

University of Melbourne Student Union

Minutes of the Womyn's Committee

Meeting 1/11

CONFIRMED

10 AM, 11th March, 2011

Location: Womyn's Office, Union House



Agenda

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 Membership
 - 1.6.1 Amy Chen has been terminated as she is no longer an UMSU member. Because the position was not filled by a casual vacancy, and there were no interested parties in the possibility of a count-back, there is now an unfilled vacancy on Wom*n's Committee.
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. Office Bearers' Reports

6. Other Reports

7. Motions on Notice

8. Other Business

9. Next Meeting

10. Close

Meeting opened at: 10:23AM, by Esther Bohmer

Agenda Item 1; Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Esther be elected as chair.

Moved: Katie Grimmer

Seconded: Holly Camilleri-Eyles

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance2011 Office Bearers

Esther Bohmer (Wom*n's), Katelyn Grimmer (Wom*n's)

2011 Committee Members

Grace Mugford, Bridie Walsh, Holly Camilleri-Eyles.

Others

Gabby Dubois

Absent2011 Committee Members

Apurva Nargundkar, Richa Desphande

1.4 Apologies

Tehreem Rawal

1.5 Proxies

None

1.6 Membership

Apurva is to be replaced by next week by Gabby Dubois. Another committee member (Amy Chen) has resigned, and the countback procedure yielded no new member. As such, committee is currently made-up of 6 members. A potential by-election may be held, but no notice of this has yet been received.

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That item number 7 be moved to item number 1.8:

Moved: Grace Mugford

Seconded: Katie Grimmer

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 3: That the agenda be adopted.

Moved: Esther Bohmer (from the Chair).

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Not applicable.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising from the Minutes

Not applicable.

Agenda Item 4: Correspondence

- Katie and Rhin (Queer OB) met with Louise from ALSO foundation (queer organisation). Safer sex experts were discussed.
 - Consequently, the possibility of a Sex Week in conjunction with Queer Dept is being discussed, and this will be a decision of the Collective.
- Katie met with Susan from the WOW (Women on Women) Health Study, offered to have a representative come to Uni to discuss the study with women.
- Melbourne Women's Circus has asked us to publicise Strong Women event (celebrating International Women's Day) and for participation in running workshops. Esther will follow-up.

Agenda Item 5: Office Bearers' Reports

O-Week starts tomorrow. The Department's plans are:

- Participate in Student Services Carnival, handing-out 100 showbags full of menstrual and safer sex samples, zine stickers, information on wom*n's organisations and services, badges.
- Film Screening: to be held on the Friday 25th Feb, in the Wom*n's Room starting at 3pm. Screening equipment has been booked. Food and alcohol/drinks will be purchased closer to the date.
- Recent working bee in preparation for O-Week was quite successful.

Regular Department events throughout the year:

- WAC (Wom*n's Action Collective) every Wednesday from 12-1pm. In the Wom*n's Room. The Collective will function as the primary decision-making body of the Dept.
- Girlzone (queer wom*n's group) every Thursday 1-2pm, casual get-together. In the Wom*n's Room.
- Feminist Discussion Group: this year will be a multi-media format, held in the Rowden White Library. Held fortnightly.
- Full Moon Social Events: held on/around every full moon, to gather in a social context. Specifics of the events to be decided by Collective/Committee.

Special Events planned already:

- International Wom*n's Day: dinner and film screening in Coop (to be confirmed). One Collective member present at the recent working bee suggested we should do something bigger, or bolder, as it is the 100th anniversary of the event. This will be discussed at Collective.
- International No Diet Day: 6th May – a stall with baked sweets and information on healthy bodies vs negative body imagery/attitudes/fat phobia will be held inside/outside the Wom*n's Room.
- Feminism in Motion: Sporadic workshop-style events focusing on health and strength for wom*n.

Agenda Item 6: Other Reports

Not applicable.

Agenda Item 7: Motions on Notice

Motion 4: That the budget (see below) be approved.

Moved: Esther Bohmer (from the Chair).

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 5: That \$368.50 be reimbursed to Katie for the cost of ethically produced, professionally printed showbags (for O-Week). That this come from the O-Week budget line.

Moved: Grace Mugford

Seconded: Holly Camilleri-Eyles

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 6: That \$10.50 be reimbursed to Katie for the cost of snacks for the recent working bee. That this come from the O-Week line.

Moved: Grace Mugford

Seconded: Bridie Walsh

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 7: That \$130 be approved for the cost of AV equipment, to be paid to the Entertainment Department/AV@Melbourne. That this come from the O-Week budget line.

Moved: Grace Mugford

Seconded: Holly Camilleri-Eyles

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 8: That \$102.96 be approved for the cost of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks for the O-Week Film Screening. That this come from the O-Week budget line, and be paid to Esther.

Moved: Grace Mugford

Seconded: Bridie Walsh

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 9: That \$90 for the cost of badge-making material for O-Week showbags be approved. That this come from the O-Week budget line, to be paid to UMSU.

Moved: Esther Bohmer (From the Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 10: That up to \$50 for snacks and drinks purchased from the Food Coop for the O-Week Screening be approved. That this come from the O-Week line, and be paid to the Food Coop.

Moved: Bridie Walsh

Seconded: Grace Mugford

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 11: That up to \$100 for food and drinks be approved for the IWD event. That it come from the special projects/events line, and be paid to the Food Coop and/or Esther.

Moved: Grace Mugford

Seconded: Holly Camilleri-Eyles

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion around motion 12 (below):

- Grace suggests amendment of motion to encourage UMSU membership and emphasise that we exist because of union support. IE fully subsidising union members and partially non-members.
- Esther: critical of UMSU membership being portrayed as a discount card/freebies system, rather than building community. Community is the foundation of strong unions and student support/events/participation.
- Bridie supports a full subsidy for all students if the budget can accommodate it
- Grace can see that making this subsidy available for all may help to function as first point of engagement , and encourage memberships along the line.
- Holly: both sides of the discussion are relevant and useful – providing full subsidies including to non-members may work effectively as demonstrating the benefits of the department and union, then potentially encouraging those non-members to join UMSU later.
- Katie recommends thinking about other ways we could encourage UMSU membership other than scaled subsidisation
- Esther suggests advertising, for instance in Farrago including a by-line, stating that subsidies are only possible because of UMSU membership funds
- Grace states that, in light of the low cost of subsidy in this instance and the discussion put forward, she is amenable to providing full subsidies in this instance, as long as UMSU membership is stressed as a vital point in the advertising.

Motion 12: That we financially support the attendance of students to the Melbourne Feminist Futures Conference (at the end of May). Concession tickets at \$15 and full fare at \$25 per student who registers to attend should be paid for from the special events/projects line, and be paid to the conference when we bulk-register. UMSU membership and its vital importance to the Wom*n's Department must be stressed in the advertising of the conference subsidy. The advertising must also stress that the event is gender/sexuality inclusive.

Moved: Esther Bohmer (From the Chair).

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 13: That Esther be reimbursed \$16.96 for the cost of goods from Spotlight for producing the Violence Against Wom*n visual representation (awareness banner). That this come from the special projects/events line.

Moved: Bridie Walsh

Seconded: Grace Mugford

CARRIED

Agenda Item 8: Other Business

Not applicable.

Agenda Item 9: Next Meeting

Meeting Schedule:

- Friday 25th March
- Friday 8th April
- Friday 13th May
- Each at 11am, in the Wom*n's Office (1st Floor Union House)

Motion 14: That the regular meeting schedule (see below) be adopted.

Moved: Holly Camilleri-Eyles

Seconded: Grace Mugford

CARRIED

Next meeting on: Friday 25th March, at 11am.

Agenda Item 14: Close

Meeting closed at: 11:06 AM by Esther Bohmer

Certified by Chair:

Signed:

Dated:

Proposed 2011 Budget:

2010 Line	2010 Figure (\$)		2011 Figure (\$)
Food & Beverage	472		0
Grants	148		200
Photocopying	100		200
Printing and Production	192		0
Postage	20		10
Reference Materials	160		0
Special Projects/Events	1750		4198.04
Stationary	100		100
Telephone Costs	150		40
Training and Development (Conferences)	2750		3500
Womyns Room Maintenance	100		0
O-Week	880		751.96
Total:	6822*		9000

*Note: Most of this funding came from Students Council, as our current budget does. However, some was the result of our fundraising, seeking grants and subsidies from other sources. This year, Students Council has determined a total budget of for the Womyn's Department.

Explanatory Notes:

1. The budget allocation can be changed at any Wom*n's Committee Meeting, by a motion put by any committee member, throughout the year.
2. Spending from our budget is **only possible** with the permission of Committee (via a motion made during a meeting) **as well as** a receipt/invoice (proof of purchase).
3. The majority of money is proposed to be allocated to the Special Projects/Events line. This is basically because all costs relating to the types of events the Wom*n's Dept runs, and is likely to run, can be taken from this single line. E.g. food and beverage can be taken from this line, despite there being a food & beverage line; costs of hiring equipment, paying experts, booking fees, buying craft materials, books etc. can all be taken from this line.
 - a. This will help us keep track of spending to-date, and avoid wasting small amounts across several lines.
4. The other major spending area is the Training and Development (Conferences) line. As always, it is up for discussion, but this is essentially our NOWSA line. NOWSA is the Network of Wom*n Students Australia, and is the single gathering of wom*n students from across the country. It is an incredible opportunity to learn and grow, to gain new skills and develop others further. NOWSA also provides an incredible opportunity to meet and network with other feminists, from which incredible national campaigns have arisen and been supported.