

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Welfare Committee**

**CONFIRMED MINUTES**

**Meeting 4/15**

**2.00 PM, 15.4.2015**

**Location: OB Space, Union House**



Meeting opened by James Bashford at 2:19 PM

**Agenda**

**1. Procedural Matters**

**1.1. Election of Chair**

Motion 1: That James Bashford be elected chair.

Moved: James Bashford      Seconded: David Coates

*Carried Without Dissent*

**1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners**

**1.3. Attendance**

Office Bearers: James Bashford

Committee Members: Yan Zhuang, Keefe Wong, David Coates, Adam Wojcik

Other: Jack Allworth

**1.4. Apologies**

Bek Drake, Lydia Wang

**1.5. Proxies**

Bek Drake to Jack Allworth

**1.6. Membership**

**1.7. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved: James Bashford

*Carried Without Dissent*

**2. Correspondence**

**3. Office Bearer Report**

Attached

Motion 3: To accept the Office Bearer Report

Moved: David Coates

Seconded: Jack Allworth

*Carried Without Dissent*

**4. Motions on Notice**

**4.1. Stress Less Week – Petting Zoo**

Jack asked how this compared with previous year's costs. James explained that he was unsure as this was the first time the department was using a petting zoo, whereas in previous years an animal rescue shelter brought dogs and puppies. While the animal shelters came for free, costs were involved in hiring fencing for these events which will not be required for the petting zoo.

Motion: That expenditure of up to \$700 be approved from budget line Special Events to pay for the hiring of a petting zoo and balloon artist for the Stress Less Week Carnival on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Moved: James Bashford

Seconded: David Coates

*Carried Without Dissent*

**4.2. Stress Less Week – Bean Bag Cinema**

James explained that this motion was tabled as a backup in case the money was not passed from the UMSU Special Activity Weeks budget line at Students Council. As Students Council did pass this money earlier in the day, the motion was no longer necessary.

Motion 5: That expenditure of up to \$1650 be approved from budget line Special Events to pay for the Stress Less Week bean bag cinema. The budget break down is:

-Up to \$1100 for AV hire for the Bean Bag Cinema event.

-\$350 for movie screening rights for the Bean Bag Cinema event.

-Up to \$200 for food and drinks for the Bean Bag Cinema event.

Moved: James Bashford

Seconded:

*WITHDRAWN*

**5. Motions Not on Notice**

**6. Other Business**

**7. Next Meeting**

Monday 4/5, 10AM

**8. Close**

Meeting closed at 2:25 PM

**University of Melbourne Student Union****Report of  
James Bashford  
Welfare Officer****To Welfare Committee 4/15  
15.4.2015**Regular Events

Where possible I have continued to hold the weekly breakfast in South Court. This has led to a greater awareness of this service amongst students and attendance has remained steady so far through the semester. I've continued to experiment with different supermarkets for buying food for the breakfasts. At the last breakfast food was purchased from Aldi, much of it in bulk, and this has been the cheapest location so far. As Aldi doesn't deliver however, this may not be an option for every week. Demand for fitness classes, particularly yoga, has remained high. I've also now been contacted by MD students (amongst whom these classes have been particularly popular) for advice on organising classes specifically for this cohort.

Collective

The Welfare Volunteer Collective has continued to be invaluable for running the department. The collective has helped not only run events but has also come up with endless ideas on how to improve our work. To thank the volunteers for their work I held a small party with dinner before the Easter break.

Emergency Packs

Emergency Packs have now been made available from the info desk on the ground floor of Union House. These packs are intended to provide short term support for students in emergency situations. They contain tinned staple food items, snacks, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, condoms, pads and other items including information on where to get further assistance. The University's financial aid service has been made aware of the service and has referred students over to pick up packs. I'll be working on promoting this new service as well as the food bank over the next couple of weeks.

The food bank is currently well stocked thanks to a generous donation from Andrea, our Queer Officer. We're also planning a can drive to support the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre as their food bank is currently quite low and in high demand.

Stress Less Week

Planning is well underway for Stress Less Week. Two major "tent pole" events have been planned for the week – a bean bag cinema showing the Lion King on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> and a Carnival featuring petting zoo and inflatable soccer on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. University departments are being approached to run activities and workshops during the week as well as other UMSU departments. The week will also promote existing and regular events.

Welfare Guide

I'm also working on an online welfare guide as a long term project. This will be a page on the website with links and short descriptions of a variety of services. I've effectively been crowd-sourcing this project with some of my volunteers researching

and filling out sections as well as getting UMSU and uni departments to fill out their own entries. If anyone else would like to assist I'm more than happy to send them the google doc link to contribute to.

#### AV Hire

AV hire has continued to be a significant financial strain on the Welfare Department. As previously reported to council, hire for the weekly welfare breakfast comes to \$185 per week. MUSUL's catering company, 130 Degrees, however, has said that they would be able to hire out BBQs through a third party for a much cheaper rate than this. When pursuing a quote for the Stress Less Week bean bag cinema, meanwhile, I was initially quoted a figure of \$1800-\$2000 for an indoor event and \$1000 for an outdoor event with the inflatable movie screen (which is owned by UMSU, not rented). These rates had doubled compared to previous quotes from last year. AV@Melbourne has since adjusted their quote by about half after I sought quotes from external private companies which offered far more reasonable rates. Obviously it is preferable that UMSU departments utilise AV@Melbourne where possible as it is a part of UMSU. However, given the costs this is becoming an increasingly untenable situation.