

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Students' Council**

**CONFIRMED Minutes**

**12 PM, 16.04.14**

**Meeting 7**

**Location: Training Rooms**

**Union House**

**Meeting Declared inquorate at 12:30pm by Sam Donnelly**

**In Attendance:**

OBs: Zoe Efron (Media), Alexa Thompson (Environment), Stephanie Kilpatrick (Wom\*ns), Adam Galvin (Education Academic), Hana Dalton (Education Academic), Ella Fabry (Education Public), Annalivia Carli Hannan (Education Public), Kyle Webb (Indigenous), Sophia Liu (Welfare), Keegan Barker (Activities), Sean Watson (Media), Elsher Kein (Creative Arts), Kevin Hawkins (Media), Tom Walker (Clubs and Societies), Michelle See-Tho (Media), Sam Donnelly (Secretary)

Councillors: Daniel Sullivan, Simon Farley, Thomas Hayes, James Bashford, Jim Smith (Graduate Rep), Jo Steinle, Shanley Price, Jessica Meng, Viki Nie (International Rep).

Other: Adam Papley, Patrick Dollard, Thomas Mudie (proxy for Jessica Meng), Rebeka Drake (proxy for Joanne Zuo).

**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**

- 1 April 2014

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**3.1 Sophie Mirabella Motion 1**

Last week former Liberal MP Sophie Mirabella was appointed Public Policy Fellow at the University of Melbourne. UMSU condemns the University administration for welcoming this well-known racist and right-wing ideologue onto our campus. While presiding over \$52million in cuts to already underpaid staff and important courses, Glyn Davis has more than enough cash in his pocket to start paying Mirabella's salary for a few lectures a year. Mirabella is so far to the right that she accused Liberal PM Malcolm Fraser of being a "frothing at the mouth Leftie" and

lost her safe Liberal seat in Indi last year by preferencing far-right parties, which even Tony Abbot, had the audacity to label as racist.

Mirabella infamously refused to attend the apology to Indigenous Australians in 2008, claiming there was not “one truly ‘stolen’ child” in Victoria, despite the first legislation given the state power to forcibly remove Indigenous Children from their families was passed and used in Victoria. The dispossession and genocide of Indigenous people in the country continues today, with the murderous and horrific NT intervention supported by both major parties. UMSU vehemently opposes these policies and condemns the Education Minister Christopher Pyne’s attempts to ‘whitewash’ Australian history by removing any mention of Indigenous history from the school curriculum. The agenda of normalising racism also served to justify the Australian governments’ rejection, torture and murder of refugees. Mirabella’s appointment is an ideological assault and a signal from the University Administration that they accept and value this kind of racist, Liberal filth. UMSU endorses the EAG’s planned speak out against Mirabella and definitively condemns the Liberal Party

Mover: Ruby Healer

Seconder: Jade Eckhaus

### **3.2 Sophie Mirabella Motion 2**

#### **Preamble**

On Wednesday 28 March, the University of Melbourne announced that former Liberal MP for Indi, Sophie Mirabella has been employed by the University as a Public Policy Fellow for the School of Social and Political Sciences. Described by head of the School of Social and Political Sciences Professor Adrian Little as a “real coup” for the University, the move to employ Mirabella comes in the face of the Abbot Government’s attempts to cut \$2.3 billion from tertiary education, including over \$140 million from the University of Melbourne. Mirabella’s appointment will see the former MP delivering lectures, assisting students and organising public policy forums and seminars.

A staunch supporter of VSU and opponent of marriage equality, Mirabella has made a number of comments and policy stances that are both racist and xenophobic. In 2007, Mirabella stated that she was a denier of the Stolen Generations, claiming that in her home state of Victoria there was not one “truly stolen child”, and that children taken from their families over the past century had been done so ‘for their own protection’. Mirabelle also made calls in August 2005 for Islamic women to be banned for wearing a headdress when posing for photo identification. In addition to this, Mirabella has been vocal in her support for mandatory detention, labelling four Liberal MPs who crossed the floor in 2005 over the Howard Government’s immigration as “political terrorists” for showing an ounce of humanity. In teaching students Mirabella will espouse and will attempt to influence students with her racist beliefs.

**Motion:** That Students’ Council condemns and formally opposes the appointment of Sophie Mirabella as a research fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences, on the basis that the xenophobic and racist views of Mirabella are unrepresentative of the student body and of detriment to the image of the

University. That Students' Council directs the General Secretary to publish the motion on the UMSU Facebook Page

Mover: Patrick Dollard

Seconder: Daniel Sullivan

### **3.3 ANZAC Day Motion**

Motion: That UMSU supports ANZAC Day commemorations across Australia, as well as events on campus, which aim to raise funds for the purpose of purchasing a wreath on behalf of the University of Melbourne Student Body to be presented at the Shrine of Remembrance prior to ANZAC Day

Mover: James Samartiz

Seconder: George Katsaris

## **4. Correspondence**

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

**Activities**

**Creative Arts**

**Clubs**

**Disabilities:**

**Welfare**

**Indigenous**

**Enviro**

**Wom\*ns**

**Queer**

**VCA**

**Burnley**

**Media**

**President**

**Secretary**

**Education Public**

**Education Academic**

## **6. Other Reports**

## **7. Operational Business**

## **8. Motions on Notice**

**-Secretary**

## **9. Motions not on Notice**

## **10. Office Bearer Leave**

## **11. Other Business**

## **12. Next Meeting**

**13. Close**

