

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Education Committee

Agenda

2:30 Wednesday 30 May 2018

Meeting 8(18)

Location: OB Space Union House

**1. Procedural Matters**

1.1 Election of Chair

*Motion: That Daniel Beratis be elected chair*

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

1.3 Attendance

1.4 Apologies

1.5 Proxies

1.6 Membership

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

*Motion: To confirm the minutes of meeting 7(18)*

**3. Conflict of Interest Declarations**

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**5. Correspondence**

**6. Office Bearer Report**

*6.1 Education Academic*

*6.2 Education Public*

**7. Motions on Notice**

*7.1 Syndicate Flyers*

*7.2 Build a Better Budget Equipment*

*7.3 Study with Ed*

**8. Motions Without Notice**

**9. Other Business**

*9.1 Education Conference grant applications*

*9.2 Budget update*

**10. Next Meeting**

**11. Close**

## 6.1 Education Academic report

### SRN

The third meeting of the SRN took place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. We had pizza, and possibly the highest attendance of the year, as well as some really good discussion on assessment, the BA course review, and special consideration (amongst other things).

Common to both TALQAC and APC [and maybe others] was discussion of special consideration and academic misconduct. Both are connected through the Advocacy Quarterly Report, which we tabled, largely concerning misconduct arising from fraudulent medical certificates submitted with special consideration requests.

On special consideration, we have remained firm in trying to quash moves within Engineering and FBE to restrict access to special consid. on the basis of students “gaming” the system by applying, then not sitting the special consid exams after receiving their marks. We noted significant problems with the data that came out of Exams Subcommittee (which we have reported on before), and reiterated students’ entitlement to special consideration, and that there is no actual problem with students’ “gaming” conduct.

On Academic Misconduct, we have reiterated the importance of academics being trained, like student reps. We will continue to raise this at coming meetings, to put pressure on the University Secretary. Gregor Kennedy presented interesting data on the low attendance rate for lectures and general lack of engagement with lectures. He also reiterated the consistent ambivalence in the data as to the relationship between lecture recordings and attendance. The report has yet to be published, so will be reported on after its release.

In terms of meetings:

- SPC had an emergency meeting to consider the Bachelor of Health and new guaranteed pathways for high achieving high school students.
- TALQAC discussed special consideration, academic misconduct hearings, as well as the BA course review. The review had many problematic findings – such as the lower grades for international students, as well as the very high dropout rate in the BA Extended. We submitted that the latter should go to a working group, instead of simply go back for more data. We will see what comes of this, and might have to be firmer in checking on the progress of this. We will prepare a more detailed exec summary of the BA Course Review for the SRN for next meeting.
- APC considered effectively the same issues as TALQAC, as well as approved the Bachelor of Health, which is now dead.

### VCA

The form for VCA/MCM course standing committee representative on the SRN will be live before Council, and sets out the process for appointment. We hope to have this position filled by the end of June.

### Refugee Scholarship

We’ve been working with Conor and Reem to develop a plan for the University to provide a refugee scholarship. Watch this space.

### Stressless Week

We had a screening of Happy Feet that was quite well attended. Although there were some problems with the AV, we found a way around it and the screening went well.

## 6.2 Education Public Report

### Change the Rules rally & NTEU strike

A fair amount of time was spent in the previous couple of weeks since last council building for this—we did a bunch of lecture announcements and campaigned at both our own stalls and ones led by the NTEU. UMSU Education paid for the production of some flyers that were designed to have general information about industrial action and why it was being taken by NTEU members.

The strike itself on Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> had a decent turnout from students, despite a relatively early start—I guessed around 50 students were there, and this number grew after we actually got to Trades Hall for the change the rules rally. Overall, I was confident that students were at least aware that the strike was happening, and this will only improve as the bargaining process continues. Already there has been some progress made—as of the NTEU’s most recent update, the university have offered a revised proposal on academic workloads (including a tentative cap of 1725 hours of work a year, and

workloads to be “consistent with appropriate work-life balance, health and safety and the reasonable expectations of [a] position”). The NTEU continue to seek a similar guarantee for professional staff, but progress is still slow on the split agreement front, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and committing to intellectual freedom.

The NTEU’s next meeting will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, and this will be reported on at June’s council.

#### **NUS Budget Stunt at Liberal HQ**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, I attended a stunt in the CBD at Liberal Party HQ organised by the National Union of Students around higher education funding for tertiary education. The original plan was for this to be held at Derryn Hinch’s office in South Melbourne, but this was changed. The stunt was attended by around 30 students, of whom 6 were Melbourne University students.

#### **National Union of Students Build a Better Budget Campaign launch**

On Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, UMSU Education hosted the National Union of Students as they launched a campaign in opposition to some of the measures in the recently announced federal budget (as well as some suggestions for improvements), called the Build a Better Budget Campaign. Desiree spoke at this event on the importance of having a legislated minimum Student Services and Amenities Fee proportion to be distributed to democratically elected student organisations. We were also lucky enough to have Ged Kearney MP come in and speak about improvements in the budget required to have a more equitable society, especially in the context of 30 years of neoliberal policy in Australia.

#### **Asylum seeker & refugee scholarship**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, we (the Ed OBs) met with Desiree and Reem to discuss how we could move forward with getting the university to begin a scholarship program for refugee and asylum seeker students, as well as former refugees who do not have access to the HECS/HELP system or Commonwealth Supported Places. I’ve done a bit of preliminary research into what kinds of programs are offered by universities in Australia for refugee and asylum seeker students, and from now Reem and I will be collaborating to see what else we can dig up with regards to permanent residents who are of that background. Hopefully during the winter break we can draft some kind of research paper with the help of UMSU Advocacy to make it a bit more legitimate before presenting it to University management.

#### **Stress Less Week**

Education ran a screening of the Aussie classic *Happy Feet* in the student lounge on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. It was cute and there was lots of pizza but we were unable to stress less due to some pretty intense technical difficulties involving sound, which were eventually resolved when we borrowed a Bluetooth speaker from Welfare. Moral: don’t set up AV Melbourne equipment with the help of AV Melbourne.

### **7.1 Syndicate Flyers**

*Motion: To pass \$286 from the Printing budget line for flyers that were used to advertise Syndicate’s first collective meeting.*

### **7.2 Build a Better Budget Equipment**

*Motion: To pass \$54.54 from the CSP&E budget line to pay for the hire of a video camera, microphone stand for said camera, and lectern that were all used at the Build a Better Budget Campaign.*

### **7.3 Study with Ed**

*Motion: To pass up to \$400 from the CSP&E budget line to pay for food for Education Academic’s Study with Ed program, which is giving students space to study and food during Tuesdays during SWOTVAC and the exam period.*