

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Disabilities Committee**

**Agenda**

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2pm**

**Meeting 6(18)**

**Location: OB Space**

**Meeting opened at 2:13**

**1. Procedural Matters**

- 1.1 Election of Chair  
Elected Jacinta as chair.  
moved: Jacinta  
seconded: Danielle  
all in favour
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners  
Done by Chair
- 1.3 Attendance  
Danielle, Russell, Lucy, Hien, Jacinta.
- 1.4 Apologies  
Bridie Cochrane-Holley
- 1.5 Proxies  
none
- 1.6 Membership  
none
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda  
Amended to “next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> April” and subsequently adopted.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Confirmed with no comments.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

none.

**4. Correspondence**

none.

**5. Office Bearer Report**

**Key Activities**

We ran an event called Disability Pride from a Non-Capitalist Perspective for Rad Ed week and a joint event with PoC Department on Mental Illness and Racism, with guest speaker Romile Mokak. We have organised new promotional material for all

our events with comms and asked them to promote our collectives more on the LCD screens and posters around campus.

**Progress on assigned actions from last report**

We have organised with women’s department to run an event on June 7<sup>th</sup> called “Autism and Relationships” from our own department budget. We are yet to find a speaker to run this event, suggestions are welcome.

We have updated our website and events descriptions to include ‘carers, supporters and friends’ of people with anxiety/disability. Mental Wellness Collective is described as an event “for celebrating neurodivergence and supporting students with mental illness, friends and supporters welcome.” We have started promoting this as a social space, stressing the inaccessibility of most uni events as that is an issue that has been raised with us a fair bit. Hien wrote a statement for event Disability Pride that establishes our position on disability definitions, taking on the social model rather than the medical model. We have put this on our FB page, website and event descriptions to clarify for students who feel confused or alienated by the term “disability”.

We have contacted SEDS about the issue of wording on their website, and asked them if they would be willing to hand out pamphlets on the services we provide as a department to students who come in for special consideration. We also brought up the low attendance of the info workshop and the idea that we could collaborate on an online-based informational service. We received a positive response and organised a meeting for the 29<sup>th</sup>.

We’ve also changed our description of Disability Collective to include a theme, which is currently ‘Reading Nook’. We achieved this by bringing books by disabled authors and encouraging people to come and read them. We may run with this theme for the next two weeks while deciding on the next one, suggestions are welcome.

We have reached out to Goldie with questions about the possibility of going to cafes. Further discussion in ‘other buisness’.

**Budget Expenditure**

<b>Meeting Number</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Amount Passed</b>	<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	21/12/2017	Catering for Disability Collective	Up to \$50 a week	Collective	Spend \$46.50 on pizza from Prontos
1	21/12/2017	Catering for mental wellness collective	Up to \$50 a week	Collective	

**6. Other Reports**

## 7. Motions on Notice

### 7.1 Autism and Relationships

See office bearers report. Most speakers charge upwards of \$700 for an hour session, we would also like to provide catering and pay for promotional flyers and posters.

Motion: to pass up to \$900 from budget line 'Special Projects and Events' for promotion, catering, and speaker fees for this event.

Moved: Jacinta

Seconded: Russell

All in favour.

## 8. Motions without Notice

## 9. Other Business

### 9.1 Disability Collective Outings

Goldie has given us the all clear with going to the Ian Potter Museum (or any cafes on campus) during collectives. Things to keep in mind with this are privacy, catering, and venue accessibility. Potential benefits include the possible increase in interest from students and a refreshing collective experience.

Dannielle suggests repeated outings to one carefully chosen café in response to issues of accessibility.

Privacy issues discussed. Marketing – as a social outing or a space to share experiences.

Dannielle suggested a café called 'Toothpick' because it is not often busy, it's accessible, and it's across the street from the main campus but still on campus.

Jacinta suggested matching the theme to the location – sensitive topics in private rooms, whereas a more general topic like 'representation in Disney films' where people can engage with personal anecdotes or keep some distance if they prefer.

### 9.2 Collective Themes

We are currently running with the Reading Nook theme for Disability Collective. We have promoted this on our Facebook page and asked UMSU Book Club if they could pass on the event info to their members. We're hoping that the interest in reading books by disabled authors can act as a screen for people who would rather not disclose that they have a disability, but are also aware that increased promotion of collective as an open event could compromise its autonomy. For the next theme we are thinking of running discussions on the social model vs the medical model of disability. This is an important topic and might be a good entry point for students who are put off/unsure of the disability label.

### 9.2 CAPS

A few students have come to us about Counselling Services recent changes to their booking process, students are now unable to book more than a day in advance if they are new to CAPS or if they are trying to see a new counsellor. This is obviously an issue of serious concern for students with mental health problems, especially if they are in a crisis and/or need documentation from CAPS to get special consideration. This is a tricky issue because CAPS are struggling to function with the limited budget that they have, so approaching them about it is unlikely to work out, while approaching the university is not always affective. We have brought this up to Desiree as an issue to bring to up at the elected reps meeting tomorrow (18<sup>th</sup>). If we can talk to CAPS about potentially running a campaign to get them more funding, they may be happy to partner with us. However, we have been warned by others who have collaborated with CAPS in the past that they can shut down very quickly if they feel they could be threatened by Union actions.

NUS Disability Officer, Kayla, is coming to campus to discuss disability rights campaign.

**10. Next Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**11. Close: 2:28pm**