

<p><b>University of Melbourne Student Union</b> <b>Meeting of the Education Committee</b> <b>2:30PM 08/05/2018</b> <b>Meeting 7(18)</b> <b>Location: OB Space, Union House</b></p>	
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Meeting opened at 2:42pm.

## 1. Procedural Matters

### 1.1. Election of Chair

**Motion 1** That Alice Smith be elected chair.

M: Alice Smith

S: Toby Silcock

CWD

### 1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

### 1.3. Attendance

Office-bearers: Conor Clements

Alice Smith

Toby Silcock

Committee: Ru Bee Chung

Dominic Ilagan (also holding proxy from Elizabeth Tembo)

Joshua Bruni (proxy from Annette Jacobsen)

Mindi Suter

Emma Fazzino

Jonas Larsen (from 2:59pm).

Others: Noni Bridger

Molly Willmott

### 1.4. Apologies

Apologies were received from Elizabeth Tembo (proxying to Dominic) and Annette Jacobsen (proxying to Joshua Bruni).

### 1.5. Membership

There was no change in membership.

### 1.6. Adoption of agenda

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

M: Chair

Carried without dissent ("CWD").

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Motion 3** That Motion 3 on notice be amended to say "record" instead of "recording".

M: Chair

Carried (Mindi abstaining).

**Motion 4** As amended, that the minutes circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of meeting 6(18).

M: Chair

Carried.

### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arose from the minutes.

### 4. Correspondence

#### 4.1. Freedom of Information Decision letter.

Conor spoke to the letter circulated with notice of the meeting, and although the campaign on businesses in Union House was still progressing, it's unlikely to be challenged.

Mindi discussed the campaign generally, and suggested other means of pressuring businesses to comply with workplace laws, such as public stickers of compliance.

Conor noted this, and spoke to the role both Welfare and Syndicate are playing on this campaign.

**Motion 5** That the correspondence be noted.

M: Chair

CWD.

### 5. Office Bearer Reports

#### 5.1. Academic Affairs

Toby spoke to this report, set out in Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report (page 6).

Toby discussed why “Survay” was misspelled. Alice and Toby both spoke to the OB’s re-establishing the mailing list for the Ed Department, and delays due to getting passwords. Joshua inquired why Roger and Caley hadn’t yet got back to us, which no-one could speak to. Conor and Toby noted that a template was being designed by Comms at the time of the meeting.

Alice and Toby spoke to their meeting with Alistair Ingham, who is primarily responsible for the “on the ground” reporting and staffing of Stop1. Alice noted that his watch cost between \$8,900 and \$16,000, and both noted the general trends of the data received as positive but not perfect (the data are otherwise subject to commercial in confidence).

Toby spoke to Education Collective, and noted that it was cut short due to the marvellously democratic process of the AGM.

Toby noted that the Education Stall to be held the day after this meeting would likely be cancelled in solidarity with the NTEU strike.

Alice noted that applications for grants for NUS’ education conference had been opened and advertised through all appropriate channels compliant with the T&C policy. She also set out the Department’s plans for a stress less week event.

Toby updated the committee on progress at VCA, which had up until this point been slow. He expressed intention to find someone for the VCA/MCM course standing committee.

Alice discussed special meetings of the SPC coming up, concerning the Bachelor of Health degree. Both Alice and Toby discussed the genesis of this degree, and explained various of its features to committee (including course

plan, maths prerequisites, graduate options, and its passage through Academic Programs Committee). Several committee members enquired about the ATAR calculation, which Alice clarified. Toby listed in particular the majors within the B.Health, and their attached professional pathways.

Alice spoke to articulated degrees, also part of the Melbourne Model changes. Mindi noted that this simply indicates the University is questioning whether the Model is a good one.

Jonas enquired about the new reporting tool for unrecorded lectures. Toby noted particularly good engagement and a stronger response than the previous system of relying simply on emails. Alice stated that some classes (notably Academic English) have started releasing lectures due to our pressure. Toby discussed the current plan to bring the issue of Melbourne Law School's policy of not recording lectures in the JD to Academic Board in due course.

## 5.2. Public Affairs

Conor spoke to his written report, set out in Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report (page 8).

Conor described the VEAN, as well as explained its role and usefulness.

Conor also reiterated to committee the contents of the report on what EdPub was doing to support striking staff. Mindi commended the work of the department in this regard.

Conor also spoke to upcoming post-Budget NUS action.

**Motion 6** That the Office Bearer reports be accepted en bloc.

M: Chair

CWD.

## 6. Motions on notice

### 6.1. NTEU Solidarity Flyers

#### *Preamble in Agenda*

The Education Department are going to play an integral part in interacting with students and making sure they understand why the NTEU's strike action is taking place. As a result, Conor produced a design (with the aid of Comms) for a flyer with general information about the NTEU's intention to strike and why it's taking place.

#### *Discussion*

Joshua spoke to his moving rights. He noted that he has discussed with Toby the precise calculation of this amount as reflecting the quote of printing from Comms. He said, given the importance of the campaign and of students' participation in it, this was good expenditure of student money.

Mindi, speaking to her seconding rights, noted that students had positively responded to the content of the flyers when flyering, and said they were clearly a useful tool for informing students about the action.

**Motion 7** That \$332 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to purchase flyers with information about the NTEU's industrial action to be distributed to students.

M: Joshua

S: Mindi

CWD.

6.2. Additional money for drinks for Syndicate launch

*Preamble in Agenda*

We love small campuses, and we want to go to all (most) of them. Especially since the vacancy in the VCA OB position, the Education Department is planning a trip down to visit students and listen to their concerns. However, it can be difficult to get there with the stuff required to have a stall (as we know from our trip during O-Week).

*Discussion*

Toby spoke as mover. He explained that this was a backup, should we not be able to organise through Comms getting necessary equipment – marquees, tables, materials, and the tablecloth – from or to VCA. If Conor couldn't get access to a car, then Toby can hire a car to drive these things down to VCA in the manner previously done for Burnley, and approved by committee. He stated the sum was more than previously since last time a small car was needed, which wasn't adequate, and a big car could be more expensive.

Discussion generally was in favour, although descended into discussion of using one of the University's as yet unpurchased driverless vehicles.

**Motion 8** That \$150 be moved from the CSP&E budget line to cover car hire costs respecting a stall at VCA.

M: Toby

S: Mindi

CWD.

6.3. SWOTVAC Stall

*Preamble in Agenda*

This is for a stall to be staffed by Welfare Volunteers (inter-departmental collaboration! Yay!) to provide food and supplies to students during the very stressful time of SWOTVac. It can be difficult to access food and items such as pens, especially after 5pm, so this stall aims to help alleviate some of that pressure.

*Discussion*

Alice spoke to her moving rights, saying that this was an important de-stressor for students to have basic supplies and snacks during one of the most stressful times of the year. Alice noted the fact it was interdepartmental collaboration between Ed and Welfare.

Toby noted that it would be mostly staffed by volunteers, and throughout the 5d of the week. It would carry things like small snacks and stationery.

Joshua noted his commitment to interdepartmental solidarity, and asked whether Activities had been asked to secure more volunteers. Although Alice and Conor both noted that Welfare had a large reserve of unused volunteers, Alice pinky-promised Josh that she would speak to Activities about co-manning these stalls.

Emma suggested that it would be good to include Counselling and Psychological Services materials. The OB's agreed to this, and noted that Welfare would most likely have similar materials.

**Motion 9** That up to \$300 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to provide food and supplies for the Education/Welfare SWOTVac stall.

M: Alice

S: Toby

CWD

**7. Motions not on notice**

None.

**8. Other business**

8.1. Expenditure to date

Committee noted the budget to date as circulated.

**9. Next meeting**

9.1. Future Meetings

Scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, see Appendix C – Future Meetings (page 10).

Alice reminded committee that this was the last meeting in semester, that Committee would be moving to less frequent meetings, and that the EdCon grants meeting would be after grants closed, in early June.

**10. Close Meeting**

Meeting closed at 3:40pm.

## **Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report**

### **Stop1 and Academic Services**

The Stop1 Survey (this is what Comms branded it as – it's lit) continues apace. Into the hundreds of responses. We need to get some flyers to hand out, but we've started promoting it at Ed Stalls, and through the SRN, and through some other comms we're trying to break into (VCA newsletters, Law internal communications, and so on).

We also had a meeting with Alistair Ingham, who gave us a breakdown of Stop1's progress during the peak 4 weeks between the week before O Week and week 2. Much of the data is in confidence, but the basics are that chats are up, the amount of long wait times is down (possibly as students are being redirected), and more staff are being put on to "triage" students. We'll see how this lines up with the feedback we get through our survey, however, since there may be issues with Stop1's own metrics.

### **Collective**

We held it, although it was a bit muddled by the intervention of the democratic extravaganza that was the AGM.

We're re-starting weekly emails, the job is logged with Comms to design us an email template. Collective will be a key feature of that, so watch this space.

### **NTEU**

The NTEU has voted to go on strike. This is cool. We've been doing some "back-end" work for NTEU solidarity, like checking whether students can be punished for not breaking strikes by refusing to attend classes held in breach of industrial action. We've also been helping flyerng, and working with the NUS VEAN to generate solidarity from other campuses.

Strike action was also a key promotion at our Weekly Stall...

### **Weekly Stall**

One of our two stalls was cancelled due to ANZAC day, the other was an excellent chance to roam, explain the Stop1 Survey, and speak to students about NTEU action.

### **EdCon Grants**

The EdCon grant form will be up soon, and open for submissions. The tentative closing date for grants will be the end of May, but that hasn't been finalised. We want Committee to be able to approve grants in early June.

### **Punitive Student Fees**

We held a meeting with Freddy from Business Intelligence, who's happy to ask around for sponsors for a project collecting data on punitive student fees. The next step will be emailing key decision makers to put this on their agenda.

### **Stress Less Week**

Happy Feet has been requisitioned from the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra. The Feet are in the mail.

### **VCA**

EdAc and Welfare had a meeting with student engagement at the VCA. We're absent a Nicholas Lam to run the joint, and there are also concerns about how student BBQ's were being organised (by paying University staff to run them, instead of staffing them through volunteers). Welfare is committed to more on this – see their report.

Otherwise we've been sent a list of key academic contacts in education for us to speak to.

### **University Committees**

Several committees have met.

TALQAC received the Exams Sub-Committee Report referred to in our last report. Toby spoke to the concerns about special consideration, reiterating that changes to special consideration must *not* prejudice students. Staff are always grumbling about students "gaming" the system without evidence, which we must resist. It also received the BA Course Review, which is an excellent resource for us to continue to raise through faculty as key recommendations are implemented. A critical finding is the approx. 22% dropout rate in the BA Extended; we raised concerns that this was simply unacceptable, and rather than collect data, there needed to be actual engagement with students on this. There are three TALQAC sub-committees that we are securing our representation on (namely a Respect sub-committee, an Intensives sub-committee, and another on the SES).

Gregor Kennedy also presented very interesting data on students' attendance of lectures, and use of lecture capture. The rough figures were only 30% attendance in key lectures, and 50% engagement with lecture recordings. It was reiterated that the data show only an ambivalent relationship between recordings and attendance. We'll scrutinise this data when it's presented more fully.

APC considered both the lecture recordings data and the special consideration issue in similar terms. It also approved the course plan for the new Bachelor of Health, which appears to be unproblematic, although there are still concerns about what exactly the degree is targeted at.

### **SRN**

We held our second meeting of the SRN 2018. We reported particularly ongoing issues with the Melbourne Model, scholarships, and special considerations. We also discussed at reasonable length punitive student fees, and different models for students accessing official transcripts.

We're getting new branding for the SRN to refresh it, and are in the process for designing an application form for the VCA/MCM CSC, which we've still yet to fill! For lack of anyone we can "tap on the shoulder", or even much in the way of "ins" into the campus, which we're still getting a hang of.

### **Lecture Recordings**

We've had quite some correspondence arising from students' reports of unrecorded lectures. Faculty don't even seem aware of the policy, let alone the reasons for it. At least the ones that are not recording openly misunderstand the relationship between attendance and recording, and the pedagogical value of recording. Rest assured we're being very firm this year on it.

We're also in the process of drafting a response to the Law School Dean's justification, published in 2016, on not recording law school lectures. This most likely should be taken to Academic Board. The terms of the justification are poor, so it's disappointing that previous EdAc OB's were not firmer on this issue. Watch this space.

### **OB Lyf**

The expired juice is probably undrinkable now. We haven't yet bought more Chuppa Chups. We've also been doing endless solidarity photos from within our offices, which is fun.

## Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report

### NTEU Updates

Lots has happened regarding this! The Protected Action ballot that I mentioned in my last report to council passed all motions forms of industrial action suggested, with 93% voting yes to taking strike action on a turnout of 68%. This is exactly the kind of result the NTEU were hoping for—it gives them a really strong mandate going into the next few months of action.

On the back of this, the NTEU had a member's meeting on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, where they put forth a motion suggesting strike action be taken on May the 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm, so as to coincide with the Change the Rules rally organised by the Australian Council of Trade Unions. This will likely be the first of several strike actions taken until the NTEU's bargaining team and University management can come to a compromise on the new EBA.

I've made up a flyer with information specifically directed at students about what the strike action is for, why it's being taken and what involvement can be for students who want to help out. This has been distributed through lecture announcements and our weekly Education stall. We're also organising a contingent to be present at the NTEU's initial speak out (which will be happening from Gate 4, the Monash Rd entrance to the University) before we head to the rally together at Trades Hall. It's really important that students are present to support staff—I highly encourage all councillors to attend.

If you're unsure if your teacher is striking during the action, it's best to check with them—you may be marked as absent for attending the rally if you don't clear it with them first.

### Education Action Group meeting

On the same day at the NTEU member's meeting (May 2<sup>nd</sup>) I held an Education Action Group/Syndicate meeting about how we could get involved with the campaign to support the NTEU. We had pretty decent attendance for so late in the semester, and came to a number of actions around scheduling lecture announcements and leafleting that will help ensure that we can

### Syndicate

As I spoke to last council, the FOI lodged by us to the Fair Work Ombudsman regarding records of complaints into businesses operating in Union House returned 6 related documents, including transcripts of phone calls, but they were all withheld on the grounds that it could cause the businesses concerned undue harm as we may use the information to campaign against them (which, unsurprisingly, is exactly what we intended to use the information for). While this is a disappointing outcome, we did get some idea of what the complaints were about—quote from the letter:

“...the enquiries relate to workplace rights and obligations about the guarantee of hours for permanent employees, hourly rates of pay within Modern Awards, failure to keep adequate time and wage records, and two matters not within the jurisdiction of the FWO, including payment of wages in cash resulting in non-payment of taxation or superannuation, and unfair dismissal matters.”

To be clear, this summarises the content of **three** complaints. If nothing else, this confirms that wage theft has become a business model for at least some of the stores operating in Union House. I've attached the FOI letter (which contains the original request as well) as an appendix of this report.

Cameron Doig and I met with Phoebe Churches from UMSU Legal to discuss what our options were around getting an internal review to see whether we could obtain the documents concerning complaints about Union House tenants. It seems unlikely that we'd be able to get anything from Fair Work if we did proceed, but our best line of argument would be that the documents are by default in the public interest since they document instances of wrongdoing by some of these businesses, although given the grounds that they were withheld in the first place, it still seems to be a long shot.

One positive is that this may at least serve to convince people who've experienced wage theft at the hands of businesses in Union House to go to the Fair Work Ombudsman to lodge an official

complaint—surely this shows that there is no chance that any record of their complaint will get back to their employer, which is one of the many barriers stopping people complaining in the first place.

### **Planned Higher Ed bill amendment phone banking**

We'll be running a phone banking event next Tuesday where we'll be calling crossbench Senators in anticipation of the bill that will see a HECS cap be introduced and the repayment threshold lowered be taken to a vote in the Senate on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. It's unfortunate that this will be coinciding with the NTEU things, but hey, gotta look nationally too. Especially when it's something this important.

Room and time TBC (at time of writing, obviously it won't be by the time council is happening).

### **VEAN meeting**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended a Victorian Education Action Network meeting, organised by NUS Education Officer Con Karavias. We discussed the NTEU strike at Melbourne Uni and how other campuses could show their support for it, as well as what kinds of things we could be doing to hone our messages to students; we also discussed the No Arts Cuts campaign that's been taking shape at Monash University, and the lessons that could be taken from it for our own campaigns. It seems that they've had a very positive response from the student base down at Monash, so it was good to hear their story and what kinds of tactics they'd used to mobilise concerned students.

We also discussed a potential pre-budget/Higher Education bill amendments stunt down at Derryn Hinch's office, to be held on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. Hopefully more information will be available on that soon.

The meeting was overall pretty productive, and it was good to actually have one, too—we hadn't held one since before semester started.

## Appendix C – Future Meetings

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
8(18)	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	2:30 pm	OB Space, Union House

**Appendix D – Motions Passed**

Motion #	Motion	Mover	Second	Result
Motion 1	That Alice Smith be elected chair.	Alice Smith	Toby Silcock	CWD
Motion 2	That the Agenda circulated at the meeting be adopted as presented.	Chair		CWD
Motion 3	That Motion 3 on notice be amended to say “record” instead of “recording”.	Chair		Carried (Mindi abstaining).
Motion 4	As amended, that the minutes circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of meeting 6(18).	Chair		Carried.
Motion 5	That the correspondence be noted.	Chair		CWD
Motion 6	That the Office Bearer reports be accepted en bloc.	Chair		CWD
Motion 7	That \$332 be moved from the Campaigns, Special Projects and Events budget line to purchase flyers with information about the NTEU’s industrial action to be distributed to students.	Joshua Bruni	Mindi Suter	CWD
Motion 8	That \$150 be moved from the CSP&E budget line to cover car hire costs respecting a stall at VCA.	Toby Silcock	Mindi Suter	CWD
Motion 9	That up to \$300 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to provide food and supplies for the Education/Welfare SWOTVac stall.	Alice Smith	Toby Silcock	CWD