

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Education Committee

Agenda

3:00 Thursday 12 July 2018

Meeting 9(18)

Location: OB Space Union House

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
Received from Emma Fazzino
- 1.5 Proxies
Proxy from Emma Fazzino to Jonas Larsen
- 1.6 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

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 Stop 1 Flyers

7.2 Cadmus campaign

7.3 Dookie

7.4 Burnley Trip Take 2

8. Motions Without Notice

9. Other Business

9.1 Education Conference grant reports

10. Next Meeting

11. Close

6.1 Education Academic report

Key Activity 1 – EEEDDDCCCCCOOOONNNN

EdCon registration was fairly uncontroversially processed, based on allocations at last committee. UMSU paid for 25 separate registrations, with one person rejecting their grant.

At EdCon, we ~~endured~~ enjoyed 3.5 excellent days of activist talks, workshops, plenaries, and informal chats about the future of higher education (including NUS President Mark Pace’s fascinating discussion on the impacts of higher education cuts, which modelling and research was produced partly through UMSU funding). Students’ Council has nothing on an EdCon plenaries, soz kids.

Alice and Desiree¹ presented on Cadmus, and generated some really strong ideas from both Melbourne and non-Melbourne students about how to build the campaign. This presentation was also a really good way to explain what Cadmus was to students from other campuses, which helps prevent the program sliding in under the radar in other campuses who’d otherwise be unaware. Many of the suggestions will be built into our planning for the relaunch of the Cadmus campaign for Semester 2.

Toby presented on Freedom of Information – how it works, and how to work it. The session was packed out, generated a lot of questions, and Toby promised many students assistance with their campaigns in the future (just another indication of how well EdCon builds solidarity and skills between campuses across the country).

We also attended conferences on everything from autonomous organising, building union density amongst students, the future of higher education, NUS Women’s upcoming campaigns on ending sexual assault on campus, and even “Economics without the Maths 2: Electric Boogaloo”.

We concluded the protest with an action outside Cristopher Pyne’s electorate HQ respecting his consistent, no-strings-attached funding for the military industrial complex as part of NUS’s new “Books not Bombs” campaign. There will be more planning and action on the corporatisation of, and military investment in, higher education in the coming weeks and months.

EdCon was a fantastic experience for all involved, and an excellent way for building activist skills amongst those attending. This isn’t just the presentations, but also the bonding, chats outside conference, and simply the opportunity to meet likeminded activists countrywide.

Key Activity 2 – SRN

Meeting four of the SRN was held on the Thursday 21st May. It was fairly small, with many people being apologies as out of the country or following exams. We reported back on common issues including TALQAC, APC, SPC, Academic Board, and also discussed procedural issues connected with our project to rewrite the SRN procedures and policy. For our reports on those committees, see the previous reports.

Since meeting four, APC met and discussed mainly bulk course approvals. It’s difficult to know the details of much of what passed since the meeting papers, when compiled, ran for 3000 papers. Toby spoke to possible means of improving this, and has foreshadowed a time to

¹ You should know this by now

meet with the Chair to discuss this and other issues about “hyper-competitive” course and assessment design (an issue we’ve started consistently raising, including in academic integrity working group). SPC met and discussed a whole lot of course changes, but a lot of it was deferred to the next meeting so stay tuned.

Academic Board has also met, and we discussed issues related to student satisfaction and the implementation of the recommendations of the Course and Subject Planning and Advising Taskforce. There are plans to increase student input into both reports and processes.

Key Activity 3 – SwotVac Stalls

These happened. Good, solid engagement, students love free snacks, and we were able to bring people up to Study with Ed when it was on at the same time and chat about assessment.

Key Activity 4 – Study with Ed

Also happened! Really good engagement, kids have been coming along and studying, we put some tunes on, and it’s been warm. Achieved its purposes admirably.

Key Activity 5 – Assessment During Swotvac

We’ve had a lot to get on with this one. After it became apparent how few students knew about this, and so many people were coming with reports of Swot-vac assessment, we promoted our reporting tool, and had to spend quite some time emailing academics about this.

We also had conversations at Committee meetings as noted above, about different ways to improve staff’s understanding of a pretty basic assessment timing rule.

Key Activity 6 – Refugee Scholarship

We had a small post-briefing which due to a mix up about dates (Carolyn Evans told us the scholarship was launching in July when she meant June), where particular features of the scholarship’s designed were explained. In particular, the University appears to be focusing on international refugees because they conceive Access Melbourne to be sufficient for PR’s or citizens. We don’t agree – but we’re going to discuss with PoC where to take this project in the coming months, and indeed years.

Key Activity 7 – Student Fees and Special Consideration

We had a meeting on Monday 9th July with Neil Robinson, Academic Registrar, and a dude named Evan from within student services. The meeting was very productive, detailing what the Uni is doing on special consideration, and provided a forum for us to give feedback on (i) documentary requirements, and (ii) dealing with students who require ongoing adjustments. On student fees, there was good movement on moving to an online transcript model to avoid fees for printed copies, although we still have concerns with multiple \$20 fees for access. On student cards, Robinson reiterated that there was movement on our FoI request, and indicated that that would provide us with the information that we were looking for.

Key Activity 8 – Cadmus and Academic Integrity Working Group

Desiree and Alice presented on Cadmus at EdCon (see Key Activity 1).

We also had an update on academic integrity with David Israel, Dick James and Gregor Kennedy. The classes subject to trials of Cadmus for Semester 2 aren’t finalised, we should hear when they are.

We also discussed fraudulent medical certificates (and the Uni’s work improving its website on this) and special consideration (on which point we have to consistently remind the Uni what special consideration is for and increased applications represent as much the shittiness of being a student as much as students “gaming the system”, a nasty presupposition).

Key Activity 9 – VCA

Hayley Edwards has preliminarily been appointed as UMSU’s nominee to the VCA/MCM Course Standing Committee, pending clarification on its terms of reference, meeting students, and other details.

Indeed, Toby, and Desiree² met with the Dean of the VCA Barry Conyngham to discuss these committees and student representation at VCA on a more ongoing basis, including potential mechanisms for recognising student involvement in UMSU within the course, as part of a range of strategies for boosting VCA engagement.

Key Activity 10 – Winterfest

We've decided we're probably not going to go ahead with the Human Library, since this looked like it may rub up against other host program initiatives and Winterfest events. Instead, we'll simply continue with our plan to work with the Library, run library tours, and have two stalls (between Ac and Ed) to support our ongoing campaigns. Some Facebook comms should be live as of Committee.

Key Activity 11 – Student Satisfaction Project

Alice met with Richard James and members of the GSA to discuss how to improve student satisfaction of University life. We are one of the worst in the Go8 for satisfaction in areas such as student support, so there is a project occurring over the coming months to implement small fixes improve student satisfaction.

6.2 Education Public Report

Syndicate relaunch with Welfare

A number of students involved in UMSU Education and UMSU Welfare have been involved in planning to relaunch UMSU's workers' rights collective, Syndicate, in Semester two. This time it will have a much closer working relationship with Welfare's Community Involvement Program, meaning that there will be a larger resource pool to draw on when planning events and actions. Our priority remains educating students about their rights in their workplace, and rectifying what we see as exploitation in a number of businesses in Union House. There will again be a particular focus on ensuring that international students are involved in this process.

NUS Education Conference

NUS Education conference took place from July 2 to July 5 at Flinders University, Adelaide. There were a number of students who received grants from the University that attended the conference, including UMSU's president and a number of office bearers from UMSU Education, Welfare and Women's departments. I presented a workshop on the final day of the conference with the title "Why students can't be apathetic on workers' rights," which covered themes including the decline of the manufacturing sector and hence the power of trade union movement in workplaces, the increase in jobs in small businesses in the service sector, what the consequences of this had been for students and young people as a whole, and which groups in society we should look to in order to get our fair share of pay. The next step for the Education officers will be ensuring that all grant recipients complete the required report by the due date. If this is not adhered to, then these students will not be able to access these grants.

7.1 Stop 1 Flyers

The person who for all intents and purposes is the head of Stop 1 has allowed us to make flyers that include the Stop 1 survey on the condition that we also advertise UMSU

² See above note.

events. These flyers will be good as it will allow us to be inside Stop 1 in a way we currently can't be, and they also advertise the new time of Education Collective. We cannot have posters as they have a "strict no poster rule".

Motion: To pass \$450 from the Printing budget line for flyers advertising the Stop 1 survey amongst other things.

7.2 Cadmus campaign

Cadmus is back and ready to go for a semester 2 trial in a range of undergraduate and postgraduate subjects. This is going to be a major project, so we need campaign funds! We want to buy flyers, rewards for volunteers, posters, money for FOI applications and Facebook advertising. We understand this is a lot at once, but we really need to get started and will keep you updated.

Motion: To pass \$1000 from the CSP&E budget line to pay for expenses related to the Cadmus campaign including but not limited to flyers, posters, FOI applications, rewards for volunteers, Facebook advertising.

7.3 Dookie

We are planning on making a trip up to Dookie during early Semester 2 because we want to do more to engage with our regional campuses. We are going to hear their issues and see what we can do in the future to support them and get UMSU services onto their campus. We are passing this money to provide lunch during our trip so we attract some students, as well as fuel reimbursement as Dookie is a six hour return trip.

Motion: To pass \$400 from the CSP&E budget line to pay for expenses related to the Dookie Trip, including food and fuel money.

7.4 The Burnley Trip take 2

Motion 4.12 passed \$50.82 for car hire to Burnley based on the invoice Toby had at the time for how much car hire to Burnley cost. The invoice was revised up very slightly, but our finance team couldn't process partial reimbursement, so rather than pass \$1.05 we can just repeal the original motion and pass a new one. The substantive merits of the expenditure remain as they were in the original motion.

Motion: That motion 12 of meeting 4 be repealed, and \$51.87 be moved from the CSP&E budget line to pay for car hire to Burnley on Friday 23rd March 2018.