



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Education Committee
2:00PM 10/04/2018
Meeting 4(18)
Location: OB Space, Union House

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Alice Smith be elected chair.

M:

S:

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

1.3. Attendance

1.4. Apologies

1.5. Membership

1.6. Adoption of agenda

Motion 2: That this Agenda be adopted as presented.

M:

S:

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion 3: That the minutes circulated with this Agenda be acknowledged as being a true and accurate representation of the events of Education Committee 3(18).

M:

S:

3. Office Bearer Reports

3.1. Academic Affairs (see Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report).

3.2. Public Affairs (see Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report)

Motion 4: That these reports be accepted en bloc.

M:

S:

4. Motions on notice

4.1. Food for Syndicate Launch

This was a motion on notice from last meeting, which the committee did not vote on.

We decided it was a good idea to have the Syndicate Launch as a catered event. As such, we spent \$200 on pizzas that were eaten by attendees.

Motion 5: That \$100 be passed from Campaigns, Special Projects & Events ("CSP&E") line to pay for the pizzas for Syndicate.

M: Conor Clements

S: Toby Silcock

4.2. Additional money for drinks for Syndicate launch

This was a motion on notice from last meeting, which the committee did not vote on.

Due to greater than expected attendance for the Syndicate Launch (a good thing), we allowed the bar tab to run to \$600, rather than \$500 as budgeted. So we need to pass \$100 to cover the difference.

Motion 6: That \$100 be moved from the CSP&E to pay for the additional costs of drinks for attendees of the Syndicate Launch.

M: Conor Clements

S: Toby Silcock

4.3. Flyers and posters advertising Syndicate

This was a motion on notice from last meeting, which the committee did not vote on.

We have been advertising Syndicate's events through the use of flyers, which have been distributed at stalls, through lecture bashes and the bags we had at the launch, as well as through posters. The flyers are professionally printed and contain information about the collective itself. Artwork is by Hayley Edwards.

700 flyers were printed, as well as 6 A2 posters used at the launch event.

Motion 7: That up to \$350 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to pay for flyers and posters printed for Syndicate advertising.

M: Conor Clements

S: Toby Silcock

4.4. Stickers and concertinas for Syndicate launch

As a souvenir for attendees of the Syndicate launch, we purchased materials from Sam Wallman. These were stickers and concertinas, which will be shown to members of this committee.

There were 60 such materials purchased. The bags were repurposed from the Ed stall during Summerfest.

Motion 8: That up to \$110 be passed from the CPS&E budget line to pay for stickers and concertinas used in the bags at the Syndicate Launch.

M: Conor Clements

S: Toby Silcock

4.5. Megaphones

As an Education Department, part of what we do is protest. To do this, we need megaphones to be heard. Simple!

The proposal is to purchase two megaphones for the department, in addition to the one we already have. Despite protests being a significant part of what we do, one is manifestly insufficient for speak outs, protests, and other actions, where we have three OB's but only one megaphone.

They would be assets the department could use for years into the future at various events where speakers need to be heard but it's too loud for them to be heard without a megaphone.

Motion 9: That \$300 be passed from the CSP&E line to pay for two megaphones.

M: Alice Smith

S: Toby Silcock

4.6. Money for a Freedom of Information request

On Thursday 15th March, Toby lodged an Fol request to the University respecting the cost to the University of various student fees (see Education Academic's report at 3.1). The University charges a fee of \$28.40 for every Fol request.

Toby paid this at the time of lodging so things would be set in motion as quickly as possible. This motion therefore authorises reimbursement of amounts already paid.

Motion 10: That \$28.40 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to pay for the fee of lodging the Fol referred to in the Education Academic report at 3.1.

M: Toby Silcock

S: Conor Clements

4.7. Car hire for Burnley stall

Last Friday 23rd March, Conor, Toby, and Desiree (the President) set up a stall at Burnley campus to build opposition to the library cuts at that campus (see the relevant reports). Since we had to take a marquee and materials down to Burnley, and since none of us had personal access to a car for that day, Toby rented a car for the day from GreenShareCar, charged at approx. \$7/hour. It was a small car, but it did the job.

In future, we understand that Comms or AV may have a subscription to GoGet that we may be able to piggy-back off, but since we thought we would have access to a car in advance, we didn't organise this. The OB's wish to do more at Burnley campus, and other satellite campuses, this year, so this excursion proved a "test run" of how to run "Education Weekly Stall Road Trips".

Accordingly, we are requesting reimbursement for the cost of car hire, which at the moment was only billed at approximately \$48, but may increase slightly to account for extra kilometres driven that haven't been charged yet.

Motion 11: That up to \$70 be moved from the CSP&E budget line to pay for the costs respecting car hire on 23rd March.

M: Toby Silcock

S: Conor Clements

5. Motions not on notice

6. Other business

6.1. Expenditure to date

Expenditure to date has been circulated for noting.

6.2. NUS Education Conference Grants

OB's will soon be opening application for NUS Education Conference ("EdCon") grants. These will be moved from the Grants budget line, surprisingly.

We will be giving priority to first-time attendees and those in financial need. Grants will be brought to this Committee for approval. This is so applicants can have certainty in planning their trips to EdCon, and avoid adopting a system of retrospective grants.

7. Next meeting

7.1. Future meetings

The dates of future meetings of this Committee are set out in Appendix C – Future Meetings. This reflects the schedule of dates adopted by this Committee in meeting 3(18).

8. Close Meeting

Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report

Note – this report was prepared to be sent out on Thursday 29th March to comply with notice requirements arising from the fact that days during mid-semester break do not constitute “academic days”. Work done during the mid-semester break will be reflected in the next report.

Just a fortnight. A productive fortnight. Lightly spiced with dried Burnley, a generous dollop of NDA, served on a soft bed of Stop1. Served with a side of gently cooked GSA. Delicious!

Stop 1 and Academic Services

The tentative name for our Stop1 campaign is currently "Stop1, Students 0". We've been having meetings with Advocacy and other stakeholders about what we do with the data, and how we turn the data into a final report with specific options for making Stop1 functional again (note – the campaign slogan is *not* "Make Stop1 Great Again", it was never great).

We have finished the first draft of our survey. By the time of Council, this should be with Comms, without unforeseen complications.

Meeting on LMS

Last week, we met with the people planning the redesign of LMS. The current version of the software, Blackboard, is being phased out, so the University is planning an extensive ground-up redesign of the product. They are consulting with students as part of it, so that's nice.

As we understand it, they are finishing the design of a survey to be rolled out, to get data on essential and non-essential services. We also had a chance to highlight key issues for students, and well as to explain what our function is, and give suggestions on better engagement besides simply a survey (such as focus groups, engagement with the SRN, faculty committees, or faculty clubs, as well as other UMSU departments). But there will be a survey, and we will promote it if it appears well-designed.

Burnley

Toby went down with Conor on Friday 23rd March to run a stall and build opposition to the library cuts. We had excellent conversations with students, handed out flyers, and got a decent number of students to sign the online petition. It was also a good chance for us to meet both James and other members of the BSA.

At time of writing (literally), EdAc and EdPub (and Ash from Media) are heading to Burnley once more to a meeting with staff and students about campaign planning and next steps. It's a bit early to tell how things will be going with the cuts and with Burnley generally, but at this stage it's as much about building engagement and opposition, and then channelling that into an effective response, and indeed better cross-campus engagement in the future. Most students and staff that have been at Burnley for decades have been talking about consistent white-anting of the campus, so it appears at this stage that the Uni has quite a bit of trust to repair.

UPDATE – At the time of writing, the outcome of the meeting is that library staff are not content with the cuts to staffing but appear to have little power. We aim to bring this matter up in question-time as a question not on notice to Paul Duldig, head of University Services. Updates will be provided for next Council.

SRN

No significant meetings have occurred thus far.

We've received reports on the BA course review, which make for interesting reading. We have also received reports from Arts Board, of which the most interesting thing is the allocation of surpluses from increased international enrolments, primarily into Media Comms.

Aside from that, the next meeting of the SRN will be held in about 3 weeks from today, so Toby has asked for any availability updates. It will most likely be called around the same time as this Committee.

Lecture Recordings

The report form has some of the best reach of any UMSU Education Facebook Post. The overwhelming majority of this has been organic reach (that is, not sponsored). We have received enough to start contacting academics, but not quite enough systematically to target Associate Deans at this point.

Collective

We had our third Collective on Tuesday 27th March. Attendance was better, not spectacular, but strong, with some students coming along who'd never engaged with the department before. Promotion will be more aggressive for next Collective, since they're a fantastic way to get feedback on our department's activities, and we want more attendance. Come along ☺

Weekly Stall

Both Week 4 weekly stall was held at Burnley (see Key Activity 3) on the Friday (since Wednesday 21st was the National Day of Action, see Key Activity 9). In lieu of our Week 5 weekly stall, we attended a meeting at Burnley on the library cuts, getting feedback from students and preparing

Punitive Student Fees

There have been no updates on this so far, except more information has come to light that, instead of \$20 as possibly indicated, staff cards may in fact be free. This is obviously just good info to have. We shouldn't be paying a cent, should we...

NDA BBQ

This happened. It was good. It was a bit unclear at the beginning that our BBQ was free, but once kids made the connection we got decent traction. We have sausages left for next NDA.

We also attended the NDA itself. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring people new to protests, and to reconnect with people from other campuses. It was also a fantastic opportunity to march in opposition to the government's cuts to education down the streets of Melbourne, and bring public attention to students' consistent and vocal opposition to generational attacks.

Rad Ed Week

Rad Ed week is ongoing at time of writing, but EdAc's presentation on Data Retention was generally successful. A bit early in the morning, but we had a good discussion nonetheless on some of the most cooked things the Uni is doing with our data, and general ways we can start building opposition to them as a Union. The other events have also been excellent.

Rad Ed tent has also been a good opportunity to petition on Bury the Bill. And on that...

Bury the Bill

On Friday 23rd in the evening, we heard that the Higher Ed bill, which will basically fuck students over on debt repayments and fee caps, might be debated and voted on Wednesday or Thursday the 28th/29th respectively.

We held two snap stalls to get petitions on NUS' Bury the Bill campaign. The stalls were generally successful, although signing petitions against higher ed cuts is always difficult since students automatically tune them out. That said, we got almost 100 extra signatures at time of writing, which will be passed to NUS. Hopefully the Bill will be voted down, but no information at this stage.

Academic Integrity

Alice and Des had their first meeting of the Academic Integrity Working Group. We found out there will be Cadmus trials in Semester 2 so we will be ramping up that campaign in the back end of Semester 1. Richard James also indicated that the University is considering making academic integrity modules to be completed by all students to make expectations clear.

OB Lyf

The fridge is proving useful in colder climes, since it warms the room, and cools our food (both useful).

Diet Vanilla Coke can now be purchased in the food court, instead of in the problematic vending machines. And it's 50c cheaper! What a time to be alive.

Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report

Note – this report was prepared to be sent out on Thursday 29th March to comply with notice requirements. This is because mid-semester break does not constitute “academic days”. Work done during the mid-semester break will be reflected in the next report.

Burnley library campaign

If you haven't heard, the university are trying to cut the hours of staff at the Burnley campus' library to four hours a day for three days a week, and five hours a day for the other two days a week. The Education department have been supporting James (Burnley campus representative) in their efforts to stop this from occurring. At this stage, the university have indicated that they intend to increase the actual opening hours of the library but keep the reduction in staff time, which obviously is still a loss for Burnley students as they have specialist needs for accessing collections which are not available at other university libraries. There is also a strong feeling among students at Burnley that they are not receiving access to even the most basic services that Parkville students take for granted.

There was a meeting at the Burnley campus on Wednesday the 28th of March which featured staff from university libraries explaining the changes. The university staff did not seem at all satisfied with the results of University Services' decision, especially since much of it stemmed from the decision to place a 1.5% “efficiency dividend” (read: 1.5% annual reduction in staff) on employees of university libraries.

I've also aided Burnley students in putting together a survey to be distributed to those at the campus, the data from which will be presented to Academic Board, along with some pointed questions directed at the head of University Services, Paul Duldig. Hopefully this will pressure the university to reconsider its position, although the problem of the efficiency dividend still remains.

At this stage, we have a petition running which at the time of writing has garnered over 320 signatures. This petition has been marketed throughout the Burnley campus with the aid of materials from Comms.

So far, Education have been to Burnley twice, and students there are extremely concerned about these changes, which they see as a continuation of defunding of services that has been seen (and unfortunately not responded to by UMSU in previous years) over the past few years.

National Day of Action

The National Day of Action (organised by the National Union of Students) took place on Wednesday the 21st of March. We held a speak out from 12:30 in South Court encouraging students to join our contingent to meet at the State Library. The Education Academic officers were kind enough to run a barbecue for us, which convinced at least a couple of students to stick around.

Melbourne University had by far the largest contingent of students at the rally. It was unfortunate to see that other campuses did not bring more students with them; this would perhaps be aided with better communication between campuses, ideally through a forum such as a Victorian Education Action Network meeting organised by the NUS Education officer.

Syndicate

We have created a google form that will be distributed soon throughout Union House that will hopefully see us gaining a better idea of working conditions within the businesses in operation there. The information will be used to gain an idea of who may be able to organise in some of the businesses within Union House.

Of note, Young Workers' Centre are having their annual Young Workers Conference on Friday the 13th of April. I would encourage all office bearers and councillors to register.

Palm Sunday march for Refugees

There was a great turnout of UMSU people present at the Palm Sunday march. The rally itself, which takes place annually, saw an estimated turnout of around 5000 people. It was heartwarming to see so many people who cared about the issues of mandatory detention of asylum seekers on Manus Island and Nauru, and this has caused me to begin plans to communicate with the university to create a scholarship for refugee students. If anyone would wish to aid me in this process, let me know!

Appendix C – Future Meetings

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
5(18)	25 th April	2:30 pm	OB Space, Union House
6(18)	8 th May	2:00 pm	OB Space, Union House
7(18)	23 rd May	2:30 pm	OB Space, Union House