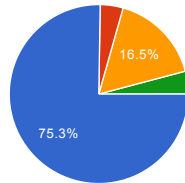


97 responses

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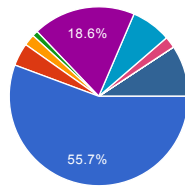
Summary

Are you undergrad or postgrad?



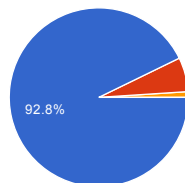
Undergrad	73	75.3%
Honours	4	4.1%
Postgrad	16	16.5%
I'm not a currently enrolled University of Melbourne student	4	4.1%

What's your faculty?



Arts	54	55.7%
Architecture, Building & Planning	4	4.1%
Engineering	2	2.1%
VCA & MCM	1	1%
Science	18	18.6%
Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences	7	7.2%
Law	2	2.1%
Veterinary & Agricultural Sciences	0	0%
Education	0	0%
Business & Economics	9	9.3%
N/A	0	0%

Are you a local or international student?



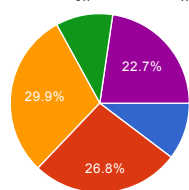
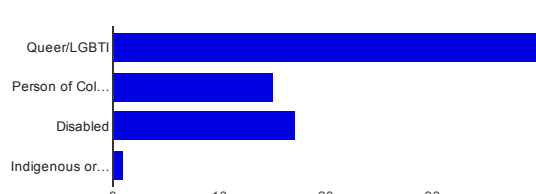
Local	90	92.8%
International	6	6.2%
Exchange	1	1%
N/A	0	0%

What gender do you identify as?

Female
 Male
 Woman
 female
 Woman
 non-binary
 Gender Queer
 fluid
 trans
 Trans
 genderqueer
 Agender
 Nonbinary
 Male
 Female - For below can I identify as non white?
 M
 CIS HET MALE SHITLORD
 woman
 male

Do you identify as any of the following?

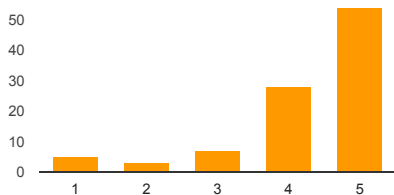
Queer/LGBTI	40	76.9%
Person of Colour	15	28.8%
Disabled	17	32.7%



I'm very involved	10	10.3%
I'm moderately involved	26	26.8%
I'm only involved in one area (Eg: Clubs, Farrago, Wom*n's Department)	29	29.9%
I used to be involved	10	10.3%
I have little to no involvement	22	22.7%

Sustainability

Do you support adding a commitment to sustainability or environmental ethics to UMSU's purposes?



Strongly oppose: 1	5	5.2%
2	3	3.1%
3	7	7.2%
4	28	28.9%
Strongly support: 5	54	55.7%

Any comments?

YAY!

No brainer

I also think Fairtrade should be incorporated into sustainability ethics - very important for the environment and also workers rights.

Divestment!

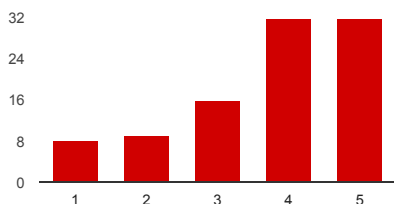
I think we have come to a point where sustainability has to be at the forefront of our minds in everything we do.

The divestment fossil fuel thing would be good if doable

Many of UMSU's ethical obligations are tired cliches and so also is this. Free education as a moral obligation for a student organisation I support, but I as a student am unlikely to see any benefit from such an addition. UMSU over-reaches.

Just because it's a good cause doesn't mean it's anything to do with UMSU

Do you support UMSU restricting advertising and sponsorship on ethical grounds?



Strongly oppose: 1	8	8.2%
2	9	9.3%
3	16	16.5%
4	32	33%
Strongly support: 5	32	33%

Any comments?

YAY

I think this would be too difficult to enforce and create more problems than it solves.

I like that a lot. Back up words with action.

As the student body, one has to be very careful with who you are associated with. This will very much influence the student's mindset directly or indirectly.

I would say I don't know enough about the advertising issue to comment

If I have to tolerate another Commbank stall I will consider leaving the university.

Support in principle provided they were not overly prescriptive or proscriptive, that they were flexible. Guidelines more than hard and fast rules.

Why should UMSU impose their authoritarian view of what is or is not ethical?

The criteria for this need to be made transparent

This would be amazing.

Rather take money off them than students

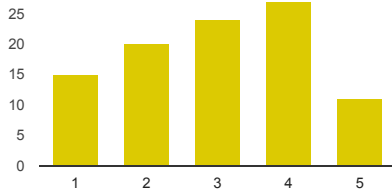
I am not in principle against such an idea but could not bear to support it without a full text of possible changes. Without this, I would far sooner oppose than support.

Yes, but only for the most grievous ethical offenses

UMSU should oppose advertising of meat, dairy and eggs as these are the biggest sources of greenhouse gases.

Office Bearers

Do you support extended term limits for Office Bearers?



Strongly Oppose: 1	15	15.5%
2	20	20.6%
3	24	24.7%
4	27	27.8%
Strongly Support: 5	11	11.3%

Any comments?

The longer people are Office Bearers the more out of touch they become with real students. A regular turnover is required to ensure student reps remain reflective of the student body.

There is already such an UMSU 'clique', there should be more diversity in candidates

Yes, this is desperately needed to allow corporate memory to be better preserved. I would not like to see people as office bearers for more than three years, though. It's likely that the individuals would tend to lose touch with student life in a fourth year of serving as an office bearer, particularly if they took leave of absence during their time with UMSU (as they are now entitled to do).

Uneasy. But some merit.

I would say instead of extended term limits, they could first have apprenticeship training or be advisers to incoming committee members. This would allow them to pass on their knowledge and slowly prepare the person coming into office.

People really need to move on after two years, otherwise the status quo doesn't change as frequently and fresh ideas won't be as readily accessible.

Pres and GS require deep institutional knowledge and understanding. Holding one of these offices (or Education) in a third year as an OB would be appropriate with provisions made to prevent gaming the system etc.

As long as these new limits were used judiciously.

To have the same people in positions of power, whether they're different or the same, for more than two years seems unbalanced. Incumbent officers are more likely to be elected again so I strongly oppose this.

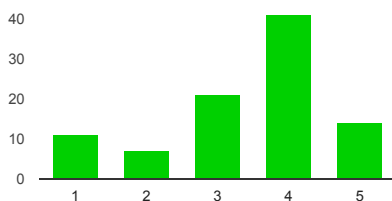
We need a circulation of people through the UMSU; it shouldn't be a limited number of people essentially stacking all of the Offices.

You'd just end up with a smaller group of people taking charge and less diversity than ever. Student politics is insular enough as it is.

UMSU desperately needs new blood, not to extend that status quo.

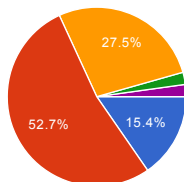
An outside limit would be arbitrary if the term limit is to be extended, as it would still not account for the maximum number of years people can extend their degree to. Limiting the number of years an individual can spend in one position would be a way of extended the amount of time someone can contribute their experience and insight to the Union, while allowing for new students and new ideas to emerge in tandem.

Do you support casual vacancies being filled by Students' Council instead of a by-election?



Strongly Oppose : 1	11	11.7%
2	7	7.4%
3	21	22.3%
4	41	43.6%
Strongly Support: 5	14	14.9%

Which of the following options for filling casual vacancies would you prefer?



Students' Council should have the sole power to fill casual vacancies	14	15.4%
Students' Council may fill casual vacancies which must then be approved by a by-election alongside UMSU's annual election in September	48	52.7%
If a casual vacancy occurs early in the year and there is enough time, a by-election should be held as soon as possible.	25	27.5%
Casual vacancies should only be filled at a by-election.	2	2.2%
Other	2	2.2%

Any comments?

If there is enough time for a by-election in Semester 1, it should be hold. Council should only make the appointment if there is not enough time. could the party that the elected person represents not fill the vacancy (as in federal senate)? which is then ratified by the council?

By-elections, as they are currently organised, are completely nonsensical and should be done away with. The elections are in September, so the person elected in the by-election only serves for 3 months! How pointless. If you're not going to hold an instantaneous by-election (as in, arrange for a by-election within a couple of weeks of the vacancy arising) you shouldn't hold one at all. Maybe, to ensure political fairness, you should make it so that Students' Council has to nominate someone who is approved by the ticket to which the outgoing officebearer belonged.

just fyi, I dont think I fully understand this and am acting on gut feeling.

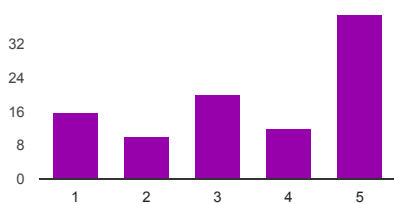
It is unconstitutional for casual vacancies to serve almost a full term without being elected by the student population.

This is concerning in light one of the infamous election in MUSU where the candidate for president was a first year who immediately resigned and then a very unpopular president was re-elected. I am not saying this would happen again but everything should be done to make sure there is transparency and the opportunity for students to participate in democracy if practicable.

Not a fan of student politics, I feel like I can't join protests, movements or participate more because of a certain excursionist atmosphere. I wouldn't mid marching beside a 'socialist alternative' banner but more often then not I feel like I'm marching under one when I don't want to.

Affirmative Action (AA)

Do you support increased affirmative action for women in UMSU elections?



Strongly Oppose: 1	16	16.5%
2	10	10.3%
3	20	20.6%
4	12	12.4%
Strongly Support: 5	39	40.2%

Any comments?

Affirmative action should be imposed in any council/ organisation/ group etc where there is less than 40% rounded up. 50% rounded up especially when there is less than a 100 people involved is very difficult esp when non-binary people come into the mix

50% (or 50% rounded up) women in the UMSU is really the bare minimum. 50% rounded down is not really good enough, especially compared to the long history of men filling FAR more than 50% - closer to 100% - of positions of power.

requirement rounded down shouldn't prevent an additional woman to be in the council or committees if they are capable, but rounding it up will prevent a man from being in the council or committee even if he is capable...

To me it makes no more sense to have women dominate a committee than it does for non-women to dominate a committee. You should instead require that (on a 7 member committee) 3 members are people who identify as non-women, 3 members are people who identify as women and the remaining member may be someone identifying as any gender.

The positions should be given to those who best suit the role, regardless of gender. But I do believe that it is important to have viewpoints from marginalised groups to ensure that the decisions made are in the best interest fir the student body

I'd prefer if gender was irrelevant

50% across all committees?

I believe that while it is great to give women more chances, it also needs to be said that positions should be chosen based on the qualification and potential of said person and not to fill a quota.

Women need good representation.

I'm tom about this - I think women should be represented, supported and also be given a voice. I also think the university should be a leader in providing opportunities and representation that can hopefully overtime create trends throughout the general working world, so that women's voices are respected and given equal authority that men's voices are. However I'm not sure making it compulsory for the majority to be women is necessarily fair - but if it is consistently shown that the "rounded up" person identifies as male maybe it could rotate each term or something?

Should be supported, but on the grounds that Affirmative Action be extended to trans and gender non-binary people

I feel a bit weird about ****forcing**** a certain percentage of women, also what does this mean for people who don't subscribe to the gender binary?

Women aren't typically underrepresented in UMSU. AA is fantastic but it assures against underrepresentation and this is not a problem UMSU typically faces.

Candidates should be selected on merit, not on what social construct they're identifying with this week.

As a woman, I believe I should be awarded based on merit and not my gender. I am in favour of encouraging more women to take part, but believe the outcome should be based on merit. I am in favour of the amount now as it means that women **MUST** be represented to a great extent, but does not mean it must be **MORE**.

So it is proposed that men can only comprise a minority of positions. There is no justification for this position. Whether it is a majority of men or a majority of women on those bodies should be decided by the students at the ballot box.

AA is merely a bandaid to the wider problem.

This seems highly unnecessary and creates a legislated gender imbalance. The current model leaves open the possibility of either a male or female candidate filling the swing position, whereas the proposed model stipulates that there **MUST** be a gender skew in one direction.

Students Council ultimately has 20 members - 5 from special constituencies, 15 general (although the constitution currently only says "18 voting representatives" which should be amended) - there should be a 10:10 women identifying/women non-identifying split between all 20. Elect the 5 special members first, and then use the 15 general reps to "top up" numbers either way to ensure an even split.

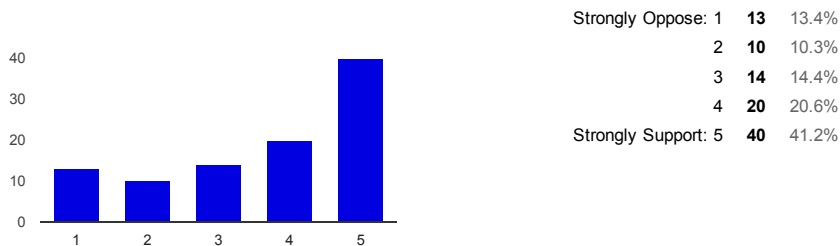
Discrimination against any gender identity is unacceptable.

AA should not govern a majority of positions.

If equality is the goal, then mandating more than 50% be women is explicitly against that goal. Nothing is stopping women from running for and winning more than 7 seats. In general, Affirmative Action is offensively sexist in its assumption that qualified women would not be able to win office without banning men from competing.

I support equality, but 50% rounded up then just means it is prescribed unequal male representation? With the current requirements, my understanding is that it is at least 50%, rounded down, but could be a greater number than this. But the new action would require that male representation is less than half. I have mixed feelings. But I do believe that a strong female presence is invaluable.

Do you support affirmative action for women within Office Bearer positions?



Strongly Oppose: 1	13	13.4%
2	10	10.3%
3	14	14.4%
4	20	20.6%
Strongly Support: 5	40	41.2%

Any comments?

If there were 3 office bearers per department I would be strongly in favour and I am for media where there is 4 Media.

To ensure even and fair representation, it would be better to require one office bearer to be a woman and the other to be a non-woman.

Can we ditch the Newspeak of "Affirmative Action" and call it what it is - a quota and remove the focus on gender, race, religion etc. Instead, just elect people who are best qualified for the positions.

AA is another hard one. But I am coming from a cis white male perspective. What is the endgame? When does AA become unnecessary? Is it possible to remove it if redundant?

Ditto previous comment.

Women need good representation consistently.

Candidates should be selected on merit, not on what social construct they're identifying with this week.

Again - I prefer this is on merit, anonymous where possible, but recognise the need to have women in office. Thus, I believe there should be a minimum, and half (not more than) seems just. This does not mean more than half cannot be elected, but means half (or almost) are.

Why AT LEAST one woman? So that proposes either 1 or 2 positions may be held by women and thus 1 or 0 positions held by men. What possible justification could be promulgated for that absurdity? Are the students of the University incapable of making their own minds up about who to represent them when they vote?

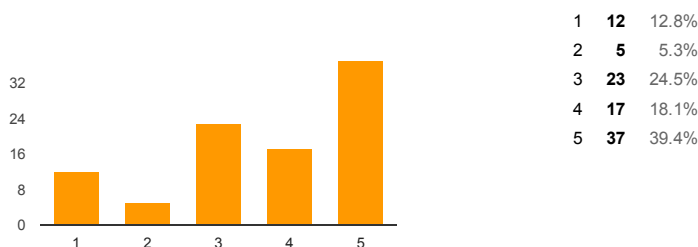
See above answer.

It's 2015!

While I support affirmative action, I cannot do so for such a small number of positions that will be democratically elected by the student body.

50/50 is good

Do you support affirmative action for Women of Colour within the Wom*n's Department?



1	12	12.8%
2	5	5.3%
3	23	24.5%
4	17	18.1%
5	37	39.4%

Any comments?

At the moment I am against this but I would be willing to change the if more information was provided. A definition of what a person of colour is would be useful many many people with middle eastern/ Mediterranean and Latin American heritage people are 'of colour' but are largely considered white and while they do experience some discrimination because of their background but not as much as people with African heritage. The university has been aiming to have aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Individuals represented in the university at 3% the same as the national average. While this is still a struggle particularly at the senior levels I would whole heartedly support it being implemented for more ethnicities across UMSU and the university.

Why is there even a "Wom*n's Department" when women make up the majority of students studying at UniMelb? Shouldn't the minority - men - be granted a special "Men's Department"?

For this section, because it is to support women, more diversity is needed from different backgrounds in order to give a different perspective to the board. This should not be limited to Women of Colour though. Asian ladies also need to be heard in this country and since they have a reputation to be shy yet studious, they might not be as heard as the other women.

Maybe, but a better solution would be to have a People of Colour office with affirmative action for women. This is generally how the women's dept. works with the queer dept. when it comes to the queer/women intersection if neither women's officer identifies as queer I believe again I feel weird about how this criteria is being set. Also how will it be monitored? Is this the kind of thing that will spiral into a bureaucratic hurdle that reduces people to tokenistic inclusion?

Why specifically this demographic? Lots of others face similar disenfranchisement.

It's spelled "women's". You will not defeat lingering societal prejudice by misspelling basic English words. You may actually invite additional opprobrium as impassive observers may correctly identify an anti-intellectual strain.

This should also be done as a reflection of the community - if there community is 70% caucasian, shouldn't this be reflected? However, I do believe there should be a minimum in place, just believe this should be somewhat grounded by reality.

The department should be as reflective of all women as the students choose to make it when they vote.

This implies that 'people of colour' simply by virtue of their race hold a different view from white people. This is an oversimplification of what goes into shaping a person's identity and frankly is a form of racism by viewing 'people of colour' as a homogenous group.

I love this. I would like it if differently abled people were considered a priority to be heard on the committee as well.

I would support this if I knew it was based on proportion the amount of women of colour at the university, perhaps it is but I am unsure. But it is kind of strange that this is only in the women's department?

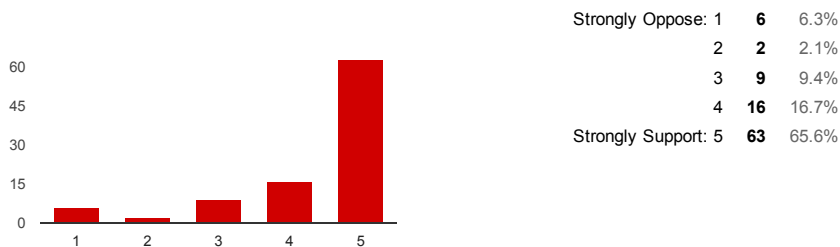
Committee would be a good idea, it should reflect the percentage of POC people in the uni. Also does Asian etc count as POC?

I am happy to support affirmative action for those of colour within committees overall; to do so only for the Women's Dep. would be illusory.

Please define/clarify terminology. Of course representatives should be representative, not sure that the labels 'white' (implied) and 'of colour' do the best job of that

Wom*n's Department

Do you support updating UMSU's definition of "Woman" to be trans-inclusive?



Any comments?

I very, very strongly support this change. It is extremely important to emphasise inclusion of trans women in the women's department, and it would be a step towards repairing the damage done by trans-exclusionary 'feminists' in the past (and unfortunately also in the present).

it depends on the uni's policies on the same topic

I should have no say.

Everyone has a right of choice. It is not our place to judge them based on their choices.

I feel about this more strongly than the number 5 option implies. I must impress upon you the importance of being trans-women inclusive. It's a matter of human rights and honestly I'm horrified something hasn't been done about this before now.

There are only two genders. Can people in their 70s "identify" as teenagers, can anglo-saxon people "identify" as Aboriginal without being such? Biology is not a social construct, social constructs are social constructs.

Someone who has not lived the majority of their life as a biological female may, if they so wish, choose to become one. But this change does not apply retrospectively. And as such, they simply do not have the same life experiences in relation to women's issues.

The definition should also include, and state that it includes, people who partially identify as women.

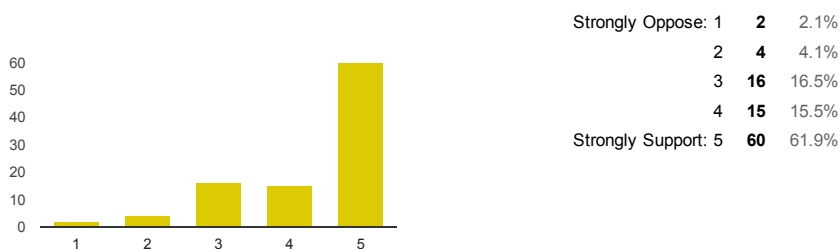
What you are enrolled as has nothing to do with what your gender is.

Personally I am opposed to the existence of women's departments and affirmative action for female positions - however, if students collectively decide to implement these, then I am strongly for the update to the definition of 'woman'. The lack of acceptance for trans/intersex individuals only feeds into gender dysphoria and confusion.

Far too old fashioned.

Does this apply to the male equivalent also? Agree only if the definition for male works equivalently. If you're aiming for equality and inclusivity, then go all the way. Otherwise one-sidedness feels strange

Do you support removing the asterisk (*) from "Wom*n's Department"?



Any comments?

I love the Wom*n while we can all acknowledge that second wave feminism was largely exclusive to trans women (and had many other faults) to deny the many great things which it did accomplish would be sad. In the same way early feminists and suffragettes believed in many things not considered feminist today but we wouldn't rename something just for being associated with them.

Only in a university would the term "Wom*n" exist.

Again, my support is even stronger than "strongly support"

Spelling words correctly is important. You don't win the important battles by first declaring war on vowels.

Not sure why this asterisk was included to begin with, and surely hope this wasn't do entirely alienate us from men. THAT is the WRONG kind of feminism.

It's also second wave feminist bullshit and it's 2015

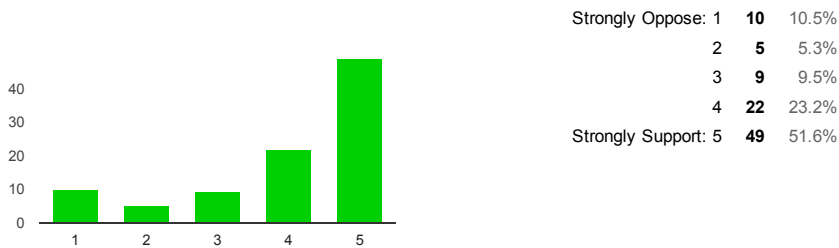
Is the actual term itself transphobic? Sure, it's associated with second wave but surely not all things associated with it are instantly transphobic? But whatever, rather it not be called Women's room because but it's not a big issue to me.

YES! - the asterisk is needlessly exclusive. Some women are philosophically opposed to second-wave feminism but still want to have discussion about female issues.

I am not against the removal of the asterisk, but this is the first time I've heard it framed so as to include trans people. Most of those I've spoken to regard it as politicised language and seek its removal because it is divisive, but for me to support it to include trans people would be to hide the reason I truly support its removal.

People of Colour

Do you support the establishment of a People of Colour Department in UMSU?



Any comments?

It's time for this to finally happen!

Many (most?) people of colour are international students; there is too much potential overlap with UMSU International and the international office bearers. I also think that people of colour are such a diverse group that the proposed department will lack a clear direction and vision that can be shared by its entire constituency.

Should there a a white people department too? Please focus on inclusion rather than division.

It shouldn't be necessary. Is it necessary? Probably. How long will it be necessary for? Where does UMSU draw the line with franchisement and AA?

This seems obviously needed. Why isn't this a thing yet? Should be a thing.

Given this would represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students, perhaps just expand that department?

I'm not a person of colour so it's possibly not my place to say there should / shouldn't be but I do definitely think that opportunity / option should be available if people choose.

Only if the student of colour population genuinely wants it (eg not driven by a small group of student politicians pushing an agenda)

"People of colour" are just people. Stop creating stupid divisions and telling people they're different and special. Everyone should unite, not cleave apart.

We shouldn't be dividing students based on their race.

Again, this presupposes the idea that 'people of colour' are a homogenous group in terms of having a different opinion from the white majority that is based purely on racial reasoning.

Unsure of the necessity of more bureaucracy for something which could be run as a branch of an already existing department

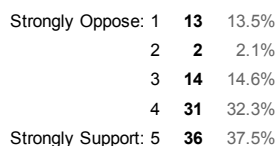
As a part of another department yes.

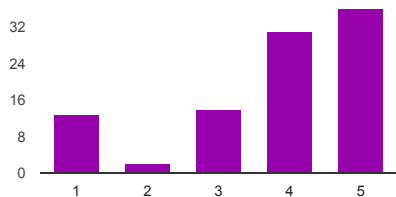
I think it's a great idea, but these things tend to end up generalising colour and thus becoming discriminatory. Care must be taken to ensure a PoC Dep. doesn't become an African Dep., Asian Dep., etc.

Regressive, racist, divisive. The social justice movement is logically unsound and divisive. I love UMSU as is and do not want to see it become further Americanised.

Grouping all "People of Colour" together seems rather racist: the experiences of various ethnic groups will greatly differ from one another. Lumping Asians, Africans, South Americans, etc. together is explicitly stating that the only factor that matters is "white" or "not white", and I vehemently disagree.

Do you support the proposed definition of "People of Colour"?





be reworded. It could be argued that this includes people "indigenous" to England (ie:

add Mediterranean

I'm not a Person of Colour so don't think I should be involved in defining the term

The idea of "Indigenous to nations outside of Australia" is too vague. I also wonder whether, in today's world, Asian people would take offence at being called "People of Colour" - it reminds me of the completely obsolete way of referring to Asian people as yellow-skinned.

'Indigenous to nations outside of Australia' should be removed

In Australia 'white' people from non-Anglo Saxon European backgrounds may face some of the challenges as the proposed 'people of colour' definition. Eg. Italian surname would need to send 12% more resume applications than Anglo-Saxon in Sydney <http://goo.gl/zLfPYC> (not stat sig in Melbourne, but still an example of bias).

I feel as a white woman it is not my place to determine this definition

Surely "due to their non-white background" in itself is sufficient?

Bizarrely prescriptive.

No clue

It shouldn't exist. Help people.

It is a meaningless term, you might as well say non-white.

I support this, however, as I am not a person of colour, should people of colour take issue with the definition, it should be changed.

Maybe "Indigenous to other nations" be changed to "Indigenous to colonised nations" so White Europeans cannot capitalise on it or even "Identity as Native to regions such as New Zealand, America, Canada". We could even specify Maori, Native American, Inuit, etc. I think we should also include Roma/Romani peoples

I am not a person of colour and I don't think it's my place to say.

Yep, less confusing.

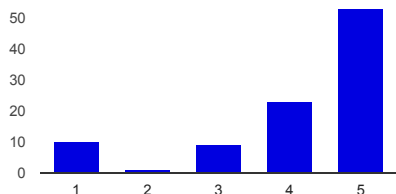
Yes, there is nothing wrong with the definition - only the pointless and alienating separation between people who fundamentally have more in common than what their skin colour dictates.

Why are you listing every non-white ethnicity you can think of? Either restrict it to "non-whites" or use an atlas and perhaps this time try to include the major racial groupings you've missed instead of sweeping them into the generalised melting pot of "other relevant non-white background."

Including indigenous australians in this department would give them double representation, as there is already a department for indigenous students...

Additionally, "other non-white" is incredibly vague, given the variation in the historical categorisation of such groups as eg. Slavs or Semetic peoples.

Do you support the proposed aims and objectives of a People of Colour Department?



Strongly oppose: 1	10	10.4%
2	1	1%
3	9	9.4%
4	23	24%
Strongly support: 5	53	55.2%

Any comments?

YES!!! Is developing a committee cementing the 'other' nature of people of colour (or all autonomous committees for that matter)? I think it is a worrying yes, but don't know what else to do.

Has there been a call by the student body for this?

any and all of these poc proposals are just as integral a the trans inclusive proposals

See above.

Service provision should be based on race and all students should have access to all services no matter their race

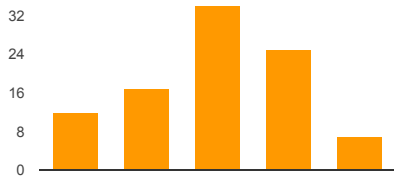
The focus on "people of colour" is disturbing. As an Asian woman myself, I am not fond of the distancing between "us", and other students.

See above; "People of Colour" is too heterogenous a group to have meaningfully unified issues and interests.

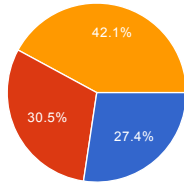
General Meetings

Do you support reducing the quorum requirement for UMSU General Meetings?

Strongly Oppose: 1	12	12.6%
2	17	17.9%
3	34	35.8%
4	25	26.3%



eting do you prefer?



- Retaining the current quorum requirement of 400 students. 2
- Slightly reducing the quorum requirement to 200 or 300 students. 2
- Slightly reducing the quorum requirement to 200 or 300 students IN ATTENDANCE but introducing a second quorum requirement of 40 students VOTING on each motion. 4
- Significantly reducing the quorum requirement to somewhere between 40-100 students.

Any comments?

I dont know enough, but I more can be done to engage students!

In the long run wouldn't it be better for students to vote on constitutional changes at the annual elections? Rather like a referendum in Australian Federal politics. That would avoid the quorum issue, as turnout at student elections is usually well in excess of 400.

Needs more than a survey. MUCH more. All about sustained student engagement and better communications. Online is too easily ignored. Needs personal interaction. Look at FFMU last week!

Compromise is key to everything.

Why can't we have online voting, it's the 21st Century.

omg again, i have noooooo clue how complicated these things are.

No more of this SJW rubbish, every moment you waste debating the definition of words like "gender" and "colour" is time you could have spent actually helping a real human being, regardless of the colour of their skin or makeup of their genitals.

Slightly increasing the current quorum requirment to 600 students

To have it as any less than 200 would be unconstitutional and I don't approve of only 40 students to have to vote on each motion, that's too small of a percentage.

Everyone in attendance should vote on every motion.

I feel like student politics is niche enough, why not try to help more students get involved? I wanted to in undergrad, just never really heard of a way to do so in a casual manner.

It sucks that sometimes not enough people can make it, but it's vitally important that such a requirement exists, to prevent passionate sub-groups with an agenda to pass forward changes without general agreement.

Frankly the quorum should be increased.

Number of daily responses

