



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Education Committee

3:30PM 24/04/2018

Meeting 5(18)

Location: OB Space, Union House

Meeting opened at 3:38

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Toby be elected chair.

M: Toby

S: Alice

CWD

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

1.3 Attendance

Alice, Conor, Toby, Mindi, Annette, Emma, Dom, Elizabeth, Milly (Observer)

1.4 Apologies

1.5 Membership

1.6 Adoption of agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented

M: Chair

CWD

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: That the minutes circulated with the agenda be acknowledged as being a true and accurate representation of the events of Education Committee 4(18) and of Education Committee 5(18).

Amendment: That the minutes be noted as accurate except meeting on the 10/4 read at meeting 5, instead of meeting 4.

M: Chair

CWD

3. Office Bearer Report

3.1 Academic Affairs (see Appendix 1)

Alice noted that there would be iPads at the Education Stalls run weekly in order to distribute the Stop 1 survey. She also mentioned that there had already been about 20 responses.

Mindi asked if it were possible to run the petition at Stop 1. Alice responded that this would be attempted later in the semester, when Stop 1 would be more busy, and that this would be closer to the survey's close. Toby and Alice both mentioned that this would probably be the best time for Stop 1's service.

Alice mentioned that the LMS survey had around 7000 responses; when asked by Mindi as to how this occurred, Alice responded that it was due to the fact that the survey's creators had convinced chancellery to circulate an email to everyone on their list.

Elizabeth asked if a similar thing was achievable for the Stop 1 survey. Alice responded that this would be incredibly unlikely, but Toby said that we would be able to use both the AGM and Farrago as a way to spread word. He also mentioned that there was a good chance for a high response rate at VCA.

Mindi mentioned that this survey would potentially be able to be set up at a Socialist Alternative stall as well.

Toby spoke to the Burnley library issue, mentioning that Paul Duldig and Neil Robinson had continued the line of the changes increasing accessibility to the collections. He also mentioned that a meeting with Donna McRostie indicated that the decision to make the changes was not as set in stone as we may have originally thought.

Alice and Toby mentioned that they were doing more organising down at VCA as well.

Regarding the refugee scholarship, Toby mentioned that this was a venture being undertaken at other universities, and Alice spoke about the process at Academic Board and Selection Procedures Committee that would lead to the creation of the scholarship. Mindi noted that given the university's positive approach to this idea, the Education department should publicise it to students more so as to help speed things along with its creation, and that it was positive that there was such a good response from university management.

Milly asked if this would be something that could be taken to council. Mindi noted that this would be a good approach to take, even if it were just a motion showing support from UMSU for the idea.

Alice noted that Ed Ac had been providing support to Ed Pub, not to themselves, as originally indicated. Toby disclosed that he is an NTEU member.

Regarding SRN, Alice said that the Bachelor of Arts course review was discussed, and that this would be discussed at the next TALQAC meeting. Alice mentioned that the Bachelor of Arts (Extended) course was also reviewed. Toby said this would be discussed further at future meetings, as it would be a topic that would come up at a number of university board meetings in upcoming weeks. Alice and Toby also brought up the potential suggestion raised at exams subcommittee (from Academic Programs Committee) to film people as they take exams. Annette mentioned that her mother had experienced this. Toby noted apparent discontent among academics for this change, and that he desired to ensure that data collection would be fully disclosed in the event that things similar to this would go forward.

With regards to special consideration, Alice mentioned that they had organised to meet with Neil Robinson in the immediate future, once he was back from his journey.

Toby claimed to have had only two lollipops from the 1000 we originally had. Mindi requested that this be minuted.

Toby noted that weekly stalls would hopefully soon be happening at VCA and Dookie campuses.

Regarding punitive student fees, Toby mentioned a recent meeting where Elizabeth Capp claimed that they are benchmarked against other universities around the country, but upon investigation he had found this to be wrong. This will be taken to Business Intelligence Committee next week.

For Stress Less Week, Alice talked about her bargain-finding abilities, and that we would only be spending \$20 to screen *Happy Feet*, instead of the \$400 originally thought.

3.2 Public Affairs (see Appendix 2)

Conor spoke to the support the department is providing to the NTEU, including assisting with stalls. There will be a EAG/Syndicate event next Tuesday to discuss how to support the NTEU if/when they go on strike. Conor has also prepared materials to explain to students why they should care and how they can support NTEU members as the go on strike. Mindi thought the steps being taken by the department were positive. Toby and Conor talked about the forms of action that the staff may take.

Syndicate event happened, small groups talked to group from Hospo Voice, and the committee discussed their snap action outside Barry in Northcote this morning. The FOI that was submitted surrounding the businesses in Union House, but they are refusing to hand over the six documents that were found. Also found out through over channels that some workers in Union House are earning as low as \$11-12 an hour.

4. Motions on notice

5. Motions not on notice

Motion 3: To accept the OB Reports en bloc.

M: Chair.

CWD

5.1: Lollipops

Motion 4: To pass \$200 from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to replace the lollipops for education stalls.

Lollipops! Alice argued in favour for expenditure, stating that having lollipops was a good way to ensure engagement at education stalls. Annette asked if they were used at O-Week as well, which Alice confirmed. Alice promised to bring some at the next meeting.

M: Alice

S: Elizabeth

CWD

Annette mentioned that she would not be present at the next meeting, and that her lollipop could be proxied to someone else.

5.2: Stress Less Week

Alice mentioned that this would be passed as a backup in the case that the money was not passed at council on Thursday 26/4.

M: Alice

S: Elizabeth

Carried (Abstention from Dom)

6. Other business

6.1 Education Department expenditure to date

Toby (verbally) confirmed that the only money spent was on the pizzas and drinks for Education Collective.

7. Next meeting

May 8 2:00pm OB Space Union House

8. Close Meeting

Closed at 4:21PM.

Appendix 1 – 3.1 Education Academic Report

Stop 1 and Academic Services

The survey created to inform our Stop 1 campaign should have been launched the day before this meeting, after a long delay in the eomms surrounding the survey. As passed at the previous committee meeting this survey will be advertised heavily on social media and possibly will utilise volunteers to get students to fill it out while in line at UMSU events such as BBQs and Welfare Breakfasts.

This will inform a report to university management and a campaign to fix Stop 1. This could be linked into the MYEFO cuts and any cuts to higher education funding that come up in the budget, as when uni funding is cut often the first thing to be affected is student services.

Meeting on LMS

The survey about what students think of the current LMS will have shut by the time of the meeting, but one week into the survey there were over 7000 responses which is more than 10% of the student population. We will continue to meet with the team involved on this project throughout the selection of a new LMS provider.

Burnley

Since last committee meeting we have held meetings with Paul Duldig (Head of University Services) and Neil Robinson (Academic Registrar), as well as a meeting with Donna McCaskill (Head of Library Services). The cuts to staffed library hours are being framed as an increase in library accessibility for students, as the library will be open longer hours.

Refugee Scholarship

Both EdAc and EdPub are investigating how the University could provide a scholarship for refugees or persons that have come to Australia on temporary protection Visas. This is a common thing in many Universities, but Unimelb doesn't do this.

Watch this space!

NTEU

The NTEU is voting to go on strike. EdAc has been providing minor support to EdAc, running solidarity actions, helping with posterage, and so on (disclosure: Toby is an NTEU member, so has been doing more on this than Alice on this).

SRN

There was a SRN meeting about two hours before this committee meeting (next Tuesday, at the time of writing), so we will provide a verbal report. This can also be addressed in or next report. We have also received the full Bachelor of Arts course review which makes for

interesting reading. This will arise at TALQAC and so will be subject to reports to both Council and the SRN.

Toby also had a meeting of the Exams Sub-committee, which considered problems with the University's tool for exams for online-only subjects (it records you throughout, and it's provided by a third party, raising a lot of data and privacy issues); and students' use of special consideration, specifically students not showing for special exams after receiving their grades (which the data doesn't show as a problem, and academics have different opinions on).

Special Consideration

We have a meeting with Neil Robinson to discuss changes to the current special consideration procedures to make it more accessible to students. This also arose at Exams Subcommittee. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Weekly Stall

The next few stalls will focus on heavily pushing the Stop 1 survey. We have also run out of lollipops (that's 1000 eaten by students at stalls and who have visited the office over about 7 weeks).

Education Road Trips

We're also planning to take our Weekly Stall to VCA and Dookie (separately). Both are problematic to organise in their own way, VCA because of construction and different booking arrangements, and Dookie because it's like 3 hours away.

Punitive Student Fees

We asked about punitive fees at our Elected Reps meeting, and were told by Elizabeth Capp that student card and transcript costs are benchmarked against the costs at other universities. However, after some digging by Toby we found we have the most expensive student cards in the country. We have requested information from the Business Intelligence team at the uni and have a meeting later this week to discuss.

Stressless Week

For Stressless Week we are showing movies in the evenings with food. This will allow us to get students to fill in the Stop 1 survey as they wait and allow students to destress before exams.

VCA

Toby's lined up another meeting with the head of student engagement, also with Welfare attending. He's also still chasing up the Assistant Deans of Teaching and Learning, who refuse to respond

OB Lyf

We have six bottles of expired juice in the office from the Ida, that we haven't been brave enough to open yet. They have bits in them, but they could be meant to have bits in them.

Appendix 2 – 3.2 Education Public Report

Not heaps has happened in the past couple of weeks, one of which I was away for due to being on an internship in Western Australia.

NTEU Campaign update

So! Big things are happening here. The past couple of weeks have been us watching the NTEU organising members to vote yes in their Protected Action Ballot. Here's a brief run-down of what's happened:

- The NTEU are running a protected action ballot on a range of options for taking industrial action.
- This comes as the university continue to try to force a split enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA) on university staff. This would see academic and professional staff be subject to very different working conditions and likely further contribute to the already extremely toxic culture in university management of casualising huge swathes of university staff.
- They are in the process of campaigning to get members to vote yes in the ballot. It's being conducted online.

This is where we come in! It's our duty to support the NTEU, so expect to see an EAG soon in relation to this issue.

In the meantime, we're going to be running stalls engaging with students about this issue – it's important that as many people understand why we should be supporting industrial action as possible, lest we end up with a situation where the university are able to demonise staff and have students be manipulated into thinking in the same way. We'll also be helping with calls to NTEU members (of whom there are around 1600) in order to make sure that all of their members are voting yes, or at least voting, as one of the requirements for the PAB's proposed action taking place is that it be decided on by at least half the members.

Syndicate event for employability matters week

Attendance was unfortunately pretty low for this event, due to issues I had in advertising it (namely, thinking I had made a Facebook event when I hadn't). We had Shaun Thatcher and Jess Browning from Hospo Voice come in to talk about issues related to working in hospitality while studying. Timing for this event was pertinent, as the Young Workers Centre continue with their recently launched campaign to criminalise wage theft in Victoria and the ACTU's Change The Rules campaign continues to gain momentum.