



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Education Committee

Agenda

3:00PM 02/08/2018

Meeting 11(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

Jonas Larsen.

- 1.5. Proxies
- 1.6. Membership

No change in membership.

- 1.7. Adoption of agenda

Motion 1 That the agenda circulated at this Meeting be adopted as presented.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

This Committee needs to do some minutes surgery. We mistakenly called a meeting on ANZAC day, but then held a replacement meeting the day before it. To make matters worse, we've numbered the meeting *before* the ANZAC meeting as the meeting *after* it, so it's screwed up some numbering. Let's fix this, so Beratis can sleep easy at night.

This meeting will also confirm all Minutes prepared but as yet unconfirmed.

Motion 2 That the minutes circulated with this agenda marked as those of meetings 5(18) and 6(18) be acknowledged as a true and accurate record of the events of those respective meetings, notwithstanding any prior motions of this Committee.

M: Toby Silcock

S:

Motion 3 That the minutes of meetings 7(18), 8(18), 9(18) and 10(18) circulated with this Agenda be acknowledged as a true and accurate record of the events of those respective meetings.

M: Toby Silcock

S:

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Conflict of Interest Declarations

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. Academic Affairs

See Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report.

Motion 4 That the Education Academic report be accepted.

6.2. Public Affairs

See Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report.

Motion 5 That the Education Public report be accepted.

7. Other Reports

8. Motions on Notice

None.

9. Motions without Notice

10. Other Business

10.1. Education Conference Reports

Education Conference grant recipient reports have been circulated for consideration.

10.2. Education Budget

Budget documents have been circulated with this Agenda.

11. Next meeting

11.1. Future Meetings

A schedule of future meetings will be discussed.

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
12(18)	13 th August	4:00 pm	OB Space, Union House

12. Close Meeting

Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report

Winterfest

WinterFest happened. There was little take-up of our tours with Rowden White library, mainly because of poor sync-up with Host Tours – the Hosts knew about the tours, but largely did their own thing. Thankfully this hadn't involved much money investment, so little was lost in planning, but a worthy experiment.

Otherwise, our stalls (EdAc upstairs, EdPub downstairs) had really good engagement. We ran out of totes and stress balls. We had heaps of conversations about Cadmus, and added heaps of new signatures to the petitions, and promoting the hell out of Ed Collective and the Stop1 survey. As far as mid year O-Weeks go, this one really worked – in our humble opinion, the inside design seemed to attract more people, so generally a success.

EdCon Grants

Many Grants remain to be processed for reimbursement, but this will be underway before next Committee. Most simply are waiting for kids to provide BSB and Acc, there are a few issues with some but they're fairly minor.

Lecture Recordings

The beginning of semester is an excellent time to promote our new online reporting tool for unrecorded lectures. This always gets particularly good engagement – although we promote the post, the vast majority of reach is organic, from people tagging their friends in the post and clicking through to the link. Toby can report on how this is going – once the promotion is finished, we'll go to Committee for reimbursement for the (very small) cost of FB promotion.

Concerning lecture recordings for Law, Toby had a meeting from Anna Chapman from Law (the Assistant Dean in charge of the JD). There is little appetite within Faculty to revise the Law School's "class" recording policy, so pressure will have to come from outside. A letter to Academic Board has been drafted, and we're currently engaging with other stakeholders (specifically the LSS and GSA) that we need to consult with before dropping this and building a proper campaign. In the mean time, we're getting names.

Ed Collective

Collectives are now Weekly, so the first was on the day this report was due. Engagement has definitely boosted, and it was very well-attended. Good discussions, good vibes, good pizza. As directed by Committee, discussion focused on how we build on what went on at NUS EdCon for this semester.

Weekly Stall

We now have a standing booking (with some exceptions for some weeks) at the Farmers' Market for our Weekly Ed Stall. The new location boosted engagement significantly, and we got some folks into Ed Collective because of it.

This stall had a focus on the Rally Against Sexual Violence. We collaborated with Womens' to that effect, flyering and covering the stall with posters. Engagement was great on this front, both discussions about the rally and about the issue generally.

Dookie Trip Planning

We're in the process of working out who we can and should speak to when we're down there as well as what materials to bring, and the logistics of making it happen. It's a bit of an experiment since no-ones been to that campus in years, but it's going to be a fun day trip. We'll report on this for next Council.

Indeed, we've heard from some of the kids that the day we've picked is a good one, so we'll let you know how it goes at next Committee!

Right to Representation

A lot of background work has been done trying to fix how we're appointed to committees, which is often underwhelming. UMSU is recognised as the peak representative organisation for all students, but we're often not given a seat at the table where actual decisions are being made, rather than being included after the fact for mere "consultation" or managing student expectations. So we're starting to do work speaking to various Secretaries to clarify best practice about appointing UMSU reps on committees, and making sure students are properly, collectively represented in University decision-making.

We're looking to meeting up with the Academic Secretary shortly, and are trying to get access to the University Council secretary too. This is a long, weird, and very hairy battle, but we'll see how we go. Stay tuned.

Hyper-competitive Assessments and Commerce Hurdles

An argument Education has been making in the context of special consideration and fraudulent medical certificates, in light of Commerce's decision to introduce compulsory hurdles for all assessments, is the nasty role of high weighted exams, competitive grading, and hurdles in jacking up students' anxiety and contributing to a sense of competitiveness, hostility, anxiety, and poor equity outcomes in the student population.

We've been raising the need to investigate the extent of "hyper-competitive assessment design" in a few committees, and we're having meetings with the chairs of TALQAC and APC about a possible working group or report into this issue to investigate the relationship between assessment design and student stress. Neil Robinson has indicated that Uni Services would be keen to help with the data on that. Anecdotally, they noted a direct relationship between commerce hurdles and applications for Special Consideration...

...so we're planning to do some work building a campaign on this issue in the coming months. Student anxiety in commerce has definitely become a more serious issue, and since the decision to make all assessment a hurdle was made without consultation, from we can tell, we're keen to overturn it and build a more equity-focused approach to assessment design. Again, watch this space.

Toby met with the chair of TALQAC, Ian Malkin, on the Monday before Committee to discuss this. It might turn into a "High-Stakes Assessment" project out of the APC Assessment sub-committee, but Toby's also got some names of people in the Uni who've done work on the relationship between this kind of assessment and student well-being. So we'll see where this goes.

VCA Committees

We've secured four new spots for UMSU representatives on key executive committees in the VCA, namely Teaching and Learning, OH&S, Research, and Diversity and Inclusion. This will be really good at building UMSU engagement with the VCA campus, a key focus of our department over the last few months, and which has been kicking off at the same time as our new Co-ordinator has been appointed (LILY! HAI!).

We'll be re-opening an application form in the coming month to fill the remaining 3 spots, since we've already allocated one spot to our existing nominee (noted last report).

NTEU Collaboration

On the Wednesday prior to Council, the NTEU voted for strikes during August should the University not make significant improvements in its offers by the Friday prior to Council (the day after this report was prepared).

We met with Lisbeth from the NTEU, and offered support for any open day action, as well as support through our media channels. Education Public will be doing more in this space over the coming weeks.

We also are planning to work with them on Cadmus and Flexap. For the former, building on the ground opposition will be really helpful (sharing materials and info), and on Flexap understanding staff concerns. Their time has been understandably spent on bargaining, but they're happy to share resources and provide feedback.

New LMS Project

We've had endless meetings on this, which is great for feedback. The tender process is coming up, so we'll get to give feedback on the presentations from new potential LMS providers. But we don't get to make any actual decisions, since apparently academics can understand the needs of students (so apparently we should just resign, since we don't have any work to do any more in the University, whoops).

But, the project's on hold until August, so we won't have fortnightly meetings at 10am to let us know what's happening.

Special Consideration and Punitive Student Fees

We had a meeting with Neil Robinson and Evan from Student Services on this. The key conclusions: Special consideration applications are tracking enrolment (that is, they're not going up proportionally);

- They can basically handle the volume of applications fine;
- They have concerns about managing people who need ongoing special adjustments given policy and system problems, which they're keen to work with us on;
- They're processing our FoI on punitive student fees, and
- They're happy to work with us on continually lowering the access fees for the new digital transcripts we've been talking to them about, which are now a thing.

Student Data Working Group

This Group is now a thing. We've determined that the first meeting must be held before the 10th of August, so we'll call it with 7 days' notice through our channels and through the Secretariat. We're planning what to bring to the first meeting now. Get on it!

Governance Review

Toby has been appointed the OB rep on the Governance Review Project Reference Group. This means a bit of time will be spent working that project through. Council will hear more about this through its normal reporting channels, but it means that Toby will have a bit of a time commitment on this group.

OB Lyf: Files not Piles + Desky McDeskface

The Files and Cabinet are purchased. We've accumulated a lot of papers since we were in office, so we've launched a Files not Piles campaign. That means we got a filing cabinet second-hand from the uni for free and also are cleaning our office out. It came pre-loaded with files and weirdly thousands of plastic bags marked "Melbourne Pro Fitness". Please take one, we don't want them. We're in wonderful shape.

We also now have a table – Desky McDeskface – so if people need a place to study, we have Wifi, a table, 3 heaters, and 3 helpful Ed OB's who can help you and offer you post-Collective pizza leftovers. It's been the EdAc desks and the desk of some guy named Conner who comes in sometimes to do his assignments and then goes to Karate or band practice.

Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report

It's been a busy start to the semester for Education Public, but I've been very happy with the level of engagement at this stage of the semester.

O-week/Winterfest shenanigans

As a counterpart to Education Academic's stall up on level 2 of Union House, we had a stall in the Grand Buffet Hall along with the majority of UMSU departments. It was much busier than we anticipated that it would be, which proved to be a really positive thing. We got a heap of sign-ups for our soon-to-be-active mailing list; so many, in fact, that we are still entering the data for them. Data entry has been making me wince at the idea of a time before digital record keeping was a thing, but we got rid of all of our merch that we purchased at the beginning of the year for Summerfest, which is good because a) it's not clogging up our office anymore and b) it means we didn't end up wasting any of it. We'd potentially be wanting to look at getting some more bags in the future depending on if we have ideas for it.

Syndicate

Our workers' rights collective is relaunching on Thursday 2nd of August! We'll be having a similar event to our last launch event (i.e. it'll be at the Ida) but this time we want to emphasise the chats about unionism and workers' rights to a higher degree—this was lacking somewhat last time.

As discussed at our last committee, our structure this semester is going to be focused on more of a series of stand-alone workshops, which will be aimed at educating students about how they can secure that they are not being exploited in their casual working exploits (ha).

Our first major event is going ahead in conjunction with the University as a part of their Employability Matters week (6-10 August). The event in question, which will be happening from 1:15-3:15 on the 6th, will be split into three separate events, although the main focus will be the same throughout. The reason we're presenting it like this is that it will hopefully encourage students to come along to all three segments, instead of being faced with the prospect of one two-hour workshop.

The first section will be given by an immigration law expert—the event is targeted at international students, so this will be going over things to do with visa requirements and the like. I personally know very little about this field, but we've been made aware this is a strong incentive for international students to come along, so hopefully this will get us an audience. The next step will be getting an employment law expert in—we potentially have someone lined up for this from the Melbourne Law School, who incidentally is a Mandarin speaker. The third part of this presentation will be with Matt Kunkel of the recently established Migrant Workers' Centre! This is a body operating out of Trades Hall, like the Young Workers' Centre, and they will act in a similar way, i.e. as an advocacy body for migrant workers offering legal advice and the like.

Workers' Rights booklet

I first flagged this a long time ago, but it looks like things are starting to get moving once again on it! Quotes are yet to be finalised, and we will be trying to pass money to fund this booklet through Students Council as it is a whole of union issue (rather than just education and welfare), but a tentative idea of how much it may cost for UMSU's end (minus printing costs) is \$2100.