

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Welfare Committee

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Meeting 1/15

2.00 PM, 29.1.2015

Location: Joe Napolitano A, Union House



Meeting opened at 2:07 by James Bashford

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That James Bashford be elected chair.

Moved: James Bashford

Seconded: Adam Wojcik

Carried Without Dissent

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So Acknowledged

1.3. Attendance

Office Bearers: James Bashford (Welfare Officer)

Committee Members: Adam Wojcik, Bek Drake, Lydia Wang, Sophie Sun, David Coates

1.4. Apologies

- Keefe Wong

- Tess Grimond

1.5. Proxies

No proxies

1.6. Membership

No change

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved: Chair

Carried Without Dissent

2. Correspondence

James informed the committee that the Union would be receiving a large donation of sparkling ice tea from Lipton.

James outlined that he had been in contact with Danielle Clayman from Wellness@Melbourne to discuss working together throughout the year and had begun planning for Stress Less Week.

3. Office Bearer Report

Report is Attached

4.3. Household Goods Service Crates

This year the Welfare Department will be establishing a service providing household goods like kitchenware to students living out of home and in need. This will require the purchase of storage throughout the year. As the department has already received a large amount of donations, some crates have already been purchased.

Motion 6: To reimburse James Bashford \$44.00 from budget line Support Services for the purchase of crates to store goods for the household goods service.

Moved: David Coates

Seconded: Adam Wojcik

Carried Without Dissent

4.4. Weekly Breakfast

The Weekly Breakfast is the welfare department's best known event serving hundreds of students every week.

Motion: To approve expenditure of up to \$1200 from budget line Regular Events for the hiring of barbeques and purchase of food for the first 4 weekly breakfasts of Semester 1.

Moved: James Bashford

Seconded: Sophie Sun

Not voted on

Sophie and Bek raise that some BBQ equipment would need to be bought after some was thrown out at the end of last year. James proposes amending the original motion which is accepted by the seconder.

Discussion about the high expense of BBQ hire and possibility of buying a department BBQ or hiring from large clubs like arts to save money.

Motion 7: To approve expenditure of up to \$1200 from budget line Regular Events for the hiring of barbeques and purchase of food and BBQ equipment for the first 4 weekly breakfasts of Semester 1.

Moved: James Bashford

Seconded: Sophie Sun

Carried Without Dissent

5. Other Business

5.1. Weekly Breakfasts

General discussion on how the committee would like the Weekly BBQ to run this year. Agreement to keep the BBQ on Thursday mornings and to experiment with holding it in South Court to attract more students, with North Court as a back up for bad weather. Discussion on the importance of catering to all food and dietary requirements and suggestion of having themed weeks.

5.2. Fitness Classes

General discussion with agreement that Yoga and Zumba are popular options to offer, suggestion of more regular self defence classes. Suggestions that the department advertises for qualified students to instruct the classes and for some outdoor venues such as Systems Gardens.

5.3. Stress Less Week

James reports back on progress so far in planning with Wellness @ Melbourne and that the date has been set for week 10 (May 11-15).

Adam asks if this date may clash with Eurovision, it is confirmed that it won't as Eurovision will be held on May 19-23.

Suggestions for events include a coffee stall and dodgeball.

5.4. Other Business

Discussion on need to run events for International Students, particularly working with UMSU Intl. and international student clubs. Suggestion of a host or cultural exchange orientation activities, as well as advice on renting rights, working rights and how to find a job.

Discussion about the need build a strong volunteer network for the department. Sugestions include effectively using social media, having online sign up forms and creating a Union wide volunteer network. James asks for suggestions for a name for the volunteer group.

6. Next Meeting

TBC

7. Close

Meeting closed at 3:00 PM

University of Melbourne Student Union**Report of
James Bashford
Welfare Officer****To Welfare Committee 1/15
29.1.2015**

In the past 3 weeks since moving into the office, I've been busy setting up for a busy year ahead. The Welfare Department begins the year with little in the way of assets. Despite only being purchased last year, two of the department's banners have been torn at the top and are no longer useable unless repaired, while no records or files have been left from the previous office bearer. Nonetheless I have been lucky to receive advice and support from previous Welfare Officer Lindsey Motteram as well as Seb Horey who was Welfare Officer at La Trobe Student Union. The office has also quickly amassed several boxes of kitchenware from other departments and the university which will be able to be offered to students living out of home as part of a new service this year.

This year the Welfare Department will once again run Stress Less Week (run as Wellness Week last year) in conjunction with the University's Wellness@Melbourne program. This has been set for week 10 of Semester 1 from May 11th – 15th, and is also planned for week 10 of semester 2. I have already met with Danielle from Wellness@Melbourne to begin planning this week as well as discussing other initiatives where we can work together this year. I'll also be encouraging other UMSU departments as well as clubs and societies to come on board and participate in what should be a fantastic week.

Another key project for this year will be establishing the household goods service which will offer household items like kitchenware to students living out of home as well as appliances like vacuum cleaners which can be borrowed. I plan to also establish a food bank as part of this service. The key challenge for this will be finding storage space in Union House which will be easily accessible for students in a way that protects their privacy, as well as the costs involved in setting it up.

This year will also see the department continue the successful free weekly breakfasts and fitness classes while other events currently in planning include:

- A barbeque in conjunction with Wellness@Melbourne promoting Vichealth's "No Excuse Needed" campaign.
- Tea and coffee stalls at libraries during the exam period.
- Campaigns to improve access to concession cards.
- Campaigns against GP copayments and attacks on Medicare.

In the next few weeks I will continue to meet with University departments to introduce and familiarise myself with them while preparing for the department's O-Week Stall.