

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Welfare Committee

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Meeting 8/15

11.00 AM, 28.7.2015

Location: Graham Cornish B, 2nd Floor, Union House



James Bashford opened the meeting at 11:12 AM

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That James Bashford be elected chair
Moved: James Bashford Seconded: Adam Wojcik
CWD

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged

1.3. Attendance

Office Bearers: James Bashford

Councillors: Yan Zhuang, Marlo Zambelli, Adam Wojcik, Keefe Wong

1.4. Apologies

1.5. Proxies

1.6. Membership

Bek Drake has resigned from the committee and Marlo Zambelli has been appointed to replace her.

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted
Moved: Chair
CWD

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion 3: That the previous minutes of meetings 5/15, 6/15 and 7/15 be accepted
Moved: Marlo Seconded: Keefe
CWD

3. Correspondence

4. Office Bearer Report

Attached

Motion 4: That the office bearer's report be accepted
Moved: Marlo Seconded: Keefe
CWD

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|-------|---------|----------------|----------|
| 10/15 | Week 4 | Thursday, 20/8 | 1:00 PM |
| 11/15 | Week 6 | Tuesday, 1/9 | 12:00 PM |
| 12/5 | Week 8 | Friday, 18/9 | 1:00 PM |
| 13/15 | Week 10 | Tuesday, 6/10 | 12:00 PM |
| 14/15 | Week 11 | Friday, 16/10 | 1:00 PM |

Motion: That Welfare Committee adopts the proposed regular meeting schedule.
 Moved: James Bashford Seconded: Adam
 CWD

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7. Next Meeting

Tuesday August 8, 12:00 PM. Location TBA.

8. Close

Meeting closed at 11:31 AM

University of Melbourne Student Union**Report of
James Bashford
Welfare Officer****To Welfare Committee 8/15
28.07.2015****Semester 2 Planning**

On July 14 a collective meeting was held where we brainstormed ideas for the next semester. We explored the strengths and weaknesses of the department in the year so far and looked at what gaps currently exist in the services offered for student welfare. We then came up with ideas for what we wanted to do to improve on this in the next semester.

Plenty of great feedback was received and new ideas generated. This was an incredibly valuable session to run for me as an office bearer and for the collective. New ideas to come out of the session include informal social events, tax help, better promotion of events and services, stalls, training for volunteers and team and skill building for the collective.

Household Help

As part of developing a “Household Help” program for the department, I have purchased a vacuum cleaner to be available for free for students to borrow. This will be an industrial model to ensure durability, as light as possible to ensure portability and bagless to ensure practicality. I have also gotten very valuable advice from the Monash Student Association on this as they established a similar service last year. The vacuum will be available from the info desk. The other components of the Household Help program are the food bank and household goods service, currently stored in my office.

Book Co-op

I’ve taken on creating a working group looking into the issues with the “UMSU” Book Co-op and the space it currently occupies. The purpose of the working group will be to have a general discussion about what to do with the Co-op and then escalate that if necessary. There are clear concerns with the way money from students has been handled by the book co-op, the inability to contact its coordinators, it’s sporadic and unreliable opening hours, dated stock and the fact all this has been branded with “UMSU” even though it is not a part of our organisation. The working group will explore if we wish to take over the co-op and improve it to offer a much needed service for students. It will also consider if the current use of space is the best use of that space.

The working group met on July 15th and was attended by the Book Co-op coordinator. During the meeting it was agreed that UMSU would effectively take over the book co-op and turn it into a volunteer program. I will continue to work on making this plan a reality.

Education Conference

Earlier in the month I attended the National Union of Students' annual Education Conference at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. The conference featured guest speakers, seminars and workshops as well as offering the opportunity to meet and discuss with welfare officers from Unions across the country. Having attended before in previous years, I particularly enjoyed everything I got out of this year's conference as an office bearer. Some of the stand outs of the week included:

Interns Australia Workshop. Interns Australia gave a great workshop on their work in combatting the growing problem of unpaid internships in Australia. Australia lacks any clear definition of internships, which is allowing employers the opportunity to exploit workers, especially students, for unpaid labour. This is an issue the government needs to be pressured to address. UMSU can also do more to inform students about their rights and to ensure we aren't exploiting workers, interns or directors ourselves.

Health Promoting Universities. This workshop on promoting wellness was given by Elly Howse from Sydney University's health and wellbeing division (roughly their equivalent of Wellness@Melbourne). It was very useful to be able to compare the approach of USyd with UniMelb as well as some of the best practice examples given by Elly. This was one of the most rewarding workshops of the week and I'll be in touch with Elly to learn more about USyd's approach as well as helping her get in touch with Wellness@Melbourne

Welfare Officer Meetup. The National Welfare Officer, Dean D'Angelo, hosted a meeting of welfare officers at the conference and updated us on the National department's activities this year. This included the upcoming Student Welfare Survey which will be run over semester 2 to get invaluable data on the current state of student wellbeing across Australia. The meeting was also useful for hearing what other welfare departments across the country are implementing. Many other welfare officers are also working on food banks or similar initiatives, so this was an important opportunity to share ideas and experiences.

Alternative Revenue Workshop. Though less relevant to welfare, another interesting workshop focussed on revenue options for student organisations and was run by reps from UQ and UTS. This is an important issue for UMSU as we approach SSAF renegotiations as well as the prospect of a new student precinct and the potential repeal of SSAF. Addressing the excessive allocation of funding to sports organisations was a common issues among reps in the room. Control of tenancies or even vending machine revenue were great examples of opportunities UMSU could try to pursue to generate new revenue.

Education Campaign. Being the Education Conference, a great deal of time was spent discussing the campaign against deregulation and University cuts. The dominant message from speakers and workshops throughout the conference was that education activists need to work collaboratively in defending education funding. It is important all office bearers and unions work hard and contribute to building for the National Day of Action on August 19. Factionalism will only distract from the campaign and despite plenty of vocal disagreement at the conference, solid efforts were put in by all factions present to work together. It is vital this continues over the next few weeks and beyond.

I'd like to thank NUS, Arc UNSW and the UNSW SRC for all their work organising a great conference.

Recent Expenditure

| Date | Amount | Budget Line | Description |
|----------|----------|------------------|---|
| 14.07.15 | \$23.85 | Collective | Snacks and drinks purchased for the collective brainstorm |
| 17.07.15 | \$506.15 | Regular Events | Bulk items purchased for breakfasts throughout the semester from Costco. Includes plates, bowls, cutlery, paper towel, honey etc. |
| 17.07.15 | \$149.68 | Support Services | Bulk items purchased from Costco including Up & Go and tinned food |
| 20.07.15 | \$418.95 | Support Services | Vacuum cleaner and vacuum head purchased for free vacuum hire service. Money for this was approved by Students Council after the last Welfare committee was inquorate |