

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Minutes of the Welfare Committee**

**Meeting 7/08**

**5.00 pm, Thursday 23rd October, 2008**

**Location: Office Bearer Space, Union House**

**Agenda**

**1. Procedural Matters**

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

**2. Report Back from Office Bearers**

**3. Budget**

**4. Meeting Dates**

**5. Other Business**

**6. Close**

**Agenda Item 1: Procedural Matters**

**1.1 Election of Chair**

**1.2 cknowledgement of Indigenous Owners**

**1.3 Attendance**

Sam Cossar-Gilbert, Kaitlin Ferris, Carla Drakeford, Mark Peart, Rosalie Delaney

**1.4 Apologies**

None

**1.5 Proxies**

None

**1.6 Membership**

**1.7 Adoption of Agenda**

**Agenda Item 2: Report Back from Office Bearers**

**Agenda Item 3: Budget**

**Motion 1:** That \$250 be moved from the Play with Your Food line to the Grants line

**Motion 2:** That \$150 be taken from the food and beverages line and put into the Grants line

**Motion 3:** That \$100 be taken from the postage line and put into the Grants line

**Motion 4:** That \$600 be taken from the Room Hire line and put into the Grants line

**Motion 5:** That \$1100 be taken from the Equipment hire line and put into the Grants line

**Motion 6:** That \$400 be taken from the Stationery line and put into the Grants line.

**Motion 7:** That \$100 be transferred from the T-shirts line to the Grants line.

**Motion 8:** That up to \$500 be authorised from the Special Projects and Events line to pay the Melbourne Uni Food Co-op any outstanding payments.

**Motion 9:** That motions 1 through to 8 be carried on block  
Moved: Sam Cossar-Gilbert      Seconded: Mark Peart  
**CARRIED**

**Motion 10:** That \$750 be granted to Chris Summers for the start-up costs of The Cuning Ham magazine from the Grants line.  
Moved: Mark Peart      Seconded: Sam Cossar-Gilbert  
**CARRIED**

**Motion 11:** That \$750 from the grants line be granted to Wai Quarterly to pay for the printing of the Wai magazine.  
Moved: Mark Peart      Seconded: Rosalie Delaney

**Foreshadowed Motion:** That \$200 be taken from the Grants line and granted to Wai Quarterly  
Moved: Carla Drakeford      Seconded: Kaitlin Ferris

**Motion 12:** That \$750 be granted from the Grants line to the Latin American Solidarity Network for the International Indigenous Conference held at Ceres from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2008  
Moved: Sam Cossar-Gilbert      Seconded: Mark Peart  
Abstentions: Carla Drakeford and Kaitlin Ferris  
**CARRIED**

**Motion 13:** That up to \$300 be authorised from the Special Projects and Events line to be spent on Unite 7-11 campaign stickers.  
Moved: Carla Drakeford      Seconded: Sam Cossar-Gilbert  
**CARRIED**

**Motion 14:** That Erin Buckley be reimbursed \$198.49 from the Special Projects and Events line for fire safety equipment.

**Motion 15:** That Ohad Kozminsky be reimbursed \$228.91 from the Special Projects and Events line for fire safety equipment, batteries for fire alarms and a sim card for the SHAC phone.

**Motion 16:** That up to \$250 be authorised from the Equipment Hire line be spent on BBQ and PA equipment and BBQ food for the SHACstravaganza to be held at SHAC on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October.

**Motion 17:** That the remainder of the Play With Your Food line be authorised for basic food items including but not limited to milk, rice, chickpeas, lentils, beans, oil and baking ingredients at SHAC.

**Motion 18:** That motions 14-17 be carried on block.

Moved: Sam Cossar-Gilbert      Seconded: Rosalie Delaney

**Motion 19:** That the remaining \$750 in the grants line be paid to the Victorian Taxi Driver Association to pay for the airfares of organisers from the New York Taxi *Workers* Alliance to come to Melbourne.

Moved: Rosalie Delaney      Seconded: Mark Peart

**CARRIED**

**Motion 20:** Should unforeseen expenses including but not limited to stationery, telephone and photocopying/paper costs arise then this money is authorised to come from the Special Projects and Events line.

Moved: Kaitlin Ferris      Seconded: Sam Cossar-Gilbert

**CARRIED**

**Attached:** Written applications from WAI newspaper, **The International Indigenous Solidarity Gathering**, New York Taxi Worker's Alliance organising tour proposal and The Cunning Ham.

**Agenda Item 5: Other Business**

**Agenda Item 6: Close**

## **Wai Newspaper**

Wai is a quarterly regional newspaper with a focus on human rights, social justice and environmental issues from around Australia and Pacific regions.

The first issue of Wai is to come out in early November and will contain articles on the following: NT Intervention, uranium in the NT, tasmanian forests, student housing in Melbourne, redfern gentrification, Myths around Clean coal and climate camp. The first issue of Wai will be a production of 3000 20 page tabloid paper.

Wai will be distributed in Newcastle, Sydney, Melbourne, Huonville, Hobart, Alice Springs, Darwin, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Lismore and more. Wai will be printed locally in Melbourne with Streamline Press. The cost of the paper and distribution will be \$1800.

Thanks

Wai Team

*The project clearly fulfills the aims and objectives of the department being that of promotion of diversity and fighting racism, members of the welfare collective (SHAC) have been heavily involved in the project. SHAC the main project of the welfare department this year will be featured on the front cover as a major feature. This will be a great boost to SHAC's promotional campaign.*

*Grants are also being received from the Newcastle University Student Association and RMIT Student Union of approximately the same amount as UMSU.*

## Minutes of Welfare Committee meeting 23rd October, 2008

### The International Indigenous Solidarity Gathering

#### Project Brief

**Date:** 23-26 October 2008

**Venue:** CERES

**Aim:** to strengthen solidarity and collaboration between different grassroots organisations struggling for Indigenous justice in various regions of the world. It will create a forum where experiences can be shared and visions for social change can be developed.

Will involve participants from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island nations as well as international delegates involved in Indigenous struggles in Latin America, the Asia Pacific, North America and Canada. There will be Indigenous and non indigenous activists from Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Fiji, East Timor, Philippines, Free West Papua, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Canada, Turtle island (USA) and New Zealand attending.

#### **Rationale/Foundation:**

Indigenous peoples around the world often face the similar challenges of non indigenous poor and excluded people, such as dispossession from land, histories of oppression and genocide, as well as social political and economic exclusion. By providing a forum for dialogue between different indigenous groups and non indigenous groups, the resistances of each can be strengthened.

Indigenous world views are largely neglected in debates around social change, and the construction of alternatives to neoliberal policies and neocolonial discourse. However Indigenous peoples have long histories of resistance, and differing models of social organisation.

By bringing together indigenous and non indigenous communities, we can start to build the bridges that will create a constructive dialogue between peoples, and share not only knowledge's and experiences but come closer to understanding radically different world views.

This coming together can offer alternatives to dominant neoliberal discourses that can challenge some of the more oppressive policies that we are all experiencing.

#### **Objectives:**

- To create alliances between Indigenous peoples in Australia, The Pacific, Asia and Latin America.
- To create alliances between Indigenous and Non Indigenous communities in these regions, particularly the marginalized communities in these regions.
- To support Australian Aboriginal peoples' self-determination.
- To develop understandings of how Indigenous world views can construct alternatives to neoliberalism and identify alternatives for social change.
- To promote international indigenous cultural initiatives.
- To create an international network of indigenous and non-indigenous activists with the capacity to plan future projects

#### **Key partners:**

The conference is organized by Latin American Solidarity Network (LASNET) and Friends of the Earth (FOE), in conjunction with ANTAR, Union Solidarity, Community Radio 3CR, Alliance for Indigenous Self Determination, Mexico Australia Solidarity Network, Free West Papua, Fairware Campaign, Sydney Coalition for Aboriginal Rights, Kurdish Human Rights Initiative, East Timor Women's Association, Chilean Popular and Indigenous Network, Colombia Solidarity Network, Colombia Demand Justice Campaign.

more info available at: <http://www.latinlasnet.org/gathering/freedom.html>

*The money granted will go towards the cost of hiring the Venue – CERES which was \$1500. A grant was also applied for from the indigenous department of UMSU. Meat was provided for the conference by the Meatpackers Union. Other grants were sought from unions but so far none have been granted.*

**New York Taxi Worker's Alliance organising tour proposal:**

**January - February 2009**

The New York Taxi Workers Alliance, founded in 1998, is an alliance of more than 5,000 largely migrant taxi workers who have been fighting to improve conditions in the taxi industry.

The Victorian Taxi Drivers Association, founded in 2006 after the murder of international student taxi driver Rajneesh Joga in Melbourne, has been liaising with the New York Taxi Workers Alliance since the strike of taxi drivers in April 2008. The VTDA currently has a membership of 800 members. Many of its more active members, and most of the drivers in dangerous night shifts, are international students.

The VTDA is proposing to host several organisers from the New York Taxi Workers Alliance during the first few months of 2009. This is a slow time for drivers, and also for students. Whilst some international students go home for the holidays, many do not, and use the opportunity to undertake summer subjects or work without the visa restriction that operates during semester, in order to earn their fees for next semester. It is an ideal time to schedule organising meetings.

The VTDA is asking for assistance from student unions to assist in financing this organising tour. The VTDA is one of few associations and unions to actively involve international student workers in actions and campaigns. We have been able to secure membership because we currently do not charge for it, and as such have no funds which we can spend on this tour. Our media and industry lobbying work is supported by dedicated drivers volunteering their time, and some support from community activists. None of our organisers is paid for their work.

Our hope for the organising tour is that we can bring several organisers from New York, representative of the South Asian and African taxi drivers, to share their organising experiences, in order to better equip international student drivers to stand up for their rights. In particular, we wish to share information on occupational health and safety strategies for drivers, and community organising methods to maximise the involvement and empowerment of international student drivers.

We are seeking donations sufficient to cover flights for a number of organisers. We anticipate the total cost of the tour to be somewhere in the vicinity of \$8,000 – \$10,000. Any donation to this organising tour would be greatly appreciated. Please make any cheques payable to the Victorian Taxi Drivers' Association.

Liz Thompson  
VTDA committee member (non-voting)  
[l.thompson@vtda.asn.au](mailto:l.thompson@vtda.asn.au)

[www.vtda.asn.au](http://www.vtda.asn.au)

*Grants of the same amount are also being applied for to RMIT student union and other Melbourne student student unions.*

*This project aligns with the aims of the welfare committee as it directly relates to the welfare of International students and their workplace rights, over 50% of taxi drivers are international students.*

The Cunning Ham

Dear Welfare Committee,

The Cunning Ham magazine is an important project that is being put together by a number of students at Melbourne university. It is in the form of an alternative media magazine that will be focused on engaging with the student community and broader welfare issues around political issues. The magazine will encourage expression and exploration of political and welfare issues, as well as providing an important forum for those seeking creative expression through the publication of student artwork and creative writing. We are applying for a grant from the welfare committee because we feel the aims of The Cunning Ham, especially in promoting a greater diversity of voices in campus media, fit well with the aims of the Welfare Department.

Our brief is to create a radical and relevant voice on campus that engages with the complex political landscape of today. We intend to run The Cunning Ham as a collective, involving it and using it to further debate, and encourage discussion around, ongoing campaigns such as those against the Melbourne Model and around Student Housing. We have already been talking with MUOSS about collaboration as we particularly want to get international students and international student issues heard.

The Cunning Ham will attempt to be a strong part of the social and political scene on campus, fostering debates and stirring up discussion.

Love,

Chris Summers

*Grant will go towards cost of printing with Arena. Quote not yet obtained. Approximately \$1500 per issue.*

*Grants are also being sought from the Arts and Queer committees.*

