

**Meeting of the Students' Council**

**12 PM, 21.07.14**

**CONFIRMED Minutes**

**Meeting 14**

**Union House.**

**Meeting declared inquorate at 12:30pm**

**In Attendance:**

**OBs:** Tom Walker, Rachel Withers, Zoe Efron

**Others:** Martin Dittman

**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 Adoption of Agenda

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

- 20 May 2014, see appendix for minutes.
- 23 June 2014, see appendix for minutes.
- 26 June 2014, see appendix for minutes.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**4. Correspondence**

**5. Office Bearers' Reports (see below)**

**Activities**

**Creative Arts**

**Clubs**

**Grants**

This year we've been placing a lot of emphasis on a quick turnaround time for processing grant payments (two weeks being the targeted time to process them). In past years, repayment has lagged behind the *actual* spending of clubs, making it unclear how on track the grants budget is for the year. We are excited to announce we've now paid out **over \$100,000** on grants for the year - just under half our budgeted amount (with not quite every grant from Semester 1 having been processed yet) so we are pretty much on track!

**Staffing the office**

With Fiona on long service leave and Ben now covering both their workloads, we have spent a lot of time in the office being on hand to answer club questions, and help confused new committees with IGM and grants paperwork (as there will be no Grants Training until Semester 2). Tom has processed some grants to help out Ben, and we have also been looking at regulations and policy to update, including the "reasons to reject affiliation." We have also been helping to sort out some fairly serious internal issues with one of our clubs.

The new clubs saga continues

Lots of IGMs were attended, lots of minutes were reviewed (and sometimes re-submitted), and lots of things had to be re-explained, however we're now coming towards the end of the new clubs semester 1 affiliation process (with a few exceptions/clubs who were granted extensions).

Three new clubs are now 100% affiliated:

VCA Play Group, Postgrad Earth Sciences, CIS Postgraduate Group

With many more to be affiliated at our committee meeting next Monday.

We met with the GSA's new clubs administrator to talk about the growing number of mutually affiliated clubs, and shared a few of our processes.

➔ How To Win at C&S Guide (working title)

Rachel is also starting to put together a How to Win at C&S guide in response to some of the standard questions we answer multiple times a day, especially from brand new clubs. The guide won't be a replacement for the compulsory club trainings, but a handy guide to refer to on everything from AGM legitimacy requirements to effective use of grants to tips for holding events. If there's any handy pieces of info anyone can think of that made running a club easier for them, suggestions would be welcome (and nothing is too obvious. Seriously.)

We would also like to express our support for the Moovin' Health Rural Student ball grant motion. They are looking at affiliating with us in Semester 2, meaning they will not be affiliated until the end of the year (for C&S to fund them prior to then would be against our regs), and they currently receive no Union/SSAF services.

**Disabilities:**

**Welfare**

**Indigenous**

**Enviro**

At the Environment Department, we've been busy preparing for some big events coming up in our calendar.

The Students of Sustainability Conference is being held in Canberra in July, and we are subsidising approximately 15 students to attend.

In Week 1 Semester 2 we are co-hosting a film premiere of an environment documentary in Union House Theatre.

In Week 3, Enviro Week will be upon us; it is shaping up to be an exciting week.

We have workshops on coffee and climate change, sustainable food, community gardens and activist wellbeing, and a film night.

On Wednesday we will host a panel about Sustainable Cities with Adam Bandt MP, and representatives from the City of Melbourne, John Wardle Architects (designers of the new Architecture Building), and the Melbourne Energy Institute.

On Thursday, we'll host an event about moving away from coal as our main energy source.

On Friday morning, we're planning an Environment & Sustainability Careers Fair, which will be appropriate for students of all faculties, with a broad cross-section of industries represented which have sustainability/environmental roles.

Stay tuned!

Alexa & Hanna

Motion 1: To pass up to \$30.00 for Jackson Gable for plants for the Community Garden, from budget line 3238, MUC Garden Group.

Motion 2: To pass up to \$1550.00 for the purchase of calico bags for Environment Week from budget line 3839, Special Projects.

## Wom\*ns

### NOWSA

At the end of last semester we did a lot of fundraising and reached our fundraising target. We did however, have two late sign ups but we have been able to work with NOWSA and we are now able to pay for everyone's registration, including accommodation. The two late sign ups are sadly receiving drastically lower subsidies for their flights. This brings our contingent for 2014 up to 16 people. NOWSA is looking quite exciting and we had one pre-NOWSA meeting for our UMSU contingent to come and meet each other. We will be having another one either late this week or early next week.

We have a number of donated items left over and so we plan to use this for a future wom\*n's event in second semester. In the first week of semester Wednesday at 4pm. We are planning a welcome back party in the wom\*n's room. We will bring out our excess nail polish, clothes and paraphernalia for people to try on, have some and hopefully walk away with. We will also be advertising our new second semester events at this event as well as talking about our normal events and what we have planned for them.

### Women's Mentoring Network

The Women's Mentoring Network will be continued second semester and it looks like the events will be held on the following evenings:

Week 2 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of August- Theme Gender Studies

Week 5 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August – Someone from VCA/ Art background to tie in with Arts Week

Week 8 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September possibly science/ biomed background

Week 11 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October possibly Commerce theme

Some mentors have finished up as their mentees only signed up for one semester. One Mentor sent the following message back;

*"On a personal note to you and your team. Good job guys on organising this programme! To all the mentors, to start with, a big applaud for taking up this position, your volunteering spirit is truly what is needed in a society today. All the best to all of you! Thanks Steph for all the coordination! :)"*

## Weekly Events

*Wom\*n's Action Collective* will most likely be moving to 1pm on Mondays due to class clashes.

*Feminist Discussion Group* will be expanding this coming semester. In week 2 we are looking at holding a Panel during the usual Feminist Discussion Group time one Men's Rights Activism and why it is purely a destructive force. The panel may run for an extra 30mins - 1 hour after the usual end of Feminist Discussion Group to allow for extra discussion and engagement with those attending the forum. In Week 3 we will be having a workshop on Men and Feminism, which will be geared towards engaging men with the feminist movement as well as promoting the events that they can attend that the wom\*n's department runs. It is likely that there will be a discussion at 1-2pm and then the workshop will follow however the events may switch around.

*Ladies who Lunch with Ladies* has undergone a name change and will now be known as Queer and Questioning QTs and will be moving an hour earlier to run from 1-3pm on Thursdays.

*Stitch and Bitch* will be moving to an hour earlier so it will be 3-5 on Thursdays. The department has also been approached by a woman who would like to run workshops through Stitch and Bitch such as creating a wom\*n's room quilt. We are in ongoing discussions about this idea.

We will hopefully be having a new weekly event run with the Queer Department. We are currently looking at holding it Wednesday afternoons- (the first week welcome back party would be a sort of introduction/ launch to this event). It would be a Pro femme, Trans Inclusive event and really be an event that includes transwomen and welcomes them into the department and more specifically the room itself.

## New Events

The *Anti-Racism workshops* are well under way and looking very exciting.

At the moment they are planned to run Tuesdays evenings from about 5pm onwards starting in week 3 and, at the moment though it may be extended, running until week 9.

The *Commerce Learning Program* is looking like it will be run in about week 4 of second semester so as not to conflict with any other departments. It will now run similarly to Rad Sex and Consent week whereby we have a number of workshops each day for the week rather than running in a format similar to the Anti-racism workshops. This also ensures that it doesn't clash with the Anti-Racism workshops!

## Judy's Punch

Judy's Punch, our annual magazine, will have submissions opening soon. It is likely that we will be having our launch for this year's magazine in Week 12 and combine it with an end of semester shindig.

## Campaigns

The UMSU Wom\*n's Department and Monash Women's department are hoping to collaborate over the next few weeks on a budget campaign to inform women how the budget, as it currently stands, affects women. The idea (very new idea) at the moment is to have a fortnightly informative letter sent out to our contingent as well as having attached a letter that they can actually send to particular senators who may be able to change harmful legislation.

Another campaign we are looking at is an introduction to feminism/ feminism 101 campaign towards the middle or end of semester. This will be to engage women in particular for our later events and, in the long term, for next year.

### **Queer**

### **VCA**

### **Burnley**

### **Media**

#### **Above Water**

Lately we've been focusing our attention on Above Water, the creative writing anthology that we produce with the Creative Arts department each year. We received about 60 entries, and the standard was, for the most part, very promising. We are meeting with the Creative Arts Officers after this council to decide on the shortlist and send the shortlisted pieces off to the judges.

Also, we have decided not to hold the launch for Above Water at the Melbourne Writing Festival. Although this is a break from tradition, this move has saved our department \$500, which we are excited to put towards improving Above Water and other Media Department events and services.

#### **Edition Five**

The writing deadline for *Farrago* edition five is looming this Sunday. As always, there has been a lot of interest in edition five as students, especially arts students enrolled in writing subjects, have more time to write articles during exams.

#### **National Young Writers Festival**

We are starting to prepare for the National Young Writers Festival in early October. We are expecting to take up a team of twelve students, as we have done in the past. The festival is a great opportunity for students interested in professional writing and publishing to learn and develop new skills, and network with professionals and potential employers.

### **President**

### **Secretary**

#### **National Union of Students**

Under requests from many campuses including talks with office bearers in UMSU NUS has continued to lobby cross benchers and senators in regards to the budgetary changes that affect both student welfare and the higher education industry. I would like to thank the NUS office bearers for their work in this regard and commend them to council.

#### **Operations Sub-Committee**

Because of the commitments of the people on Op Sub, we haven't yet found a time to suit, other than those which students' council occupies, so we have been working on a meeting-by-meeting basis until semester two timetables are established.

#### **Constitutional Working Group**

The first meeting of the constitutional working group raised several issues, including office bearer pay, inclusion of smaller campuses and changes to council procedures, but nothing concrete or able to be presented to council. Another working group will be organised soon, and I will be contacting councillors and office bearers to find appropriate and workable times. Meanwhile if there is anything people would like flagged for discussion in the next meeting please feel free to send me an email or drop into the office.

### 130 Years Celebration and Life Membership

UMSU will be celebrating 130 years of Student Unionism this year, and as such are looking into ways to mark the occasion, with potential for a life membership program to be established.

### Committees

Many Committees have found it hard to reach quorum towards the end of semester and into the break, I would encourage departments to set new regular meeting schedules for semester two in order to help them achieve quorum.

### Education Public

#### Bust the Budget

We provided a breakfast for students who were planning on coming to the Bust the Budget rally with the Melbourne Uni contingent, and also to the NTEU contingent. It's very difficult to get students to commit to coming to a rally in the middle of exams, which is why we tried to go for more creative options than just sheer numbers. We ended up getting a few students to attend working bees to make costumes, and around 20 students came to the rally with UMSU, as well as some new faces which is great to see. We ended up having one of the biggest contingents out of the student unions.

#### BIP

I've been having meetings with the NTEU about the Business Improvement Program. Obviously we all heard about the 540 jobs that are being cut from professional staff, and we'll most likely be running a campaign around that next semester along the lines of "BIP Proves the University is Broken", raising awareness through art installations and demonstrations with the NTEU. We've also developed a survey to ask students whether they prefer online or face to face services, which is being conducted at exam support stalls in exchange for food.

#### Handbook competition

We've secured two \$100 book vouchers from the book co-op, signed off on all the prop and we're running a competition for countercourse submissions. Anyone that submits will go into a raffle to win the prize. We'll be handing out more of the physical copies of the handbook at mid-year O-Week, and we've been chatting to the Education Officer from Latrobe about moving towards a first year survival guide, rather than printing a physical countercourse handbook.

#### Palmer Campaign

We've opted to run our Clive Palmer campaign during O-Week, with the goal of securing the Palmer United Party's support for students in the Senate. We have a photo petition planned with placards that say "Clive Palmer do you stand with students?", we'll be running this at the O-Week

stall whilst wearing dinosaur onesies. In Week One, we have an event planned "Parmas for Palmer", which will be a parma eating contest in North Court to promote the campaign, we've been chatting with the clubs officers to see if we can make this a competition between the larger clubs on campus. We'll be running the photo petition again at this event, then tweeting a photo to a PUP senator every hour for as long as we can, or until we get a response. We'll also be contacting Clive Palmer's office to see if he'd like to adjudicate the event, and contacting media to cover the message we're trying to send to the PUP.

#### Education Conference

Grants were finalised two weeks ago for Education Conference and have all been sent out, I've also been working with the education (public) officer from the Latrobe Student Union to run a workshop on campaigning at the conference.

#### Education Academic

##### SRN

Since the last meeting of Council, we have had a meeting of the Student Representative Network, in which we further discussed the impacts of the proposed cuts to higher education for students and brainstormed ideas for making further student-run campaigns against the cuts increasingly innovative and relatable. We also discussed the University's Business Improvement Program (BIP) and its potential consequences. Student representatives noted the frustrations from within their respective committees about the lack of consultation and information about the BIP, and were invited to attend the BIP forum with Neil Robinson last week.

#### Assessment during SWOTVAC

Despite repeated emails sent to all academic staff by former Deputy Vice-Chancellor Pip Pattison earlier in the semester, there were still many incidences of assessment dates being set within the SWOTVAC period. We have been largely successful in contacting offending subject co-ordinators and compelling them to amend the submission dates in advance, as in most cases it is simply an oversight. However, we received a large volume of submissions to our 'report assessment during SWOTVAC' website function on the weekend before SWOTVAC for assessments due early in the week, meaning there was little we could do in terms of changing the submission date.

#### Other initiatives

We have been pursuing a number of teaching and learning issues through various University committees. We have been looking at developing a set of guidelines to ensure that where marks are given for tutorial participation, the ways in which marks are allocated are clearly specified. This will mean that students are aware of how they are being assessed, providing for more accurate grading and fairer outcomes. As the exam period progresses, we are closely monitoring students' views toward the revised exam timetable. Following surveys of last year's changes that were brought to the Academic Programs Committee earlier this year, amendments were made to address student concerns, although students remain unhappy with the early start times, for a variety of reasons. The exam timetable will be reviewed before the semester 2 exam period, so we would appreciate any feedback provided to us.

## 6. Other Reports

6.1 130<sup>th</sup> Celebration

6.2 Destination Melbourne (see attached)

Motion: That the Students' Council allocates \$2,000.00 from the Whole of Union budget line to the Destination Melbourne Honoraria budget line, and authorises the appointment of two Destination Melbourne 2015 Directors, as selected by the Destination Melbourne 2014 Directors in consultation with staff.

## 7. Operational Business

## 8. Motions on Notice

### 8.1 NOWSA Expenditure

Motion 1: To pay up to \$4060 to NOWSA for the registration and accommodation of the 16 people who make up the UMSU NOWSA Contingent 2014 from Wom\*ns' Department Budget Line 'NOWSA'.

Moved: Stephanie Kilpatrick

Seconded: Caroline Rider

### 8.2 NOWSA Grants

Motion 2: To pass the following grants from Wom\*ns' Departments budget line NOWSA to pay for transportation, including flights costs for the 2014 NOWSA conference:

1. \$130

2. \$108

3. \$455.05

4. \$158

5. \$86.34

6. \$490

7. \$350

8. \$50

9. \$400

10. \$48

11. \$18

12. \$400

13. \$300

14. \$129

15. \$100

\*numbers represent the students attending, in the interests of respecting privacy names have been omitted from council minutes\*

Moved: Stephanie Kilpatrick

Seconded: Caroline Rider



### 8.3 UniSuper divestment from Transfield

**Preamble:** Australia's border regime and its reliance on mandatory indefinite immigration detention is the target of frequent, global condemnation as unjust, cruel, and illegal. Offshore immigration detention centres on Christmas Island, Manus Island, and Nauru have been singled out for particular condemnation, with reports emerging that asylum seekers are being raped, beaten, and even killed while in the care of the Australian government. The remoteness and secrecy of these prisons shields the Australian government from accountability for this violence.

All Australian offshore detention centres are run by private contractors. These contractors act as a further shield against accountability for the Australian government, and profit in doing so. Infrastructure and waste disposal company Transfield recently won the contract from G4S to run detention centres on Manus and Nauru, to the value of \$1-2 billion dollars, depending on unspecified "contingencies".

One of the largest investors in Transfield is UniSuper, the industry super fund for the tertiary education sector. Superannuation is compulsory under Australian law. As such, all academic staff employed at the University of Melbourne, and the majority of UMSU staff, have investments in Transfield, and receive returns as Transfield's contracts expand. As the NTEU and UMSU have consistently taken a position against mandatory detention, this cannot be considered to be the desire of the majority of UniSuper investors. The NTEU has a representative — therefore a voice — on the UniSuper board.

Investing in companies like Transfield makes us as individuals and institutions accountable for these abuses. Further, our investments provide us with a point from which we can put pressure on all potential contractors to refuse contracts to run detention centres. As such, Transfield is the target of a boycott and divestment campaign from a broad coalition of pro-refugee groups, including RISE Refugee, Students Thinking Outside Borders, Crossborder Operational Matters, Boycott 19 BoS, and Beyond Borders Collective.

In the context of massive cuts to education, and corresponding redirection of funds to border control, all university students and workers must stand firm against profiteering based on racist border panic

**Motion 3:** That Students' Council reiterate our opposition to mandatory immigration detention.

That Students' Council commit to divesting from all contracts with Transfield and other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention.

That Students' Council call on UniSuper to divest from Transfield and all other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention centres.

That Students' Council further call on NTEU National Executive to urge UniSuper to divest from Transfield and all other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention centres.

**Moved:** Madeline Clarke

**Seconded:** Kyle Webb

#### 8.4 Students for Sustainability Conference

Preamble: On July 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> the Students of Sustainability Conference is being held at Australia National University, Canberra. Over 5 days, 400 students from across the country will participate in workshops, plenaries and skillshares to learn how to campaign for a more environmentally and socially just world. This year, a number of University of Melbourne students, together with students from other universities across the state are taking a bus up and back from Canberra.

Motion 4: To pass \$500 for bus hire to and from Canberra for Students of Sustainability Conference from budget line 'Whole of Union'.

Moved: Patrick Dollard

Seconded: Daniel Sullivan

#### 8.5 Motion on the Melbourne University's "Business Improvement Program" (BIP)

Preamble: Professional staff at the University of Melbourne are facing job cuts "equivalent to" 540 full-time positions as part of the University's 'Business Improvement Program'. To justify these cuts, the administration is crying poor over the decrease in federal funding. The University, however, is one of the richest in the country, with an operating surplus well in excess of 100 million dollars per year. The Vice Chancellor alone receives over one million dollars in reimbursement per year while presiding over one of the most highly ranked universities in the country. Despite its wealth and prestige, the University spends less on paying professional staff than any other Go8 University.

The prestige of the university is not an accident; rather it comes on the back of hard working staff whose work is frequently unrecognised. While these staff have made the institution what it is today, the University, with the help of consulting firm Booz (contracted for \$6.5 million), has orchestrated the cutting of 540 professional staff positions at the university. These cuts will not only see large numbers of staff lose their jobs, but will also see a greater administrative burden placed on the remaining professional and academic staff that will be forced to carry out this restructure.

The University has claimed that this restructuring was necessitated by the federal government's cuts to higher education funding, however the actuality of the Program puts the lie to this. Funding and resources are simply being shifted from areas such as student services, and towards areas like research that are much more profitable for the University and useful in promoting its corporate image in a deregulated sector.

The cuts should be seen in the context of Vice Chancellor Glyn Davis, the key spokesperson for the Group of 8 universities, arguing for the deregulation of, and effective increase in, university fees. Deregulation was enthusiastically adopted by the Liberal government in its recent budget. Fee increases, combined with the cuts to support staff, will mean that students face paying a lot more while receiving a much lower quality of education.

If successful, this will be the single greatest cut to staff in Australian university history. Without a serious fight back from staff and students against this attack, these cuts will serve as a precedent for other universities to follow suit. We urgently need to work alongside the National Tertiary Education Union, to mount a fight to defend both staff positions and student welfare.

Platform: UMSU rejects any attempt to implement job cuts at the University.

UMSU rejects the claim that the loss of 540 staff positions could do anything but harm the quality of education received by the students that UMSU represents.

UMSU reaffirms that it stands in solidarity with the NTEU.

**Motion 5:** Students' Council will support all actions called by the National Tertiary Education Union to fight the Business Improvement Program.

Students' Council directs UMSU to place an advertisement for the July 16 NTEU rally on the front page of the UMSU website and pinned at the top of the UMSU Facebook page.

Student's Council directs the rally to be advertised in all emails that go out to UMSU members in the lead up to the rally.

Student's Council endorses the survey being run by the UMSU education public department at the exam support stalls.

Students' Council directs the UMSU President to send out a press release expressing UMSU's opposition to BIP and any cuts to staff positions.

Moved: Ruby Healer

Seconded: Jade Eckhaus

- 9. Motions not on Notice**
- 10. Office Bearer Leave**
- 11. Other Business**
- 12. Next Meeting**
- 13. Close**