

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

12 PM, 23 07 2013

Meeting 12/13

Location: MUVT 1, Level 3, Union House

Meeting opened at 12:05pm by Stephen Smith.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Kara Hadgraft be elected Chair.

Mover: Stephen Smith

Seconder: Hana Dalton

CARRIED

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance

Councillors: Sarina Murray, Annalivia Carli Hannan, Adam Galvin, Bridget Bourke, Chris Jermyn, Charlie Cartney, Matthew Lesh, Jeremy Gibson, Hana Dalton, Justin Boyd, Belinda O'Connor, Maddee Clark, Jess Evans

OBs: Josiah Lulham (Creative Arts), John Lister (Education Public), Stephen Smith (Secretary), Vicky Fysh (Environment), Sally Whyte (Media), Emma Koehn (Media), Amy Jenkins (Wom*n's), Lindsey Motteram (Welfare), Tom Walker (Clubs and Societies), Meg Watson (Media), Sarah McColl (Media), Declan McGonigle (Education Academic), Daniel Hanna (Activities), Joshua Haigh (Activities), Melinda Keys (Clubs and Societies), Kara Hadgraft (President), Mercedes Marsh (Wom*n's), Eric Gardiner (Creative Arts)

Observers: Samuel Donnelly, Stephanie Kilpatrick, Nicholas Kimberley, James Bashford, Michaelean O'Donnell, Ella Fabry, Simon Burns, Kim Doyle, Rafael Tudehope, Ruby Healer, Tom Hayes, Patrick Clearwater, Patrick Wingrove, Renée Bullen, Kosta Rologas

Staff: Justin Baré (General Manager), Fiona Sanders (C&S Co-ordinator)

1.4 Apologies

Galih Pangestu, James Duncan, Kerk Chee Yee, Alice Dawes, Rachel Quek

1.5 Proxies

James Duncan to Matthew Lesh

Alice Dawes to Belinda O'Connor

1.6 Membership

Yi Lewis Liu's membership has expired and Chris Jermyn has been ticket appointed as Mature Age Representative.

Motion 2: To approve a week's leave for Kerk Chee Yee from Tuesday 23 July.

Mover: Stephen Smith

Seconder: Kara Hadgraft

CARRIED

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Stephen requested that motion 8.5 Media Expenditure be moved to 8.1.

Motion 3: To adopt the agenda with the requested changes.

Mover: Kara Hadgraft (Chair)

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Meeting on Tuesday 6 June and inquorate meeting on Tuesday 25 June

Motion 4: To confirm the minutes from 6 June and 25 June as a true and accurate record of those meetings.

Mover: Kara Hadgraft (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Results of Ballot – Operations Sub-Committee

Stephen read out the ballot in order of election:

Chelsea Jang, Adam Galvin, Sarina Murray, Matthew Lesh, and Justin Boyd.

4. Correspondence

Letter from Luke Brouwer thanking Students' Council for sponsoring him to attend the National Student Leadership Forum in Canberra.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

President

Kara spoke about attending NUS Education Conference and emphasises the value in being able to meet with other campus presidents.

She spoke about the Orientation and Host Training Program being run by the Communications and Marketing Division and the Student Life Cycle Review.

Justin Boyd arrived at 12:13pm.

Kara further discussed the Production Review and that she, Justin Baré, and Susan Hewitt (Arts and Entertainment Manager) had met with potential consultants.

Secretary

Stephen presented a written report and spoke to the recommendations. He recommended that Students' Council empower him to call a Special General Meeting for 1 October, with a reserve meeting for 8 October, to consider changes to the UMSU Constitution which are currently being drafted.

Motion 5: To endorse the Secretary's recommendations.

Mover: Kara Hadgraft (Chair)

CARRIED

Education (Academic Affairs)

Declan spoke about NUS Education Conference and the value that it provided him, especially this year as an Education Officer.

He further spoke about concerns around study spaces during the SWOTVAC period, and that he was raising this on TALDAC and that Stephen had raised this issue on LARC. The Education Department was looking to run a survey in Semester 2 on this issue.

Education (Public Affairs)

John spoke about the upcoming National Day of Action on 20 August and that the Education Action Group would be working on this over the coming weeks.

He also spoke about rewriting the Counter Course Handbook, and that he had met with representatives from the NTEU.

Welfare

Lindsey spoke about attending NUS Education Conference and the value she gained from the workshops she attended.

She also updated Council on the support groups that would be starting in Week 3, and that the Welfare Department had received a donation of iced tea and noodles.

Further, Lindsey discussed a reshuffle of the groups in the LACE program, and that she had been sitting on UoM Disability Action Committee and had prompted a discussion into what training staff had receive around disabilities.

Environment

Vicky spoke about the campaign on fossil fuel free campus.

Jade Eckhaus left at 12:21pm.

She also updated Council on Environment Week which would be held in Week 3 of Semester.

Wom*n's

Mercedes spoke about the success of NOWSA and thanks the volunteers, and helpers in the Student Union.

Jade Eckhaus returned at 12:25pm.

Amy spoke about attending NUS Education Conference and its value. She was particularly pleased to have run a workshop around engaging women.

She thanked the volunteers who helped with NOWSA, and spoke about the regular events that would continue in Semester 2.

Creative Arts

Josiah had tabled a written report, and spoke about the Above Water. He informed Council that they had received 150 submissions.

MUDFest planning was continuing, with the festival only 3 weeks away – Josiah screamed at the prospect. He said that volunteers were needed.

Josiah said that they were now taking submissions for Framed.

Indigenous

Kyle informed Council that he had taken some time away for personal reasons. He updated us that a staff member from Murrup Barak had left.

Kyle was planning on running a campaign around constitutional recognition so that people could make an informed choice.

He also wants to look at mental health awareness. Further, he discussed that the proposed cuts to higher education also apply to indigenous students.

Clubs and Societies

Tom tabled a written report, and updated Council that there were now 172 affiliated clubs. They had been working on income tax advice, and grant payments.

Clubs and Societies Expo is going to be held on Friday from 12-3 in Grand Buffet Hall. Tom also informed Council that the C&S inflatable penguin had died.

Activities

Activities had tabled a written report. Josh and Dan spoke about the upcoming Cocktail Party, and plans for Oktoberfest.

They had booked in bands for the first 6 weeks, and were going to try something different for Monday's. There were having a slam poetry contest, and robot wars.

Peter Combe would be performing in Week 9 – which caused much excitement amongst the Council.

Media

Media had tabled a report. Emma spoke about Above Water, and also that Edition 5 was coming out on Monday.

She further spoke about Election Dissection and that they were working with the University.

Emma introduced Renée Bullen who is doing work experience in the Media Office this week.

VCA

James asked for the previous minutes to be corrected to include his attendance.

He is working with the NTEU on education campaigns. Together they are running a soup kitchen in week 2 to highlight student poverty.

James is working with Welfare to run a Your Rights @ Work forum. He has spoken with Communications to get the website up and working.

He had been referred arts grants from the Creative Arts Department, and highlighted that they would need to create a system to process grants in a clear and transparent manner.

He had organised a band for the Activities Cruise being organised.

Motion 6: To accept the Office Bearer reports en bloc.

Mover: Kara Hadgraft (Chair)

CARRIED

6. Standing Committee Reports

Kara updated Council on the Operations Sub-Committee, which had passed a motion to affiliate to the Australian Association of Campus Activities Inc. (AACCA).

Annalivia Carli Hannan left at 12:38pm, and proxies to Hana Dalton.

7. Other Reports

No other reports.

8. Motions on Notice

8.1 Media Expenditure

Motion 7: That Students' Council approve expenditure of \$500 from Media budget line 3622 for the *Farrago* Edition 5 launch party, and \$1,000 from line 3626 Conferences for accommodation for the National Young Writers' Festival in Newcastle during October (\$495 of which is to reimburse Emma Koehn for deposit on accommodation immediately).

Mover: Sally Whyte

Seconder: Emma Koehn

CARRIED

8.2 MUOSS Regulations

As Rachel was not in attendance, Stephen spoke to the motion informing Council that these regulations had been adopted by a General Meeting of International Students. He was working with MUOSS to make changes to be brought to Students' Council in late Semester 2.

Motion 8: That Students' Council adopt the MUOSS Regulations as circulated.

Mover: Rachel Quek

Seconder: Stephen Smith

CARRIED

8.3 Financial Regulations

Motion 9: That Students' Council adopt the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations as circulated, which have been endorsed by the Operations Sub-Committee.

Mover: Stephen Smith

Seconder: Kara Hadgraft

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

8.4 Regular Meeting Schedule – Semester 2

James Crafti asked if Tuesday 27 August could be moved to Thursday 29 August to accommodate the Your Rights @ Work forum at Southbank.

Kara suggested we maintain the current schedule and change at the next meeting, as having three meetings in a row on Thursdays was problematic.

Jess Evans asked about leave, as she might not be able to attend the Thursday meetings. Stephen said that the schedule could be amended at a later stage if required.

Motion 10: That Students' Council adopts the meeting schedule for Semester 2 2013 as presented:

12pm, Tuesday 30 July

12pm, Thursday 15 August

12pm, Tuesday 27 August

12pm, Thursday 12 September

12pm, Tuesday 24 September

12pm, Thursday 10 October

12pm, Tuesday 22 October

12pm, Thursday 28 November

12pm, Tuesday 17 December

Mover: Stephen Smith

Seconder: Kara Hadgraft

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

8.5 Withdrawing from the National Union of Students

Preamble: The National Union of Students (NUS) held its annual Education Conference from 10-12 July in Adelaide. This was attended by a number of UMSU Office Bearers and representatives.

In theory, the conference allows student representatives and interested persons to discuss issues relating to higher education and student welfare, and share thoughts on campaigns and projects.

At the conference a series of motions were passed condemning representatives for visiting Israel, and banning students associated with the Liberal Party from participating in NUS conferences.

These motions further called upon the NUS National Executive to remove the NUS National General Secretary and NUS National Women's Officer for participating in a trip to Israel.

While these motions are not valid within the NUS Constitution, and are merely symbolic grandstanding, they represent a culture of exclusion and discrimination.

The motions contradict the principles upheld by Students' Council, including transparency, accountability, democracy, representation, and participation.

Students' Council is representative of the wider student community, and chose to affiliate to NUS for \$91,000, on behalf of the whole student community. As NUS is supporting the exclusion of students based on political belief and social or national origin, it clearly contradicts the beliefs of UMSU.

~~Motion: Students' Council condemns these symbolic motions passed at NUS Education Conference, and in response withdraws UMSU's affiliation from the National Union of Students.~~

~~Students' Council directs the President to communicate this decision to both the NUS National President and NUS National General Secretary.~~

~~Students' Council further directs the President to release a statement on the UMSU website and UMSU Facebook outlining this resolution.~~

~~Mover: Stephen Smith~~

~~Seconder: Christian Slattery~~

Stephen presented an amendment to the Chair.

Motion: Students' Council condemns these symbolic motions passed at NUS Education Conference, and in response appropriates \$46,000 (50.5 per cent) of the allocated affiliation set aside, and distributes it to the following departments:

\$9,000 each to the Clubs and Societies, Creative Arts, and Media departments;

\$2,000 each to the Activities, Disabilities, Education, Environment, Indigenous, Queer, Welfare, and Wom*n's departments;

and,

\$1,500 each to the Burnley Students Association and the Victorian College of the Arts Students Association departments.

Mover: Stephen Smith

Seconder: Christian Slattery

Stephen also presented a foreshadowed motion that had been sent to him by Justin Boyd.

Preamble: The National Union of Students (NUS) held its annual Education Conference from 10-12 July in Adelaide.

A series of motions were passed at the Conference, condemning representatives for visiting Israel, and prohibiting students associated with the Liberal Party from participating in NUS conferences. Further, the motions called upon the NUS National Executive to remove the NUS National General Secretary and NUS National Women's Officer for participating in a trip to Israel.

Given that these motions were passed by the Conference, they remain merely symbolic gestures.

These motions represent disrespect for the right of political association, as a bedrock principle to the values of democracy and liberty which are enshrined and held by both the University of Melbourne Students' Council, and the wider student community.

These motions remain the view of those who participated at the Conference, unendorsed by the NUS Executive, and therefore not the view of NUS.

Motion: Students' Council condemns the aforementioned motions passed at the NUS Education Conference, as being contrary to the freedom of political association, and the principles of democracy and liberty, the foundations upon which UMSU is built, and which the Students' Council as the representative body of the wider Melbourne student community are charged to uphold.

Students' Council shall, in the event that the NUS Executive endorses any of the aforementioned motions, appropriate 20% (\$18 200) of the affiliation monies payable to the NUS toward UMSU departments or a department, to be determined should that event occur.

Mover: Justin Boyd

Seconder: Stephen Smith

Kara explained that both Stephen's motion and Justin's foreshadowed motion would be discussed en bloc, and that Council would vote first on Stephen's motion, and if that failed then on Justin's motion.

Sarina spoke about proportional values of our membership contribution.

Declan spoke about the personal value of Education Conference, and student representation at the national level.

Simon said that a progressive union expresses radical views.

Jade said that the motions at NUS were about including the progressive voice of students, and that NUS is able to organise the fight against cuts to higher education funding.

James Crafti said the NUS motions were a defensive measure to protect NUS values, and that the place to change NUS is at NUS.

Matthew raised concern as to whether Melbourne University students were getting value, and questioned whether we paid a disproportionate contribution. He said that NUS was not inclusive of different political points of view, and that NUS needs to be inclusive.

Request that the speaking list be read.

Adam asked why the amendment was not notified, considering that the foreshadowed motion had been printed out. He said that the views passed were the views of the NUS conference.

Belinda O'Connor left at 1:09pm, and then returned.

Sarina Murray and Jess Evans left at 1:10pm, Sarina proxies to Adam Galvin.

Jeremy spoke about this being an NUS political debate and that these views should be taken to NUS. He said that withdrawing because you disagree equals blackmail.

Quorum count requested, 9 Councillors present with a quorum of 9.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: To limit speaking time to 2 minutes.

Mover: Melinda Keys

CARRIED

Hana spoke about the individual student relevance and that Education Conference was totally worth it.

John doesn't agree with the sentiment of the NUS motions, but that motions being discussed will directly affect the work of the Education Department.

Tom Walker said that the NUS website was out of date, and it was not clear to students what they do.

Jess Evans returned at 1:15pm.

Tom suggested that we shouldn't support actions that limit others freedoms.

Kara spoke about the importance of SSAF, and that in 2013 UMSU's operating budget is almost \$5M, up from \$1.1M before SSAF, which is due to the work of NUS. She said that the SSAF legislation would not have passed without NUS, and that the investment of \$91,000 in NUS ensured we had the department budgets that we have today.

Charlie spoke in favour of complete disaffiliation and advocated for keeping students money on campus.

Chris said that he was qualified to speak on NUS as he had attended five NUS conferences, and questioned whether the motions at Education Conference furthered transparency and democracy. He questions whether we got a return on our investment.

Declan pointed out that NUS is not a business, but that NUS is the reason we can offer better services to students.

Jess discussed NUS from the perspective of students with disabilities, outlining that the new Disabilities Department will need to rely upon assistance from the NUS Disabilities Officer.

Amy stated that there is no such thing as the average student and that activism and activities are not at odds with each other. She spoke about affiliations not being a

returns model, and that it is a union. She drew upon her experience with NOWSA that organisers don't control the speakers, only the logistics.

Michaelean said that Education was not really a democratic or representative body and that the motions being discussed today undermine the process.

James Crafti spoke about having issues with the Secretary's proposed changes to the UMSU Constitution regarding the VCA.

Justin said that the foreshadowed motion does not denigrate importance of NUS in student representation and SSAF action, but that it only condemns the actions of the Education Conference. He said we should continue to support NUS.

Kim spoke about how the marriage equality campaign got her involved with activism, and that the higher education cuts campaign truly affects student. She said that NUS has the right to take up political issues.

Jade said that NUS was not a business, and not about value for money, it is really about the value of student representation. She said that student unions are strongest when strongly left wing. She emphasised that social justice and student rights go together.

Kosta said that threatening to disaffiliate is a political project.

Chris Jermyn left at 1:36pm and proxies to Charlie Cartney.

Kosta continued that NUS needs to be political and is of important value.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: That the motion be put.

Mover: Bridget Bourke

CARRIED

Stephen's amended motion to be put first:

Motion 11: Students' Council condemns these symbolic motions passed at NUS Education Conference, and in response appropriates \$46,000 (50.5 per cent) of the allocated affiliation set aside, and distributes it to the following departments:

\$9,000 each to the Clubs and Societies, Creative Arts, and Media departments;

\$2,000 each to the Activities, Disabilities, Education, Environment, Indigenous, Queer, Welfare, and Wom*n's departments;

and,

\$1,500 each to the Burnley Students Association and the Victorian College of the Arts Students Association departments.

Mover: Stephen Smith

Seconder: Christian Slattery

LOST

Request for named vote.

Motion 12: Students' Council condemns the aforementioned motions passed at the NUS Education Conference, as being contrary to the freedom of political association, and the principles of democracy and liberty, the foundations upon which UMSU is built, and which the Students' Council as the representative body of the wider Melbourne student community are charged to uphold.

Students' Council shall, in the event that the NUS Executive endorses any of the aforementioned motions, appropriate 20% (\$18 200) of the affiliation monies payable to the NUS toward UMSU departments or a department, to be determined should that event occur.

Mover: Justin Boyd

Seconder: Stephen Smith

FOR: Matthew Lesh, James Duncan, Charlie Cartney, Chris Jermyn, Bridget Bourke, Justin Boyd

AGAINST: Jeremy Gibson

ABSTENTION: Adam Galvin, Hana Dalton, Sarina Murray, Annalivia Carli Hannan, Jess Evans, Belinda O'Connor, Maddee Clark

CARRIED

9. Other Business

9.1 Duke and Duchess of Cambridge – Royal Birth

Charlie spoke to his motion.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: That the motion be put.

Mover: Adam Galvin

CARRIED

Confusion amongst Councillors as to whether motion had been put.

Motion 13: That regardless of our views on the republican debate, Students' Council congratulates the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their son.

Mover: Charlie Cartney

Seconder: Chris Jermyn

LOST

9.2 NDA Endorsement

Preamble: The NUS has organised the next National Day of Action against the education cuts for the 20th of August. Mobilising students for the actions on this day is an essential step in continuing the fight against the education cuts, given the context of an impending federal election in which both major parties support and wish to maintain the cuts. Given the importance of this event, it's essential that UMSU departments use their resources to build and promote the campus and central NDA rallies. This is especially important as numerous departments represent sections of students that will be disproportionately harmed by any successful cuts, such as queer and women students.

Action:

1. That Students' Council endorses the NDA and that it will be included in all emails sent out by the Student Union to union members in the lead up to the NDA.

2. That Students' Council directs all UMSU office-bearers to use their positions to promote the campus and central actions occurring on the NDA, such as emailing their collective and other lists, displaying posters, publicizing it on their department Facebook and UMSU website page and distributing leaflets at department events.
3. Students' Council also directs office-bearers to not organising conflicting events on the 20th of August that may discourage students from attending the NDA rallies, and that office-bearers should instead attend the rallies.

Mover: Jade Eckhaus

Second: Kara Hadgraft

Jade spoke to the motion.

There was concern raised about the Tuesday BBQ being a standing event that is already booked.

Suggestions that the Tuesday BBQ could be included as part of the NDA.

There were calls not to violate the autonomy of organised events.

Emphasis on importance of NDA, particularly around the welfare of students.

Amendment proposed to exclude already organised events, but direct to advertise the NDA at these events.

Reminder that it is a strike and that all departments need to be involved.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: To limit speaking time to 2 minutes.

Mover: Charlie Cartney

CARRIED

NTEU strike is on the same day, so UMSU should be in solidarity with them.

Daniel Sullivan arrived at 1:55pm.

Bridget Bourke left at 1:56pm, quorum is lost.

Should organise enough in advance not to impact other events.

Justin Boyd left at 1:57pm.

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 July at 12pm.

11. Close

Meeting closed at 1:58pm by Kara Hadgraft.