



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Education Committee
4:00PM 17/07/2018
Petitioned Meeting – Meeting 9(18)
Location: OB Space, Union House

Meeting opened at 4:19pm.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1 That Conor Clements be elected Chair.

M: Conor Clements

S: Toby Silcock

Carried without dissent (“CWD”).

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

1.3. Attendance

Office-bearers: Conor Clements
Toby Silcock

Committee: Emma Fazzino (holding proxy for Jonas Larsen)
Annette Jacobsen
Mindi Suter
Elizabeth Tembo (by call)

1.4. Petition

Evidence of the petition is attached in Appendix D – Petition (below at page 12).

1.5. Apologies

Jonas Larsen, Alice Smith.

1.6. Proxies

Jonas Larsen proxied to Emma.

1.7. Membership

There was no change in membership.

1.8. Adoption of agenda

Motion 2 That the Agenda circulated at the meeting be adopted as presented.

M: Chair

Carried.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Confirmation of previous minutes deferred until next meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Not circulated.

4. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Conflicts Declared – the following committee members declared that their NUS Education Conference (“EdCon”) grant reports were to be considered at this meeting:

- Mindi
- Toby

Action taken: Toby stated that he would not speak to reports except in general terms.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence received.

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. Academic Affairs

Toby spoke to the report in Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report (below at page 7).

Discussion of EdCon was generally deferred to other business, under consideration of grant reports.

Emma asked about what worked with SwotVac stalls. Toby said that engagement was good, how quickly food went was an indicator of how important feeding hungry students is, and the difference between Arts students (who take free things) and Commerce students (who are highly suspicious). Conor wished it to be noted in the minutes that he hates students.

Also, what worked particularly well was lining up the stalls with Study with Ed, since some people came from the Stalls to Study with Ed, which led to better conversations about education. More co-ordination between events was recommended for next semester, if both go ahead.

6.2. Public Affairs

Conor spoke to the written report set out in Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report (below at page 10).

Conor spoke to the Syndicate relaunch, in Thursday of Week 2, and noted he looked forward to greater co-operation with Welfare, and using synergies between Welfare’s CIP and Syndicate to boost engagement in both.

The Committee generally discussed how it was positive that Syndicate was relaunching, given consistent media attention on underpayment. For example, Emma noted how more media publicity there had been of underpayment in hospitality, and how this may lead to more engagement with Syndicate. Conor agreed, speaking to ACTU and Young Workers’ Centre (“YWC”) work on this issue.

Mindi spoke particularly to the work of YWC and Hospo Voice, and thought it was positive that, although working with Welfare, Syndicate was being launched from the Education department, to give this a whole-of-union focus.

Mindi asked what events were planned. Conor said that prior plans had been for “progressive” education (building on past sessions), but then said (with Committee agreeing) that this would disadvantage students who hadn’t come to past events and may feel excluded.

Mindi also spoke to the NUS Books not Bombs UniMelb campaign launch which EdPub is helping co-ordinate, which is upcoming, and recommended the Committee as well as OB’s attend.

Motion 3 That the Office Bearer reports be accepted en bloc.

M: Chair

CWD.

7. Motions on Notice

7.1. Stop 1 Flyers

Preamble

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 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".

Discussion

Toby elaborated on how the flyers were to be handed out, and why it was good that, for the first time, UMSU had been given access to Stop 1 directly (indeed, Stop 1 was actually handing out UMSU merch) because of Ed department pressure. Committee was generally of the opinion that they were a good idea. Emma said that people had problems with Stop 1, and that this was a solution.

Motion 4 That \$450 be passed from the Printing budget line for flyers advertising the Stop 1 survey amongst other things.

M: Toby

S: Emma

CWD.

7.2. Cadmus campaign

Preamble

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.

Discussion

Emma thought it a good idea for Committee to clarify the basic objective of the campaign. All were clear that this was for the Cadmus project to be shut down – this was both the only tactical approach (as Toby described, because it strengthened our bargaining position), as well as principled approach (as Mindi noted).

Toby discussed the heads of expenditure in more detail. He noted that Ed was planning to lodge an FoI into the costs of the original trials, which would incur funds. He noted that this would also cover Facebook advertising, further flyers, poster printing, and incentives for people doing the survey. Committee was generally content with this. Toby reiterated that the OB's were committed to keeping Committee fully updated on the campaign's progress throughout the semester.

Annette asked what the "vibe" was amongst academics on Cadmus. Toby said that, whilst "higher" academics, such as those on Academic Board, were generally interested, they were also interested in alternatives to Cadmus, and had seemed to engage with the concerns of students. More "on the ground" staff however, according to NTEU representations, would likely be more sceptical (indeed, the NTEU stated they thought it would be difficult to convince most staff to use the program).

Annette also asked what the "vibe" had been from students. Toby reiterated that, amongst almost all students, once they were explained to what Cadmus

was, they thought it was creepy and fucked. He explained that this was the reason why much of the campaign was “poisoning” the Cadmus brand in advance should students be directed to use the program.

Emma also stated it was critical for the OB’s to document expenditure in detail.

Motion 5 That \$1,000 be passed from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events (“CSP&E”) budget line to pay for expenses related to the Cadmus campaign including but not limited to flyers, posters, Fol applications, rewards for volunteers, Facebook advertising.

M: Chair

CWD.

7.3. Dookie

Preamble

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.

Discussion

Emma and Annette were interested in more detail on the \$400 proposed allocation – what it would be used for. Toby detailed that it was better to over-rather than under-budget, since unforeseen food costs, set up or equipment hire costs, or even car hire (if we don’t get access to a car) could quickly accumulate, and it was better to have money unspent than not be able to spend necessary money. Toby said it would almost certainly not be all spent. Mindi indicated it was better to be safe than sorry rather than “cut down” the cost.

Emma asked whether this had been planned as a whole of union event. Toby said it had initially been planned as this, but had kept getting deferred, and the more people came the longer it was getting pushed back and the more difficult it became to organise. Since it was primarily an Education issue, we decided just to do it ourselves.

Emma wanted us to make sure students there knew we were coming. Toby said it was on us to book it on a day when students were in fact studying on campus. Committee discussed the importance of promotion, not just general Facebook or email promotion, but also getting in touch with any representative groups and posting in student newsletters or Facebook groups if they existed (Annette specifically asked if either existed, but no-one knew).

Mindi also wanted it noted that a friend had a lovely dog called Dookie, named after where it was found.

Motion 6 That \$400 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to pay for expenses related to the Dookie Trip, including food and fuel money.

M: Chair

CWD.

7.4. The Burnley Trip take 2

Preamble

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 original expenditure remain as they were in the original motion.

Discussion

Apart from some brief clarification of the mechanics of the motion, Committee just wanted this to pass.

Motion 7 That motion 12 of meeting 4(18) 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.

M: Toby

S: Annette

CWD.

8. Motions without Notice

None.

9. Other Business

9.1. Education Conference Grant Reports

Committee were provided with copies of all Reports provided by grant recipients, as contemplated by the Travel & Conferences policy (which are not attached here for reasons of confidentiality).

Emma asked for more information about how useful the conference had proved. Toby noted that the reports themselves were required to detail the skills and usefulness of the Conference to recipients, and Conor and Toby otherwise spoke to the presentations conducted by OB's (namely one of Fol's, one on union solidarity, and another on the Cadmus campaign), all of which were useful in both promoting the work of the department to a wide range of non-Unimelb students, as well as getting interesting and different feedback for planning our own advocacy and campaigns here.

Mindi also noted that the conference was useful for general activism skills (eg, the Cadmus presentation), planning for Books not Bombs and other campaigns, discussion of the Women's National Campaign on sexual violence (which Conor spoke to the importance of Committee members attending), as well as general skills such as public speaking, standing up, and so on.

Conor also proposed bracketing off all or part of the first Ed Collective for semester 2 for discussion of EdCon, which was generally found interesting.

There was significant discussion of how to process the volume of Reports then presented to the Committee. Committee members were generally minded, on viewing the Reports, to accept them as satisfactory en bloc.

Conor raised some concerns with some reports, particularly those of two attendees whose accommodation expenditure appeared to exceed the grant approval. He also noted that it would be necessary to look at expenditure to make sure accommodation, for example, was only respecting the actual days of the conference (namely, Sunday through Thursday).

In the event, Committee determined that it trusted the Ed Ob's to process the reports within the terms of the Travel and Conferences policy. Toby spoke to the difference between accepting the content of the reports detailing skills and experience gained, and accepting the expenditure, and reinforced that both Committee and the OB's were bound at all times to act consistently with the terms of the Travel and Conferences Policy.

For prudence, in the event Committee resolved to accept the reports en bloc, but impose a duty on the OB's to report in detail on processing expenditure detailed in the received reports (including particularly any items of expenditure that they did not believe were within the terms of the Travel and Conferences policy, or would only be partially reimbursed thereunder). Committee members

also resolved to consider the reports in more detail out of Committee, and bring any issues to the next meeting should there be any. Toby proposed a motion in these terms.

Motion 8 That the EdCon reports provided to the Education Office Bearers at the time of this meeting, and made available to the Committee, be deemed en bloc as acceptable to the Committee, and reimbursements of authorised expenditure be approved subject strictly to the terms of the Travel and Conferences Policy, subject to the Office Bearers documenting any problems, issues, or concerns respecting items of expenditure reasonably deemed not authorised, or authorised only in part, by that Policy and bringing such problems, issues or concerns to the next meeting of this Committee, and subject also to Committee members resolving to bring any issues with these reports to the next meeting for discussion.

M: Toby

S: Emma

Carried.

10. Next Meeting

Toby noted that we were moving into scheduled meetings for semester 2, and noted that a WhenisGood would be sent through shortly to determine semester 2 availabilities. The next meeting would be called in due course.

Emma asked about when this Committee was dissolved, and what happened if members graduated before their term ended. Toby indicated that it was likely they would be required to resign (or deemed to have resigned) and the ticket registrar would appoint a replacement, but said Committee would cross this bridge when it came to it.

Meeting closed at 5:24 pm.

Appendix A – 3.1 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 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

¹ You should know this by now.

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 design 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 Fol 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.

² See above note.

Appendix B – 3.2 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.

Appendix C – Motions Passed

| Motion # | Motion | Mover | Second | Result |
|----------|--|-------|--------|---------|
| Motion 1 | That Conor Clements be elected Chair. | Conor | Toby | CWD |
| Motion 2 | That the Agenda circulated at the meeting be adopted as presented. | Chair | | CWD |
| Motion 3 | That the Office Bearer reports be accepted en bloc. | Chair | | Carried |
| Motion 4 | That \$450 be passed from the Printing budget line for flyers advertising the Stop 1 survey amongst other things. | Toby | Mindi | CWD |
| Motion 5 | That \$1,000 be passed from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events (“CSP&E”) budget line to pay for expenses related to the Cadmus campaign including but not limited to flyers, posters, Fol applications, rewards for volunteers, Facebook advertising. | Chair | | CWD |
| Motion 6 | That \$400 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to pay for expenses related to the Dookie Trip, including food and fuel money. | Chair | | CWD |
| Motion 7 | That motion 12 of meeting 4(18) be repealed, and \$51.87 be moved from the CSP&E budget line to pay for car hire to Burnley on Friday 23 rd March 2018. | Toby | Mindi | Carried |
| Motion 8 | That the EdCon reports provided to the Education Office Bearers at the time of this meeting, and made available to the Committee, be deemed en bloc as acceptable to the Committee, and reimbursements of authorised expenditure be approved subject strictly to the terms of the Travel and Conferences Policy, subject to the Office Bearers documenting any problems, issues, or concerns respecting items of expenditure reasonably deemed not authorised, or authorised only in part, by that Policy and bringing such problems, issues or concerns to the next meeting of this Committee, and subject also to Committee members resolving to bring any issues with these reports to the next meeting for discussion. | Toby | Emma | CWD |

Appendix D – Petition

We, the undersigned members, petition for Education Committee to meet on 17/7/2018, at 4PM, with the attached agenda.

Name: Melinda Suter Signed: 

Name: Emma Fazzino Signed: 

Name: Annette Jacobsen Signed: 

Name: Signed:

Name: Signed:

Name: Signed:

Name: Signed: