.

Kyle Lancaster and Ruby Warber leave at 3.33pm

Procedural Motion: For the speaking limit to be set to two minutes

Moved: Jesse Overton-Skinner

CARRIED For: 10 Against: 3

Discussion continues via the speaking list

Procedural Motion: To use inside-voices
Moved: Goldie Pergl
CARRIED For: 10 Against: 3

Speaking list is closed and exhausted shortly.
The second recommendation from Education (Public) Report is put to a vote.
Carla resumes the Chair.

Motion 10: That Students' Council recognises the continuation of Voluntary Student Unionism under the Rudd government has continued to decimate student unions around the country. The proposed Services Fee is not a repeal of this legislation, but a continuation of the attack on students being able to organise independently, and have a political voice. Students' Council condemns the government for continuing the VSU legislation and demands that any compulsory fee collected from the students must go directly to independent student unions to be used as they see fit.
Moved: from the Chair
LOST
For: Phoebe Kelloway, Liam Byrne, Josh Schmidt, Dan Musil
Against: Rudolph Hosri, Stephanie Gold via John Shipp, James Smith via Lydia Bevege, Clinton Markwell, Kyle Dadleh, Onagh Bishop via Dominique Ottobre, Sisi Ying
Abstentions: Brendan Thomas-Noone and Goldie Pergl

Secretary, Shaun Khoo moves to procedurally skip to Meeting Schedule – Agenda Item 5.2

Ezekiel Gould and Stefania Capogreco leave at 3.43pm

Procedural Motion: That we skip to Meeting Schedule, Secretary Report, Finance Sub Committee then MUDFest
Moved: Shaun Khoo
CARRIED For: 8 Against: 6

Justin Baré returns at 3.45pm

Agenda Item 3.7: Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule development process is explained.

Motion 11: That the devised Meeting Schedule be adopted
Moved: The Chair
CWD

Agenda Item 5.2: Secretary's Report

Secretary, Shaun Khoo speaks to the report and clarifies 'regular' and 'special meeting' procedure. Discussion about alterations to Standing Orders occurs.

Kyle Dadleh leaves 3.55pm

Shaun Khoo speaks to the recommendation 2.1 regarding the UMSU Wiki, set up by Scott Bloodworth, Secretary in 2008.

Motion 12: Students' Council approves the expenditure of \$200 from the Whole of Union Fund to pay the IT consultant fees involved in installing the wiki on the Student Union servers (involving database setup, copying files and server configuration).
Moved: Goldie Pergl Seconded: Brendan Thomas-Noone
CWD

Bhakthi Puvanenthiran arrives at 3.59pm

Agenda Item 6: Other Reports

6.1 Finance Sub-Committee Election

Shaun Khoo reported the results of the Finance Sub-Committee Election, where all positions were elected unopposed.

Motion 13: To accept the report, electing Rudolph Hosri, James Smith, Clinton Markwell and Brendan Thomas-Noone, unopposed voting representatives and Tristan Clack as the non voting representative

Moved: Shaun Khoo

Seconded:

CARRIED

For: 11

Abstentions: 3

**Shaun Khoo and Rudolph Hosri leave at 4.02pm
Goldie Pergl leaves and proxies to Sam Rankin 4.02pm**

Agenda Item 7: Motions on Notice

Agenda Item 7.1 MUDFest

The Arts officers, Adelaide Rief and Chris Summers speak to the MUDFest report (attached)
Discussion regarding the benefits of this event occurs.

Motion 14: That UMSU, in recognising the membership potential, opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration and widespread benefits to the student community, allocate \$5000 from the Whole of Union fund to the MUDFest Department (Cultural Services) to assist in the running of MUDFest 11, August 10-29 2009.

Moved: From the Chair

CWD

Quorum count: 9

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.3 Welfare Report

Francis Lewis speaks to the report.

Discussion and clarification regarding the RMIT Prayer Room Motion for Students' Council occurs.

Motion 15: In 2007 Melbourne University demolished the Islamic prayer space on campus without guaranteeing another space for Islamic students to practice their faith. UMSU played a key role, through the submissions process, alongside the Islamic Students Society in ensuring that a space would eventually be guaranteed on campus for Islamic Students.

RMIT has taken away the Islamic prayer room on their campus, and have refused to provide any other facilities for the use of Islamic Students. UMSU condemns this racist attack, and supports the campaign at RMIT for an Islamic prayer room.

UMSU:

1. Condemns RMIT for refusing to return the Islamic prayer room for use by Islamic Students.
2. Endorses the 'Right the Wrong, Return the Prayer Room' campaign being conducted by the Islamic Society at RMIT.
3. Endorses the Public Protest to "Give us a Fair Go, Right the Wrong! Return the Prayer Room! will be held on Monday 23rd March 2009 on Bowen St from 2pm onwards with a march to the state library and VC office.
4. Endorses any demonstrations, forums, or other actions that the RMIT Islamic students hold as a part of this campaign.

Students' Council directs the UMSU President to submit this motion in a press release to all major media outlets, and to write a letter to Professor Margaret Gardener AO, the Vice Chancellor of RMIT, expressing our support for the Islamic Prayer room at RMIT to be returned to the Islamic Students.

Moved: Frances Lewis
CWD

Seconded: Liam Byrne

Procedural Motion: To put the second motion in the report: "The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns Israel's war on the population of Gaza. The University of Melbourne Student Union calls for Israel to lift the blockade of Gaza's borders and allow the passage of all food, fuel and medical supplies.

The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns the Australian Government and Western Governments around the world for ignoring the plight of the Palestinian people."

Moved: Liam Byrne

LOST

Quorum lost at 4.11 pm

Agenda Item 9: Next Meeting

Next meeting on: Tuesday, 31 March at 2pm, in Joe Nap B

Agenda Item 10: Close

Meeting closed at: 4.11 PM

Certified by Chair:

Signed:

Dated:

Dear Secretary,

We, the undersigned students of the University of Melbourne, call upon Students' Council to uphold appeals against the decisions of the Welfare and Education Committees of University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) to donate money to "Palestine Solidarity Week".

We believe that Union funds belong to students, and that the Education and Welfare Department budgets should be used to support Education advocacy and Welfare services for University of Melbourne students, respectively. These are not general funds to be exploited for the political agendas of the people holding those offices.

Political causes outside of direct education and student welfare issues should only be supported by UMSU if they enjoy the support of the majority of students. We challenge "Students for Palestine", the group organising Palestine Solidarity Week, to demonstrate that they enjoy such support before seeking endorsement, much less funding, from UMSU.

In the event that Students Council does not uphold these appeals, this petition serves to request a General Meeting on this issue, to be held on the soonest possible Tuesday at 12 noon.

We are not intrinsically opposed to UMSU putting money for this or any other political campaign, just want to ensure that the Union is being representative of a majority of students wishes. We wish to ensure student funds are for student use and for students benefit.

We request that this petition be presented to Students' Council at the next meeting.

The Secretary has received this petition, along with 494 signatures (as of 1pm, 31 March). Verification of signatures is currently underway.

+138 received

632

COMMENTS

I support this petition. Quite a bit actually.

This is my student union! its not up to a small group of biased ignorant students to decide where our money gets spent or who should get to vote on student issues. This is a huge concern for all students, everyone's voice should be heard!

I believe that Union funds belong to students, and that the Education and Welfare Department budgets should be used to support Education advocacy and Welfare services for University of Melbourne students, respectively. These are not general funds to be exploited for the political agendas of the people holding those offices.

Regardless of which alliance has succeeded stacked the union in any given year, the use of funds to prop up pet political causes is entirely inappropriate and deserves the utmost condemnation. It is a reflection on the combative, partisan and doctrinaire nature of the union's hacks that they have resorted to childish attacks against

those who believe that UMSU should fundamentally be about student welfare, choosing to brand supporters of this petition racist and corrupt.

It is ironic that AUJS is deemed a "racist" group.. anyone see the racism there??

Thank you for giving the masses of Melbourne University a chance to divert their hard earned cash way from political aggression and towards support for localized problems facing students. I am sure those who feel strongly enough about the Solidarity week could just donate...

as a person with a disability i am very passionate about students reciving the right serivices on campus. these could be provided by the union in the absents of other uni funding.

I support Palestine, but there are other priorities that need to be addressed too...especially if they matter to students more than international politics.

i respect Palestine Solidarity Week as a

legitimate action, but the funding needs to come from elsewhere.

My own views on the conflict aside, representatives are not elected to use the Union's funds for external causes. Especially from the Welfare Department, which should be solely concerned with the welfare of students.

I joined to benefit from student representation and services - for students. I want to see the UMSU represent the majority of students, not a minority pursuing their own political agenda. If I wanted to support some other political campaign, I would do so by joining the relevant club/society and pursue it there, independent of the UMSU.

When many clubs that provide tangible benefits to the silent majority of the student body struggle for funding, a large quantity of student union funding should not be passed to a political group that represents a tiny minority of students on campus.

UMSU should be working to improve

student services.
Money paid to the
UMSU was done so
with the understanding
that it would contribute
to such services.
Although charitable
donations are a great
cause, it simply isn't
fair.

I support the decision
to appeal funds for the
Students of Palenstine,
unless the decision is
supported by the
students.

Student Union funds
are to be of the
responsibility of the
students and the
university respectively
NOT to be held
accountable for in a
political office

I will not join the
student union if my
money funds the
political interests of
others.

Agreed. I'm somewhat
pro-Palestine, but
pushing political views
isn't what the Union is
meant to be doing.

UMSU funds should be
used for the benefit of
students - not the
personal international
political agendas of
officers.

Appeals Against Committee Decisions

Appeals are governed by rule 134 of the Constitution. The appeal must be determined at or before the next Regular Meeting of the Students' Council. The Constitution does not provide any restrictions on the powers of Students' Council specific to appeals against Committee decisions.

1. Education Committee and Students For Palestine

On Friday the 20th of March, an appeal was received against the Education Committee's decision of 13 March to allocated \$650 to 'Palestine Solidarity Week':

"We, the undersigned members of the Education Committee, appeal the decision of 13/3 to allocate \$650 to 'Palestine Solidarity Week'.

We appeal this decision for the following reasons:

1. Palestine Solidarity Week is being organised at the University of Melbourne by 'Students for Palestine' which, though purportedly the Education (Public Affairs) collective, cannot reasonably be considered to be open to all students as required by section 82.1 of the UMSU constitution. The statements of Education (Public Affairs) Officer Tim Arnot that Palestine Solidarity Week would not be open to students he defines as "Zionist" and "racist" demonstrate the intended exclusivity of the collective's activities.
2. Students for Palestine cannot reasonably be considered representative of the views of students at the University of Melbourne, nor is Palestine Solidarity Week reflective of either the function or expectations of the Education Department.
3. Standard procedure for meetings of the Education Committee were not followed for the meeting on 13/3, including notice not being provided to all members of the Committee. As such, we consider the grant of \$650 to be unconstitutional."

Signed,

Nicholas Baum, Yoni Cukierman, Evan Wallace

Students' Council was informed on Monday 23rd of March and those supporting the original decision were invited to submit a response to be tabled by 5pm on Wednesday, 25th of March.

A response to the appeal was received on the 25th of March.

"This submission is to object to the appeal against the motion passed on the Education Committee on 13th March to spend \$650 for Palestine Solidarity week.

Firstly, it is outrageously undemocratic for a minority who lost a vote on this democratically elected committee to challenge a decision made by the

committee. If democratic decisions were to be systematically challenged, it would effectively prevent UMSU departments from functioning.

The Students for Palestine Collective, run by the Education (Public Affairs) Department, is indeed open to all students who agree with its broad aims (see attached for the Students for Palestine statement on what we stand for, as voted for in a collective meeting). This is indeed consistent with the expectations of the UMSU constitution. No group can reasonably be expected to be open to absolutely all members of the student body, including people who are vehemently opposed to its aims. This would mean that, for example, the Stop VSU collective of 2005 would have had to have made itself open to students from the Liberal party, who argued for Howard's VSU. Or that the Students Against War and Racism collective, run by the Education (Public Affairs) Department in 2006-2007, would have been required to welcome students who advocated racist views or who supported the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Either proposal is clearly ridiculous, to the extent that the position the appellants advocate would rule out any progressive campaign UMSU might run, or ever has in the past. In the same manner, Students for Palestine does not welcome any student who is racist, or pro-Zionist (that is, supports the Israeli state's expansionist and apartheid policies).

The Education (Public Affairs) office bearers, Sadia Schneider and Tim Arnot, were elected by Melbourne University students from the Left Student Unionists ticket, on an explicit platform that they would campaign against war and against racism while in office. Additionally, in campaign material during the student union elections, their opposition to Israel's war on Lebanon and their pro-Palestinian position was stated clearly (available on request). They are campaigning against war and against racism through co-ordinating the Students for Palestine collective, responding to the brutal war on Gaza and involving students who are affected by racism on this campus. This is perfectly legitimate activity for the Education (Public Affairs) officers to be carrying out, as this office is designed to deal with issues that affect students outside the realm of academic affairs, and indeed there are precedents for this activity. The office bearers have the confidence of the Education Committee in carrying out their anti-war and anti-racism agenda, and thus it approved the expenditure for the Palestine Solidarity Week. Furthermore, student unions across the country and at Melbourne University have a proud history of opposing racism and war and showing solidarity with oppressed people, which UMSU should continue, as an avowed anti-militarist and anti-racist organisation.

Proper notice was indeed provided to all members of the Education Committee, as is evident by the fact that all members who could not attend gave proxies and so had stand-ins exercising their votes.

Unfortunately it is unclear from the notice the Secretary sent out exactly who it was that lodged this appeal. However to stand against anti-racist activity is to support an agenda of racism, which is exactly what this appeal

does. The money the Education Committee would have gone towards funding, for instance, a Public Address system for an Arabic language lecture given by an academic in the Arabic department at the University of Melbourne. This event could not possibly be construed as contravening the UMSU constitution or excluding students.

As Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Laureate, has said: 'silence and complicity, especially on the situation in Gaza, shames us all'. Students' Council should immediately overturn this anti-democratic, racist appeal against the decision of the Education Committee."

Phoebe Kelloway
(Education Committee Member and Students' Councillor)

Students for Palestine Aims:

Students for Palestine seeks to educate and mobilise university students and staff and the broader community to campaign for justice for the Palestinian people.

We stand for:

- the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people
- The right of return of the Palestinian people
- The immediate withdrawal of the Israeli state from Palestinian land and the dismantling of all Israeli settlements
- Opposition to Israel's occupation and dispossession suffered by the Palestinian people
- Opposition to the political, economic and military support given by all governments to the Israeli state, in particular the United States and Australia.
- Opposition to anti-Jewish and anti-Islamic prejudice
- Opposition to the apartheid and Zionist nature of the Israeli state.

Students for Palestine supports the international campaign of boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against the Israeli state. We attempt to gain support from trade unions, student unions and guilds for justice for the Palestinian people.

2. Welfare Committee and Students For Palestine

On Wednesday, 25th of March an appeal against the decision of the Welfare Committee on the 24th of March to allocate \$650 to 'Palestine Solidarity Week' was received.

"We, the undersigned students, appeal against the decision of the Welfare Committee on March 24 to allocate \$650 to "Palestine Solidarity Week".

We oppose this allocation on the grounds that:

1. The function of the Welfare Department is to provide services and assistance to University of Melbourne Students.

2. Palestine Solidarity Week and the organising group Students for Palestine are not representative of the views of all students at the University of Melbourne.
3. Students for Palestine and Palestine Solidarity Week are, by the admission of Education (Public Affairs) Officer Tim Arnot, contrary to the aims of the Welfare Department by discriminating against students that they arbitrarily define as "Zionist" and "racist".

Signed,

(1) C. Goodman, (2) J. Overton-Skinner, (3) G. Pergl, (4) D. Liubinas, (5) C. Kloester, (6) A. Besch, (7) O. Ousley, (8) C. Chapman, (9) M. Christie, (10) M. Stendera, (11) L. Jackel, (12) G. Gebert, (13) D. Hellsten, (14) D. Thompson, (15) B. Volchok, (16) C. Lutzko, (17) T. Jacques, (18) S. Kumar, (19) A. Niven, (20) A. John, (21) E. Tehan, (22) D. Lamb, (23) M. Valentine, H. (24) Wischer, (25) K. Dadleh, (26) E. Robinson-Griffith, (27) A. Finn, (28) R. Howard, (29) D. Hallett, (30) C. Cole.

The status of each signatory was verified by the Secretary using University and Student Union databases and all were found to be students, which meets the criteria outlined in rule 134 of the Constitution.

A copy of the petition received is available for inspection by contacting the Secretary.

I am writing to object to the appeal of the Welfare Committee's authorisation of \$650 for Palestine Solidarity Week.

As Welfare Officer, part of my job description is to be concerned around issues of racism. At a time when Muslims and Arabs are portrayed as terrorists, a celebration of Arabic and Middle Eastern culture is vital to show students that the Student Union does actually represent all students, and in particular marginalised groups. It shows that we reject the stereotypes and recognise the rich and diverse culture of the region. It also recognises the severe harassment and discrimination in Melbourne faced by Muslim students, including verbal abuse such as having people yell "terrorist" or "go home" at them, or physical assault such as women having their hijab pulled off, or men and women being beaten by racists given confidence by events such as the Cronulla riots.

The vicious attacks on Gaza mean there is an urgency for such a celebration, to show that the people of Palestine do exist, have a long rich history and culture, and yes, also exist here on campus as students and academics. Particularly when revealing testimonies from Israeli soldiers have come out, such as one soldier quoted as saying "That's the beauty of Gaza. You see a man walking, he doesn't have to have a weapon, and you can shoot him." Also when it has just been revealed that Israeli Defence Force soldiers have made t-shirts with sickening slogans. One showed a bruised woman and the slogan "I bet you got raped"; another had a picture of a pregnant woman with a rifle target over her and the slogan "One shot, two kills." As Welfare Officer I felt physically ill reading about the t-shirts and the testimonies and think the Welfare Department needs to show it is clearly opposed to this absolutely disgusting racism. It is entirely appropriate to celebrate here on campus the culture that is so clearly being destroyed.

It is outrageous to say that a halal barbeque is outside the realms of the Welfare Department, particularly when it is intended to show that the Student Union does not just represent white students. It is outrageous to say that it is outside the realms of the Welfare Department to fund a PA system for a Palestinian academic from the Arabic department here at Melbourne University to give a public Language and Cultural class. Supposedly the Welfare Department should only concern itself with students who speak English, that sounds like a great idea to promote diversity and tackle racism and discrimination.

The UN human rights investigator Richard Falk said in the Israeli paper, Haaretz, that the recent war on Gaza seemed to constitute a war crime of the "greatest magnitude." He cited the targeting of schools, mosques and ambulances, the use of white phosphorous, and the blockade of the borders which prevented refugees from fleeing the attacks. So as a progressive, anti-militaristic union, we must show our support with those under attack. Nearly every other student union around the country, including the Graduate Student Association here at Melbourne Uni, has passed motions condemning the war. It is shameful that UMSU is yet to do so. The least it can do is allow funding for a week to celebrate the culture of a people that are being wiped off the world map, and who make up a not insignificant number of students here on campus.

Frances Lewis
Welfare Officer.

Gaza motion for Students' Council

The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns Israel's war on the population of Gaza.

The University of Melbourne Student Union calls for Israel to lift the blockade of Gaza's borders

and allow the passage of all food, fuel and medical supplies.

The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns the Australian Government and Western

governments around the world for ignoring the plight of the Palestinian people.

Moved: Sadia Schneider

Seconded: Taylor Kendall

Motion to endorse NUS 'Statement for Equality'

Five Years After the Ban on Same-Sex Marriage – It's Time for Equal Rights

In 2004 the Howard Government, with the backing of the Australian Labor Party,

introduced the Marriage Act to formally ban equal relationship rights in Australia for

same-sex couples.

This ban on same-sex marriage and other relationship rights that flow from the right to

marry, formally entrenched the inequality of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and

Intersex people, before the law.

The Rudd government has insisted on maintaining this ban on equal rights.

Earlier this year the Federal Attorney General of the Rudd Government, Robert

McClelland wrote to Australian Marriage Equality, that this discrimination "reflects the

widely held view in the community that marriage is between a man and a woman".

Five years after the introduction of the ban on Same-Sex marriage, it is time for this

injustice to stop.

A nationwide Galaxy Poll published in June 2007 found that 57% of Australians support

Same-Sex marriage. It is time for the Rudd Labor Government to stop making excuses

and to repeal the ban on equal relationship rights.

Since the election of the Rudd government there have been many reforms at both a state

and federal level that recognise the discrimination that LGBTI people face.

These reforms are welcome, but are still short of full legal equality.

LGBTI people are not second class citizens, and it is time that the

Government stops

treating us as such.

We, the undersigned groups, organisations, and individuals, endorse this call
for equal
relationships now – It's time!
Moved: Phoebe Kelloway
Seconded: Liam Byrne



**Cage Free Campus
Society UniMelb**
<cagefreecampus@gmail.
com>

13/03/2009 05:11 PM

To secretary@union.unimelb.edu.au

cc

bcc

Subject Cage Free Campus Campaign

For Follow Up:  Normal Priority

Dear Shaun,

My name is Katie and I am the president of the Cage Free Campus Society. Last year we began working on a campaign calling for all University of Melbourne eateries to go "cage-free" by ceasing to use battery eggs. Towards the end of 2008, Students' Council unanimously passed a motion of support for our campaign and Scott Bloodworth (2008 UMSU secretary) informed us that a resolution would be presented to the University Council calling for a complete cage-free egg policy on campus. Unfortunately this was not accomplished before the year's end. I am contacting you because we are hoping that this year the new Students' Council will be willing to work with us to proceed with this. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.
Sincerely
Katelyn Grimmer

Concession card amendment motion

Economic argument

The Victorian state government receives additional \$22 million dollars¹ in revenue by enforcing the rule that postgraduates and the international students must pay full fares. The government stated it needed the additional funds for signaling infrastructure and maintenance programs; so far these proposals have not come to fruition.

Also of note is that international students bring in \$3.0billion to the Victorian local economy² (in 2005/06 economic year), then why we discouraging them coming here by over taxing them by changing full fares for the projects that have never happened. Why we discriminating? Why can't international students and postgraduates get concession tickets while other local students are buying concession tickets?

Moral Argument

More than half of the students at the University of Melbourne do not qualify for the Victorian public transport (VPT) concession card. Victoria is the only state that denies concessions to post graduate students and the only one of two (the other being NSW) that does not extend concessions to international students. We already have the support of the Vice-chancellor and Provost as demonstrated in *The Age* on page 6 (25/2/2009) an article by Farrah Tomazin ("Uni backs equal fares for students"). Glyn Davis is quoted (indirectly, at least) calling for an end to the "two-tier system".

Motion

UMSU recommends the abolishment of section 2.20DA of the 'public transport amendment act of 2007' on the grounds unfairly discriminates against postgraduates and the international students.

1

[http://tex.parliament.vic.gov.au/bin/texhtml?form=VicHansard.dumpall&db=hansard91&dodraft=0&house=ASSEMBLY&speech=62275&activity=Second+Reading&title=TRANSPORT+LEGISLATION+AMENDMENT+BILL&date1=4&date2=December&date3=2007&query=true%0A%09and+\(+data+contains+%27Public%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27transport%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27for%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27international%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27students%27+\)%0A](http://tex.parliament.vic.gov.au/bin/texhtml?form=VicHansard.dumpall&db=hansard91&dodraft=0&house=ASSEMBLY&speech=62275&activity=Second+Reading&title=TRANSPORT+LEGISLATION+AMENDMENT+BILL&date1=4&date2=December&date3=2007&query=true%0A%09and+(+data+contains+%27Public%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27transport%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27for%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27international%27%0A%09and+data+contains+%27students%27+)%0A)

2 <http://www.vic.greens.org.au/news/media-releases-past-years/add-or-edit-media-releases-2007/greens-oppose-racist-transport-legislation?searchterm=Concession>

President's Report for Students' Council

Wednesday, March 18th

VCASU:

Justin and I have recently been informed by our auditor Andrew Wehrens, that the VCASU is moving to appoint an administrator in the relatively near future. The role of the Administrator is to wind up VCASU and dispose of its assets.

For this reason, it is important to begin the process that Justin and I started in December, of negotiating with the VCASU about their absorption into UMSU. Nominations for the Merger Committee opened and closed, and no nominations were received.

Recommendation 1: That this Students' Council opens and closes the nominations again for the merger committee. Three students will be elected by the end of this Council.

On another note, I have been down to the VCA on Tuesday March 17th and given the VCASU materials to help build the National Day of Action. VCASU has indicated that they will be supporting UMSU in holding the centralized NDA on the Parkville campus on March 25th.

National Day(s) of Action

Campus NDA: Wednesday March 18th

1pm South Lawn Banner painting.

For this event I organized to book South Lawn – the impetus for this action is to get students involved in the campaign. During O-Week, the Education Academic Dept funded a banner painting (the banner reads: UMSU DEMANDS FAIR INCOME SUPPORT). We set up on South Lawn and got students to handprint the banner in solidarity.

We expect that the VCASU will provide some music and we hope that they will come with their own banner to paint.

Slogans to use on March 25th (painted on the 18th) :

“Lindsay! Include Income Support in the May Budget!”

“Students against Dereg”

“Fund it or forget it!”

“Deregulation = homogenization”

“Deregulation was sooo last year (before the crisis)”

“\$900 isn’t good enough – Support our Students!”

Centralised NDA: Wednesday March 25th

1pm Concrete Lawns.

La Trobe, Monash and Victoria Universities are coming down to meet on concrete lawns at 1pm to rally for the centralized action. In the lead up to this, I have put up a lecture bash timetable and script, and I would encourage everyone to help out either by doing a poster run or a lecture bash. It makes the work a lot lighter, since the Education Public Affairs office has done nothing to help further the campaign.

SSAF and Memorandum of Understanding

As many of you would know, the Senate Inquiry into the SSAF occurred on Wednesday 4th of March. The National Union of Students represented the interests of UMSU in supporting the bill, and I wrote a submission to the Senate Inquiry. I’d like to thank the Clubs and Societies department and the Ed Public department for submitting a report from the point of view of their department.

Some things to note:

→ Senator Gavin Marshall came out and said that he would support an amendment that gave the money directly to students. NUS and I are lobbying Labor MPs to support the amendment in caucus.

The SSAF is progressing a lot more slowly than we thought it will – and I fear that it may not be implemented until semester 1 2010.

However, if Senator Marshall’s recommendation is not supported and Universities retain the power to levy and distribute the fee, I feel that UMSU would need a MOU with the University to ensure that the fee cannot be abused by the University to make UMSU act in a certain way to obtain the funds. The Provost agrees with this and we are currently in the process of drafting a MOU to the effect of outlining UMSU and the Universities responsibilities as well as rights and the autonomy of UMSU.

Universities Australia Higher Education Conference

I was a delegate the UA Higher Education Conference from March 4th – 6th in Canberra. The Conference was centre around the Bradley Review and teaching and learning.

I was one of only four undergraduates at the Conference. The President of La Trobe, Lachlan Batchelor, and President and VP of Victoria University also attended. It was a

great experience, and the four of us were able to push for more students to be included in the conference next time, as it was incredibly prohibitive for students to get involved.

At the conference, Julia Gillard DPM made the announcement that the Government would move to a “demand driven system” of funding universities.

Demand Driven System = Voucher Campaign

The Demand Driven System to be introduced in Sem 1 2012 was announced by Gillard at the UA conference on March 4th. In a nut shell:

- Between now and 2012 Universities can negotiate their compacts with a 10% overload (up from 5%) and after 2012 the cap is completely gone ie/
- Regulatory body is to be set up to fund unis based on student numbers
- Cap on fees is set to remain (at this stage)

I am in the process of organizing an informative lecture which will involve Presidents from these student unions

- SRC President and Guild President – La Trobe
- Vice President – Victoria University
- President – Monash University

I am also going to invite a University Senior Executive member to come and speak on behalf of the University. It should be seen as an informative forum where students are encouraged to attend and ask questions. Involving other Presidents from different campuses should help students to contextualize the problem.

Our main focus of this campaign should be ensuring that it is in fact students who have the choice and not the universities deciding what subjects and courses should be offered to boost profitability.

It will be held on **April 7th** (Tuesday in the last week before Semester break).

O-Week

O-week was very positive, and we reached over 5,000 members during O-Week alone (we now have over 5,800). However, we also had some problems that were expressed to me by a number of OBs:

- Too commercialized
- Unions stalls were off to the side and out of the way
- Coke Girls – too inappropriate

I had mentioned that I was going to be putting together a complaint to MUSUL about the selection process of Commercial sponsorship and guidelines they need to follow. If

anyone would like to contribute to this, please send me an email so I can compile a list of feelings that OBs had about the day.

Secretary's Report



1. 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 1.1:

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 regular 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 1.2:

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 1.3:

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

2. Delegation to Finance Sub-Committee

Students' Council is yet to take any action with respect to the issues of UMSU's debt to MUSUL and administrative services. It is proposed that Students' Council should delegate the consideration of financial matters to Finance Sub-Committee.

Recommendation 2.1:

Students' Council directs Finance Sub-Committee to prepare an options paper and recommendations in relation to UMSU's financial arrangements with MU Student Union Ltd, in particular, regarding compensation for administrative and other services and UMSU's debt to MUSUL. Finance Sub-Committee should also present a review of UMSU's investment strategy.

3. Annual General Meeting

The AGM is required to fulfil UMSU's legal obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. UMSU is required to hold the AGM before the end of May in order to for auditor's reports and other matters to be received.

Past convention has been to hold the AGM a short time prior to a band playing. In such a setting, a quorum is present long enough for the business of the AGM to be disposed of. Peter Combe is playing on Tuesday, 5 May and it is anticipated that this will draw a sufficiently large crowd.

Recommendation 3.1:

UMSU holds its AGM at 12.30pm on Tuesday, 5 May. The agenda shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, business which fulfils UMSU's obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

4. Other Activities

I would like to acknowledge IT Services and Communications for their roles in establishing the Wiki and Raise an Issue mechanism on the website.

- Student Union Wiki installed – <http://union.unimelb.edu.au/wiki/>
- Raise an Issue – <http://union.unimelb.edu.au/issue/>
The Raise and Issue form is available online and in paper form. It allows for issues to be raised in an accountable and transparent manner with student representatives.

When an issue is raised, the Secretary shall refer the issue to the relevant Department or representative for a response and post the issue online.

If a student has left their contact details they will be responded to via email. If they have not left their contact details the paper forms include a receipt with a unique issue number which can then be used to help to find the issue online.

- Ongoing review of regulations
- Ordinary administrative functions.
- Clarification regarding Grievance Tribunal.
- Grievance Tribunal

The Constitution provides for UMSU to have an Electoral and a Grievance Tribunal. At present, the Electoral Tribunal is functional but the status of the Grievance Tribunal is less clear.

On the 11th of March, the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Melbourne Law School were contacted via email to enquire as to whether there was an appointee from each to the Grievance Tribunal.

On the 19th of March, the Vice-Chancellor appointed Mr Chris Penman, Vice-Principal and General Counsel of the University, to the UMSU Grievance Tribunal as the Vice-Chancellor's nominee and confirmed his ongoing appointment to the UMSU Electoral Tribunal.

5. Committee Meeting Procedures – Tips of Officers

- Set a meeting schedule and then book rooms for all regular meetings.
- Send the times, dates and locations of all meetings to the Secretary. The Secretary will then send bulk notice of all your meetings to your committee.
- Closer to each meeting date, assemble the papers for your committee (agenda, minutes, reports etc) and circulate them to your committee directly, carbon-copying in the Secretary.

Once bulk notice has been sent, you won't need to come through me again for meeting notices. Circulating papers yourself will also help you to get the papers to your committee in a timely fashion, whilst satisfying regulatory requirements that papers are made available to me.

Arts Department – Office Bearers Report

The Arts Department has been focused on organising *Framed*, the annual photography and visual media competition, as well as running collective meetings, workshops, and continuing to lay the groundwork for the second semester behemoth, MUDFest 11.

Framed

Framed has traditionally been run by the Arts Department as a photography competition. This year, we have reenergised the format and introduced short film, animation and digital media into the mix.

In line with this broader approach, we have decided to move *Framed* out of a traditional gallery space and into a more public space; somewhere students are likely to see and appreciate the exhibition without necessarily having had the intention to do so. We have chosen the landing between the Ground Floor and First Floor of Union House to exhibit still photography and the windows of the (very generous) Activities and Clubs and Societies offices to install TV screens which will display short films and animation.

We will also be using the LCD screens through Union House to display entries.

Framed has previously been promoted heavily as a 'competition' with expensive prizes, however, this is also something we have been keen to sidestep. While we will still be offering prizes donated by our sponsors, we are more interested in offering mentorships to assist in the development of future work, hopefully for MUDFest. We see this as being a continued benefit to both the selected students, the Arts Department and the Student Union.

Collective

This year we are hoping to build collective into a strong, collaborative, inclusive space where people can come and talk about their art, get advice and share skills with those around them. In order to facilitate this we have begun sending out a weekly email with news from the Arts Department as well as opportunities and events in Melbourne.

Our first Collective meeting was attended by around 10 people and although this was a good start, we realised that the format of the collective needed to change in order to engage and interest more students. With this in mind we organised a creative writing workshop to be included in the next meeting.

Chris ran the workshop, with small exercises designed to get people thinking about the place of memory and personal identity in their writing. We're happy to report that the workshop was a great success with over 20 people attending. We have also had some great feedback and requests for some kind of writers group to be initiated. We're working on how, when and where this can happen. Our next collective meeting will be on Thursday 2nd April and will focus on ideas and inspiration for the upcoming Framed competition.

MUDFEST

We are having weekly meetings with the director of the festival, David Ryding, to keep up to date on all his work in securing funding, planning and programming what will be an amazing

three weeks in August. We have also decided that our main contribution to the festival will be in producing and programming the festival club. This will be an amazing opportunity for the broader university community to be involved in the festival and we'll be looking to work closely with the other departments, especially Clubs to realise this. We would also like to encourage the other OB's to think about what kind of involvement they would like to have in the festival, perhaps in organising an event, or participating in a night at the club.

Clubs and Societies Office Bearers' Report

Clubs and Societies since the start of semester has been running Information Sessions for club executives, advising them on how to self-assess their tax status, how to apply for grants and how to be careful that they are meeting their duty of care ("how to not get sued"). We have also been holding AGM training.

The office has also been wading through the various membership lists and assigning clubs to bands for funding purposes, and ensuring that each club has 30+ members, and at least two executives that are UMSU members.

As directed by the committee the OBs have been trying to get certificates of currency from 5 pubs in the area. I am sad to say this has not been successful, with Naughton's Hotel refusing outright to provide one, but did allow me to look at their insurance policy, and Piper managing to obtain one from the Prince Alfred Hotel. We have so far been unsuccessful in obtaining any more and I would recommend that we end this task. We have also been attempting to obtain a locksmith's quote for two lockers that have a key-lock, have been locked with said key, and have passed into the possession of Clubs without said key.



Gemma Leigh Dodds
<gemmalala@gmail.com>
26/03/2009 02:26 PM

To secretary@union.unimelb.edu.au
cc
bcc
Subject revised and updated ed report; please use this version

Education (Academic) Report

1/4/09

The first few weeks of semester have been extremely busy in the Education office.

Education Embassy:

In second week back, we held an Education Support Stall for a few days. The 'Education Embassy' was designed to provide assistance and some level of course guidance to students struggling to understand the direction of their degree. The embassy was made highly visible and was as widely publicised as we could. While some students approached the embassy for a chat and advice on subject section, overall, the result was lacklustre. This was not actually surprising, as exam support stalls are similarly an important service the union provides but in reality low in student engagement.

In future it may be better to incorporate the embassy as part of O week, so there is already an engaged student body moving around union house. Secondly, it may be a good idea to establish separate education support embassy's for each faculty and situate it close to the faculty centre, rather than centrally in South Court. Improving our publicity and promotion strategy will also be key.

SRN:

Finally, appointing the SRN is almost completed. The bureaucracy hurdles were a nightmare and compiling an up to date list of committees proved to be more difficult than expected. Unfortunately, neither the University Secretariat nor the lists from previous years had faculty Course Standing Committees listed. This meant that they were not included in potential committees students could nominate for in their SRN applications. However, this could actually prove to be a positive, as a separate and faculty specific drive for student reps can be focused on by the ed-ac department in the coming weeks.

The Student Staffing committee met last Tuesday to select candidates, and those that were successful will be notified shortly. We are also liaising with Peter McPhee to attend the training seminar to be held late this week

University Committees:

Both Laura and I have been attending several different university committees, some of which were waiting to be filled by SRN applicants. Generally, all committees have been

focusing on trying to consolidate and brace themselves for the anticipated budget difficulties in light of the GFC.

Also, during the last Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee meeting, Gillian Luck, Vice-Principal and Academic Registrar, spoke at length about improving Student Centres and student advice. One of the proposed models was to involve 3rd year students in assisting new students at busy times of the year to unload the stress on Student Centres. This is something we are going to follow up with Gillian as it correlates nicely with the aims and purpose of Education Embassy, and it may be a way to integrate both Education Academic's and the University's initiatives in the interests of improving student support.

In future:

- We are setting a number of student forums to be held across the rest of Semester. It is hoped this maintains regular contact with the wider student population as well as some level of accountability.


The Education Academic department is looking at collaborating with the Environment Office to see if a book and academic resource exchange program can be established to be operating by Semester 2. We are currently looking into the feasibility and possible spaces for the exchange.

Committee Appeal:

Appeals by committee members (who did not attend on the day but proxied to others), against a democratically decided and voted motion is regrettable. Unfortunately, this appeal is just one in a string of attempts to obstruct the efficiency of the Education department. One attempt was to deliberately obstruct governance by pulling quorum. This action has resulted in office bearers personally bearing costs as they are forced over the timely period in which reimbursements – for on campus and student run campaigns and events - can be made. In this particular instance I will not speak directly for or against the substance of the motion, but would like to point out, as chair of the committee meeting on the day in question, that the motion was discussed at length. I can assure Students Council that the debate at the education committee allowed every member present to have their voices heard and concerns raised. Most, including proxied members, spoke at least twice. The fact that the meeting went for over an hour and half further demonstrates the substantial time allocated to discussion. Further, as a result of the discussion, the Education Public Affairs officers were going to follow up on the discussed issue of club inclusivity. In short, procedurally, all steps were taken to ensure debate was fulsome and the minutes reflect this. Therefore any allegation that the motion was carried unethically is entirely incorrect.

Tim
Arnot/Education/UMSU/M
USU

06/03/2009 01:13 PM

To Shaun Khoo/Secretary/UMSU/MUSU@STUDENTUNION
cc
bcc
Subject OB report for students concil 

Hi Shaun,

Could you please include the below OB report for Ed Public for today's Students Council meeting?

Regards

Tim Arnot
Education Officer (Public)
University of Melbourne Student Union
UMSU Inc

phone: +61 3 8344 7543
fax: +61 3 9349 4945
web: www.union.unimelb.edu.au

UMSU Inc.
Please consider the environment before you print this email.

Education (Public Affairs) report for Students Council 3/09

Ed (Public) really hit ground running in 2009, particularly with Students for Gaza.

Before O week even started we managed to get over 90 students along to our forum/film screening. Even though I have been an activist for a number of years I don't every recall seeing this many students at a student union event before semester even starts!

This was also an opportunity to introduce the role of the student union early in the year as a body that takes a stand against issues such as war and racism. Since the student union has had difficulty proving its relevance to international students and students from diverse cultural backgrounds we consider it a great success that we have been able to involve the Pakistani Students Society, the Malaysian Students Society, The Arabic Culture Club and the Islamic Students in Students For Gaza and thereby illustrate the relevance of the union.

We have also had regular campus stalls with the Student Union material. To make the student union itself and the departments in it more visible around campus we have created our own 'Join you're Student Union: You're Voice on Campus' posters. These are a good way to counteract the dominant, corporate face of the student union.

We were also proudly part of the NUS contingent at the Gay Pride march since queers need fighting student unions and attacks on our unions are attacks on our ability to take a stand against homophobia and bigotry.

During O Week we petitioned against the blockade of Gaza and collected hundreds of signatures. Additionally 59 students left their details to stay in touch with the Students For

Gaza Collective.

The lecture announcements we did throughout the week about Students for Gaza routinely got rounds of applause and, going around the crowd it was good to see the majority of first years already had or were planning to join their union.

We also had a Student for Gaza film screening on Tuesday which got 80+ people along. Most of these students had never been to a Students For Gaza meeting indicating that there are many new layers of students that we can relate to. The film shown by two women from the Sydney Gaza Defence Committee was a moving expose on the travesties of the recent war.

Finally, Ed Public, following a media release responding to the government's stimulus package, was interviewed by the Melbourne Times. We reported that the \$950 bonus for students was a recognition that students are impacted by poverty and the looming economic crisis without actually addressing the root cause: higher education is severely underfunded, Student Income Support amounts to more than half of the Henderson Poverty Line, the housing crisis and a complete lack of affordable housing continues to squeeze students financially as well as the fact that students are concentrated in low wage industries such as hospitality and retail.

Recommendations:

1. The cross-campus group Students for Palestine (formerly Students for Gaza) is planning a Palestine Solidarity Week to begin on Land Day, Monday 30th March. To support this series of cultural and awareness-raising events on campus and to help celebrate various Middle-Eastern and Muslim cultures, the Students' Council allocates \$1,000 to the Palestine Solidarity Week, to be taken from the Whole of Union fund.

Moved: Tim Arnot

Seconded: Phoebe Kelloway

Proposed budget for Palestine Solidarity Week

Income	1,000
Expenditure	
2500 fliers of programme of events on campus during the week	(350)
Publicity	(50)
Equipment hire	(150)
Food	(100)
Event security for the Friday 3 rd April cross-cultural fundraiser dinner	(100)
Flights and accommodation for Anthony Lowenstein to come to Melbourne, cost to be shared with RMITSU and Swinburne Student Union	(200)
Publicity for Palestine film screening, poetry evening and public forum	(50)
Total	(1,000)

2. Services Fee

That Student's Council recognises the continuation of Voluntary Student Unionism under the Rudd government has continued to decimate student unions around the country. The proposed Services Fee is not a repeal of this legislation, but a continuation of the attack on students being able to organise independently, and have a political voice. Students' Council condemns the government for continuing the VSU legislation and demands that any compulsory fee collected from students must go directly to independent student unions to be used as they see fit.

Indigenous Department Report

The Indigenous Department has over the last fortnight have been involved in four events which have been a great success. Our diversity week BBQ was a great success with many students getting involved with the indigenous presenters at the event which promoted tolerance within the University, with our department focusing on the indigenous students. Our second event was a get together for the indigenous students to meet the staff and other students interested in helping with indigenous issues, this event was held at Noosh in the CBD and was regarded by all to be a fantastic success. Our lawn bowling event had to have the venue changed at the last minute due to issues of over-crowding but a lunch was held in its place and had a very strong turnout and was a great gathering for the students to speak to us regarding issues at the university. Tristan Clack from the welfare department allowed us to join the sexual health week event that he had organised which allowed us to educate indigenous students on sexual health.

MEDIA OFFICERS' REPORT

31ST MARCH 2009

Gillian Kilby, Bhakthi Puvanenthiran, Zoe Sanders & Yoshua Wakeham

1. **Edition 2** was released on Monday, March 23rd. Of the 5000 copies we printed, around 3500 have been distributed so far. Response so far has been positive.
2. **Media collective meetings** continue to be well patronised. As well as sourcing content at meetings, we have been seeking opinions on a range of Media department responsibilities, including the new Media policy (see below), cover ideas for Edition 3, and launch parties.
3. Our cross-campus newspaper (now online), **The Worm**, continues to move forward: at the moment we're trying to organise web hosting and a URL. As this is not solely an UMSU venture, we won't be hosting the site on the union servers, though Communications are assisting us in getting the site running.
4. For our **Edition 3 launch party**, we are currently negotiating with Cinema Nova to get an exclusive, private pre-release film screening in exchange for advertising. Film and date are yet to be confirmed, but we're aiming to have about 100 people there, and you're all invited.
5. We've been working in collaboration with the Secretary to develop a new **Media policy**, to clarify some ambiguous areas of the Constitution. The policy will address a range of issues, including editorial freedom, journalistic ethics, and complaints procedures. A draft of the policy will shortly be available on the union website, and we will be seeking feedback from all students and other interested parties.
6. We have recently been in talks with the **Triple Helix** Science in Society Review, a student-run undergraduate publication on campus, about using Media Department resources to increase the journal's visibility and profile on campus. Though details are still being finalised, this might involve giving them advertising space in *Farrago*, alerting the Media Collective to the possibility of getting published in Triple Helix, providing a link to Triple Helix on our website, and giving the journal's staff general guidance where required.
7. **Recommendations**
 - a. We held our Edition 1 launch party on the 27th of February; the Media Officers spent \$200 of their own money on a bar tab. **Recommendation:** the approval of \$200 from the Media Department Promotional Activities line to reimburse the Officers.

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.

Welfare OB report – Tristan Clack

There has been a lot of activity in the Welfare Department since taking office on January 5th. These include but are not limited to: -

- * Advocating and negotiating for affordable student housing. This has come through forming the University Student Housing Co-operative (USHCo) project and pursuing talks with figures from the DHS, Office of Housing, Yarra Community Housing, the State Treasury, Minister for Housing the Hon Richard Wynne and other land stake holders. Many sites and options are being discussed along with funding arrangements.

- * Setting up the Sexual Health Awareness Campaigns which have been crafted to hit their respective target audiences. For example: local students (most of whom would have received the safe sex message through school) required a reminder, this came in the form of free sexual health packs being handed out and promoted at Tuesday Beer, Band and Barbeque. To reach the international student population (this is the group that is most vulnerable as many of them have not received the safe sex message and as a result either have no information or misinformation such as “the pill makes you permanently infertile”) we are setting up (with the Universities Wellbeing Services) information sessions in University Square, International House and other international student accommodation providers with a health promotions nurse. We will supply sexual health packs, similar to the ones supplied at the bands and barbeques. The way it is being pitched at the target audience is that this session will help you get the most out of your study and life management skills, because if it is just a sexual health session the message will be too blunt, ergo it won't get through.

- * Laying the ground work in the “Concessions Cards For All Students” campaign, in the form of assisting with the filming of a short advertisement, assisting with the design of posters and forming a face book group. In the near future we will be organizing a forum and inviting key people to come and speak about the problem and what are the possible solutions.

- * Operating and rolling out breakfast club since week 3 by myself as we didn't have a budget approved (it was scheduled to start from week 1). I was able to start because the food co-op extended a line of credit to the welfare department. Since speaking with wellbeing services, they are prepared to provide assistance in the form of staff and free food from week 7. I have to say I have been disappointed with the lack of support from my fellow office-bearer and committee on this initiative. Lack of quorum prevented breakfast club from starting earlier, because I didn't have access to a budget.

- * Preparation for mental health week is starting with the sourcing of materials and health professions and organizations to get involved.

I have had a very busy three months working on Welfare issues, and look forward to another nine. I would like to thank in particular Shaun Khoo, Evan Wallace, Sisi Ying, Charlie Goodman, Kyle Dadleh and Ruby Warber for their assistance with my work in this time.