

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Minutes of the Students' Council  
Meeting 08/10**

***CONFIRMED***

**4.15 PM, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Location: MUVT1, Level 3, Union House**

**1. Procedural Matters**

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- 3.1 Whole of Union Funding for Queer Collaborations 2010
- 3.2 Confirmation of Staffing Sub-Committee Minutes
- 3.3 Student Representative Network Repeal

**4. Correspondence**

**5. Office Bearers' Reports**

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.1 President                       | 5.8 Activities                   |
| 5.2 Secretary                       | 5.9 Queer                        |
| 5.3 Education (Academic<br>Affairs) | 5.10 Environment                 |
| 5.4 Education (Public<br>Affairs)   | 5.11 Media                       |
| 5.5 Welfare                         | 5.12 Clubs and Societies         |
| 5.6 Women's                         | 5.13 Indigenous                  |
| 5.7 Arts                            | 5.14 VCA Campus Co-<br>ordinator |

**6. Standing Committee Reports**

**7. Other Reports**

**8. Motions on Notice**

**9. Other Business**

**10. Next Meeting**

**11. Close**

## Matters Arising from the Minutes

### 3.1 Whole of Union Funding for Queer Collaborations 2010

UMSU Queer would like to support an Umsu delegation of 15-20 students in attending the Queer Collaborations (QC) Conference in Wollongong, from the 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July 2010. We propose:

***That \$1000 from Whole of Union (WoU) funds be allocated to subsidise accommodation and travel to QC 2010.***

***That Queer Committee decide upon exact division of WoU funds among attendees, taking into account whether delegates are union members, and reporting back to Student's Council.***

***That recipients of WoU funds provide reports back to Student's Council of their experiences at QC.***

**Moved: Claire Oppermann**

**Seconded: Ed Yap**

#### **Support for the motion:**

QC is an amazing opportunity for queer students to network with the amazing diversity of queer students across the country and to discuss issues and ideas affecting queers. QC is a great social and learning experience

Following from the above, QC is a great place for the Queer Officers and members of the Queer Collective to learn about how other Queer Departments are run throughout the country, the knowledge from which we will be able to use in improving the running of our department.

UMSU Queer is working on fundraising projects so that we can continue to function as an active Department in second semester, however this money will not materialise in time for QC.

The conference has been publicised through our newsletters, once on our Facebook group and by announcements at events. Due to the small number of places available, we only publicised QC using the methods mentioned above because we wanted to encourage attendance by students who were already active within the Queer Department.

We will take into account whether delegates are union members when allocating funding, as well as delegate's circumstances and financial need. Subsidy for union members will be up to \$100, and up to \$40 for non-union members. Figures are based on a delegation of 15, but current interest indicates that we may be taking a larger delegation, so these numbers are not concrete. The Queer Department will endeavour to cover variation from these projections, and will not request that WoU do so.

Given the Queer budget this year, if the Department does not receive funding it will not be able to afford to subsidise the delegation in any significant sense. The result will be that economically disadvantaged students who wish to attend QC will be unable to do so.

Only 2 of the 10 early registrations have attended the conference before.

We anticipate squiring a delegation of 15-20 people. Registration is in its earliest stages – 10 students have committed to attending. Given that figure, projections are based on a delegation of 15.

#### **Financial Details**

##### **Accommodation**

QC organisers quoted \$250/student as the cheapest accommodation for 5 nights (conference + travel) in Wollongong. This is ludicrous, we are searching for cheaper alternatives and combining with Monash Queer Department to reduce costs. Wollongong is small and hence expensive, we will be camping, or staying in a Youth Hostel.

***Anticipated cost, \$15/student/night(x15 students x5 nights) = \$1,125***

##### **Travel Costs**

We will be travelling by van or bus, in co-operation with the Monash delegation. Bus costs are not ascertainable at this point. 15 students = 3 cars, or two vans. 8-10hrs of driving by the most direct route. Petrol costs would approximate to \$175/car, \$225/van.

***Anticipated petrol cost, \$525 by car, \$450 by van. Van access will be more challenging and may incur hire costs of \$100+ (hence \$550.) Cars are accessible; hence \$525 is the projected cost.***

***The Queer Committee voted to cover substantial subsidisation of registration costs, which will come to \$650. Residual costs will be passed on to delegates.***

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**Total cost: \$1,125**  
**\$525**

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**\$1,650**  
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These are not ambit claims, but real costs that the Queer Department cannot avoid incurring if it takes students to QC. QC is an annual event and an important part of the national queer student community. The Union exists to enable students to participate in student life, and it would be extremely unjust if those students who live with economic disadvantage were barred from this experience.

The Queer Department cannot afford to cover all of these costs on the existent budget. Funding of \$1000 still leaves us \$650 short, which would be borne for the most part by those delegates who are not subject to financial hardship - this amount will not be spread thinly. Many queer Melbourne University students are forced to leave home because of unsupportive family environments, are unable to rely on any familial financial support, and experience difficulties in finding affordable housing that is queer-friendly, and employment in workplaces which are not heterosexist, homophobic, transphobic or discriminatory. For the QC delegates, these problems are real - not merely statistical. Six hundred and fifty dollars is the maximum amount that delegates can be expected to cover.

Reporting back to Student's Council will ensure transparency of funding distribution. The Queer Department is doing its upmost to enable and support queer students in engaging fully in uni life, to encourage engagement with the Union - WoU funding for QC is wholly consistent with that aim.

More information about QC can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Queer-Collaborations-Wollongong-2010/105623642805193> and <http://uowallsorts.org>

### 3.3 Student Representative Network Repeal

That motion 6.1 from the Staffing Sub-Committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010 be rescinded and that Staffing Sub-Committee re-appoint representatives to the SRN committees, giving preference to those applicants who individually filled out their applications and stated adequately which committee they most want to be on and why, over those applicants who did not.

**Moved:** Rachel Barrett

**Seconded:** Max Kaiser

**Meeting declared open by Jesse Overton-Skinner at 4.34PM**

**Agenda Item 1: Procedural Matters**

**1.1 Election of Chair**

<p><b>Motion 1:</b> That Jesse Overton-Skinner chair the meeting <b>Moved:</b> Jesse Overton Skinner <b>CWD</b></p>
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**1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners**

We acknowledge that this meeting takes place on the land of Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and honour their elders past and present.

**1.3 Attendance**

Students' Council

Kyle Dadleh, Kon Moisisdis, Rachel Barrett, Max Kaiser, Suzie Zheng, Linda Gao, Anton Anin, Rachel Walters, Frances Lewis, Ming Yang Chen, Jimmy Jin, Tristan Clack, Louis Gregory

2010 Office Bearers

Jesse Overton-Skinner (President), Lydia Bevege (Secretary), John Shipp (Education Academic), Lloyd McGeary (Welfare), Jidah Clark (Indigenous), Evelyn Daniel (Environment), Claire Oppermann (Queer), Esther Bohmer (Womyn's), David Haidon (Arts), David Evans (Activities), Piper O'Dowd (Clubs & Societies), Ellena Savage (Media), Lucas Smith (Media), Jonathan Donagan (Clubs & Societies), Rachael Lim (Welfare), Yoni Cuikerman (Education Public), Miriam Hamel-Green (Womyn's), Dan Musil (Environment)

Others

James Paterson, Mark Kettle, Adam Seng, Haitian Su, Ni Jiang, Chris Heath, Noni Sproule, Liam Byrne, Marijana Bosnjak

**Absent**

Students' Council

Paul Hosri, Stephanie McHenry, Kate Turnbull, Karyan Ng

2010 Office Bearers

Joshua Anderson (Education Public), Rudolph Hosri (Education Academic), Nic Tammens (Arts), Sarah Laing (Media) Rachel Baxendale (Media), Ed Yap (Queer)

**1.4 Apologies**

Kate Turnbull, Ed Yap, Paul Hosri, Nic Tammens, Chris Summers

**1.5 Proxies**

Kate Turnbull to James Paterson  
Chris Summers to Rachel Barrett  
Meredith Treadwell to Mark Kettle  
Karyan Ng to Kon Moisisdis

**1.6 Membership**

None.

### 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

**Procedural Motion:** That the motion that 'Students' Council amends the budget to remove \$15,000 from the NUS line, to add \$2,500 to the Wom\*n's line, add \$2,500 to the Queer line, add \$2,500 to the Environment line, allocate \$1,000 to Play With Your Food, add \$3000 to Clubs & Societies line and add \$3500 to the Activities line' be put before the adoption of agenda.

**Moved:** John Shipp

**For:** 8

**Against:** 9

**LOST**

**Motion 2:** That the agenda be adopted and the lost procedural motion to be addressed under motions on notice

**Moved:** Chair

**For:** 12

**Against:** 4

**Abstentions:** 1

**CARRIED**

### Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Motion 3:** That the minutes from meeting 07/10 held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Moved:** Chair

**CWD**

### Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising from the Minutes

#### 3.1 Whole of Union Funding for Queer Collaborations 2010

Claire Oppermann spoke to the motion stating that the projected delegation numbers to the Queer Collaborations conference is approximately 15 people. The conference is both a space for political engagement and community building. The conference is important as it addresses issues experienced by queer students at Melbourne University. The requested funds will cover travel, accommodation and other peripheral costs as outlined in the motion. The need for funds from whole of union is due to the Queer department budget having been significantly decreased from the previous year.

David Haidon commends Claire and Ed for the information they have provided to for Students' Council.

Jimmy Jin requested clarification, in the absence of Queer Committee minutes, on the Queer committee decision to cover the registrations expenses. Claire responds that the committee had originally passed a motion to cover \$480 for registration but the meeting held last week, had amended and passed a motion to increase that to \$650. The minutes to that meeting will be available shortly.

Jimmy Jin refers to the funds matching between the Womyn's department and whole of union for the NOWSA conference, which may be an option for QC funding. Jimmy endorses the event but stresses that whole of union funds are not great. Claire responds that the queer delegation is larger than the NOWSA delegation, with the department engaging with a larger and proactive collective than in the past and states that there is great value to taking this level of engagement outside the university environment. Claire states that she understands the fund matching may be an option but given that \$900 was passed for an AGM BBQ, funds can also be allocated to conference attendees. Jimmy responds that whole of union money is preferentially given for on campus events.

John Shipp responds that he is in support of the initiative and moves a motion to suspend standing orders to put forth a motion that will result in an increase in the Queer Department budget.

**Procedural Motion:** That standing orders be suspended so that an alternate budget may be presented and be put before the original motion.

**Moved:** John Shipp

**For:** 11

**Against:** 6

**CARRIED**

The Chair reads out the following motion:

***That Students' Council amends the budget to remove \$15,000 from the NUS line, to add \$2,500 to the Wom\*n's line, add \$2,500 to the Queer line, add \$2,500 to the Environment line, allocate \$1,000 to Play With Your Food, add \$3000 to Clubs & Societies line and add \$3500 to the Activities line.***

***Moved: Kon Moisisdis***

***Seconded: Tristan Clack***

Frances Lewis requests a discussion regarding the new motion.

Kon Moisisdis as mover of the motion defers his right to speak to the motion. Tristan as seconder speaks to the motion stating that it is his long held view that student union money is better kept on campus. He is not entirely sure of what NUS does with the funds as he has had difficulty in getting a hold of a budget. UMSU pays for one and half NUS office bearers but he does not feel UMSU gets any value out of this.

Liam Byrne supports increases to activist department budgets but not cuts to NUS especially as the motion has been put by those who are politically opposed to NUS. Liam states the importance of supporting national student representatives as both major political parties have demonstrated student unionism is not a priority, and where a national framework is crucial to negotiating transitional funding. As the NUS Victorian Queer Officer, Liam finds Tristan's earlier statement regarding the effectiveness of NUS officers offensive, and the motion is deemed as a cynical ploy by Liberals and anti-unionists.

The Chair reminds Liam to make his addresses through the Chair.

Mark Kettle states that NUS supports student representation on both campus and national levels and voices student concerns on key issues such as Youth Allowance. Whole of union funding is not affected by NUS affiliation but the inability of present leadership to negotiate a better corporate charges deal with the MUSUL which is currently \$70,000. It is this money that should be redistributed not NUS money.

Louis Gregory supports the two previous speakers and states that NUS is not sorting finances and reminds council that as a national body, the NUS office bearer's expenses are naturally higher.

John Shipp states that he has found NUS to be a highly factional space and that the cut to NUS will not affect UMSU affiliation as the amount being redirected is insignificant.

Esther Bohmer states that the motion has come as a complete surprise to many and feels the process has been deceptive, with the motion requiring further discussion. The proposed amounts are a step in the right direction in rectifying the cuts sustained by activist departments but the motives behind this motion are sinister. All present should have time to think about the proposed motion and consider the level of transparency required by office bearers and councillors. The choice between NUS affiliation and functional departments demands that the Womyn's Officers go back to their collectives to make a decision.

France Lewis agrees that this motion is sinister particularly as it comes from those who do not support student unionism. The funding for departments needs to be instead sourced from the university, a university that overspends on advertising. Agrees with supporting activist departments but not at the expense of national affiliation and believes we should look to other sources to top up the shortfall.

James Paterson states that this is not a debate about whether or not UMSU supports NUS. Affiliation will not be threatened as there will still be \$37,000 remaining. It is important to allocate money where it is need most and given that the activist departments have formally complained to students' council, this motion addresses some of the shortfall.

Noni Sproule addresses the issue of students' councillors drinking alcohol during the meeting and believes that this is problematic as council needs to be a safe space. She states that the laughter at her statement is an indicator that this is not a safe space for councillors to declare their opinions. Noni states that the cutting of NUS funding cuts funding to NUS activist departments which not only undercuts on campus activist departments but also the ability for these departments to collectively campaign in women's campaigns and the Equal Love campaign as an example. The University of Melbourne is an affluent university and NUS affiliation fees assists activist departments at less affluent universities. NUS campaigns are for all students not just those universities who can afford to have office bearers.

Kon Moisisdis commends the motion, stating that UMSU is not a rich union, with student union funding having been slashed. The 2010 budget cuts were responsible yet tough but this motion intends to rectify this. Therefore the money should be kept on campus to benefit students and to maintain the long term viability of UMSU.

Jimmy Jin commends the motion, stating that the student union has a greater responsibility to UMSU than NUS and it is important to leave money on campus. He refers to an article in Farrago that notes NUS is a highly factional body with little room for independent voices to be brought into those meetings.

David Evans responds to the earlier comment regarding beer consumption during the meeting, stating that the beer he purchased was a communal gesture and that all present are adults.

**Ming Yang Chen arrives at 5.09PM**

Liam Byrne states that this is not the first time the issue of NUS funding has arisen in students' council. If activist department budgets were not slashed in the first place, then the NUS issue would not have come up. UMSU and NUS are not in opposition and NUS, as an upholder of national frameworks, is integral to UMSU. The Liberals oppose the very existence of NUS, and based on those politics, this is a very cynical ploy.

**Motion 4:** That Students' Council amends the budget to remove \$15,000 from the NUS line, to add \$2,500 to the Wom\*n's line, add \$2,500 to the Queer line, add \$2,500 to the Environment line, allocate \$1,000 to Play With Your Food, add \$3000 to Clubs & Societies line and add \$3500 to the Activities line.

**Moved:** Kon Moisisdis

**Seconded:** Tristan Clack

**For:** 10

**Against:** 6

**Abstentions:** 1

**CARRIED**

Jidah Clark questions why the Indigenous Department have been omitted from the motion. The Chair states that the motion has now been passed.

**Procedural Motion:** That standing orders be suspended to answer Jidah's question.

**For:** 17

**Against:** 0

**CWD**

Kon Moisisdis responds to Jidah Clark's question, stating that the departments included in the motion all made complaints to students' council on lack of funds, and as mover of the motion, he was not aware that the Indigenous departments required additional funds.

Jidah responds that the 2010 budget have \$500 less to the Indigenous department than other activist departments. In the first Students' Council meeting this discrepancy was questioned but there was never a clear answer. Prior to the 2010 budget being approved, a detailed departmental budget was provided outlining a budget of \$13,000. The omission of the Indigenous department in the motion sends the message that the Indigenous department is deemed as less important.

The Chair receives and read out the following motion:

***That \$1000 be moved from Clubs & Societies and \$1,500 be moved from Activities to the Indigenous budget line.***

**Moved:** Max Kaiser

**Seconded:** Rachel Barrett

Claire Oppermann states that it is disgraceful that the Indigenous department is being underfunded, and stresses that activist departments work in a number of ways by focussing on a number of area such as welfare and education, as does the Indigenous department.

Noni Sproule states that UMSU cannot have one representative department funded to a lesser value than others, without that department being perceived as being less valuable. Indigenous students also require representation. Noni is in favour of the motion to increase funding to the Indigenous department and believes that the current funding hierarchy is unacceptable.

**Kon Moisisdis departs at 5.20PM**

Kyle Dadleh addresses Jidah's question stating that Indigenous students also have support from the Centre of Indigenous Education (CIE), an entire department dedicated to Indigenous students.

Jonathan Donagan supports increases to the Indigenous department suggesting that the amount allocated to other activist departments be also taken out of the NUS line, plus \$500 for the original shortfall.

Rachel Barrett states that the Indigenous department not approaching Students' Council for additional money is not a valid reason for the omission. It is insulting that autonomous and activist departments are subjects to Students'

Council for funding. This has set a shocking precedent where autonomous departments now need to go through students' council for funding.

Frances Lewis supports increases to the Indigenous department but will not support further cuts to NUS.

**Kon Moisis returns at 5.26PM**

David Haidon responds that the CIE/Willin Centre at the VCA is being closed, therefore adequate funding of the UMSU Indigenous department is crucial.

Claire Oppermann states that CIE and the UMSU Indigenous department serve different purposes. This is a ridiculous state of affairs given that in past meetings, those chairing could not acknowledge of our traditional owners properly. Students' Council needs to lift their game in relation to Indigenous issues and the Indigenous department should have been included in the original motion.

Jimmy Jin states that funding to departments through Students' Council is assessed on merit, on the activities and resources they provide and the relevance to students. Students' council cannot give money blindly and is limited in finances. QC and Womyn's NOWSA conference are good activities and funds have been allocated because their finances are exhausted. He uses the example of international student's office bearers would be good but not necessarily valid to representation.

Louis Gregory reminds council that NUS funding goes into supporting national Indigenous campaigns.

Jidah Clark responds to Jimmy's question regarding how Indigenous department funding has been spent. A budget was submitted at the beginning of the year but due to decreased funding those activities have been scaled down. Additional funds would have enabled delegates to attend the National Indigenous students' conference.

**Motion 5:** That \$1000 be moved from Clubs & Societies and \$1,500 be moved from Activities to the Indigenous budget line.

**Moved:** Max Kaiser      **Seconded:** Rachel Barrett

**For:** Frances Lewis, Max Kaiser, Chris Summers through Rachel Barrett, Rachel Barrett, Meredith Treadwell though Louis Gregory, Louis Gregory (6)

**Against:** Kate Turnbull through James Paterson, Kyle Dadleh, Kon Moisis, Karyan Ng though Kon Moisis, Suzie Zheng, Ming Yang Chen, Linda Gao, Jimmy Jin, Tristan Clack, Anton Anin though Tristan Clack (10)

**Abstention:** Rachel Walters (1)

**LOST**

Standing orders were suspended to allow Claire Oppermann to speak to her original motion. Claire states that last year's operating budget of \$8,000 was sufficient to run an activist department but would prefer the additional money allocated in the first motion to be placed into the Indigenous department. Claire amends the original motion, allocating Queer Collaborations funding of \$1000 plus \$1500 be allocated to the Indigenous department.

The reads the following amended motion:

***That \$2500 from Whole of Union be moved to the Indigenous Department to rectify the discriminatory function of the 2010 Students' Council in relation to the needs of Indigenous Students on campus.***

***Moved: Claire Oppermann      Seconded: Jidah Clark***

David Haidon commends the motion and states that certain councillors should hang their heads in shame,

Noni Sproule commends motion and states that the amount proposed is only \$400 more than the money spent on the AGM BBQ, and cannot believe that councillors are opposed to increasing funding to the Indigenous department.

Frances Lewis supports the motion, commends the Queer department and states that the councillors who vote against it are racist.

**Procedural Motion:** That Frances Lewis be censured

**Moved:** John Shipp

**For:** 4    **Against:** 13

**LOST**



**Procedural Motion:** That the motion be amended to only read 'that \$2500 from Whole of Union be moved to the Indigenous Department'.

**Moved:** John Shipp

**For:** 11      **Against:** 6

**CARRIED**

**Procedural Motion:** That the amended motion be put

**Moved:** Chair

**For:** 11      **Against:** 6

**CARRIED**

**Motion 6:** That \$2500 from Whole of Union be moved to the Indigenous Department

**Moved:** Claire Oppermann      **Seconded:** Jidah Clark

**For:** 16      **Against:** 0      **Abstentions:** 1

**CARRIED**

### 3.2 Confirmation of Staffing Sub-Committee Minutes

**Motion 4:** That the minutes from staffing committee meeting 01/10 held on 20<sup>th</sup> April be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Moved:** Kyle Dadleh      **Seconded:** Kon Moisisdis

**For:** 11      **Against:** 4

**CARRIED**

### Quorum Lost

#### Agenda Item 10: Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 12.15pm MUVT rooms

#### Agenda Item 11: Close

**Meeting closed at: 5.52PM**

**Certified by Chair:**

**Signed:**

**Dated:**