

<p>University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Education Committee 2:30PM 30/05/2018 Meeting 8(18) Location: OB Space, Union House</p>	
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Meeting opened at 2:40pm.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1 That Daniel Beratis be ablated chair.

M: Alice Smith

S: Toby Silcock

Carried without dissent (“CWD”)

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

1.3. Attendance

Office- bearers: Conor Clements

Alice Smith

Toby Silcock

Committee: Ru Bee Chung

Emma Fazzino

Mindi Suter

Emma Fazzino (also holding proxy for Jonas Larsen)

Others Daniel Beratis

Hannah Buchan (holding proxy for Dominic Ilagan)

Molly Willmott

1.4. Apologies

Jonas Larsen.

1.5. Proxies

Jonas Larsen proxied to Emma Fazzino

A late proxy was received from Dominic Ilagan to Hannah Buchan.

Motion 2 To suspend so much of standing orders as would prevent Dominic Ilagan from proxying to Hannah Buchan for this meeting.

M: Chair

Carried without dissent (“CWD”).

1.6. Membership

There was no change in membership.

1.7. Adoption of agenda

Motion 3 That the Agenda circulated at the meeting be adopted as presented.

M: Chair

CWD.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Previous minutes were not circulated. Committee noted that they will be confirmed at meeting 9(18) upcoming.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Previous minutes were not circulated.

4. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Daniel outlined the importance of the new conflicts of interest policy, emphasising the importance of declaring conflicts so they can be noted, and Committee can decide further action.

Mindi requested more detail on what a conflict of interest would constitute. Daniel explained it captured conflicts that would prevent the person from acting in the best interests of the organisation, or would place their duties to UMSU in conflict with other duties. It includes potential conflict of interest, and perceived conflict of interest. Daniel stressed that conflicts are unavoidable, but must be managed effectively.

Daniel also noted that, as a political organisation, UMSU would in most cases treat conflicts differently from other NFP's.

The consequences of failing to declare would be in the discretion of the Committee, especially if deliberate; noting that impeachment was effectively the sole recourse for breach of duty.

Conflicts Declared – the following committee members declared that they applied for NUS Education Conference grants, considered in item 9.1:

- Hannah Buchan
- Mindi Suter
- Conor Clements
- Toby Silcock
- Alice Smith.

Action taken: none.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence received.

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. Academic Affairs

Alice and Toby spoke to the report attached in Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report.

Not much was happening, because Swot-vac.

EdAc had its third SRN meeting, which was perplexingly the best attended yet. It covered the cancellation of the B.Health (since no-one wanted to do it). EdAc has also opened nominations for the VCA/MCM course standing committee.

Alice also noted that EdAc was working with Conor and Reem from PoC developing proposals for a Refugee Scholarship, and working with the University towards hopefully having a scholarship up this financial year.

Stress less week – Happy Feet was well-attending. Alice still has the DVD.

EdAc also noted the SwotVAC stall running with Welfare. It was noted that Commerce students are very scared of “free things” – they’ve been trained that everything must be bought. This is said.

Study with Ed happened, with good attendance.

There was no further discussion.

Motion 4 That the Education Academic report be accepted.

M: Chair

CWD.

6.2. Public Affairs

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

The day before the meeting, the NTEU had voted to approve further industrial action if management demands weren’t satisfied by June 16.

Elizabeth F asked if this would affect exams – most likely not.

Mindi also spoke to the action, noting that an overtime ban would come into effect soon, during one the busiest periods for re-enrolments and administration, particularly important given some of the University’s demands about generalising overtime being particularly cooked for staff.

Conor indicated his intention to get more materials out in the lead up to the action, as was done previously.

Conor also spoke to NUS’s Build a Better Budget campaign launch, which went well, with good attendance, and Ged Kearney ragging on neoliberalism.

Motion 5 That the Education Public report be accepted.

M: Chair

CWD.

Motion 6 To move directly to item 9.1.

M: Alice Smith

S: Toby Silcock

CWD.

9. Other Business

9.1. Education Conference Grant Applications

The Committee was provided with an anonymised table of grant applications (27 in total). This table listed grants in numerical order, by time submitted.

Alice noted the criteria being \$7,000 allocated in the budget line, with priorities being (i) first time attendees; (ii) demonstrated financial hardship; and (iii) those presenting. Noting the benchmark of approx. \$259.26 per se, Committee resolved to move down the list of grants and rank them out of three based on the stated criteria.

Committee considered and graded the grants as set out in Appendix D – Consideration of Grants (page 10).

Alice suggested (i) moving \$3,000 to the Grants budget line from the Campaigns, Special Projects & Events (CPSE) budget line, and as a benchmark paying for everyone’s registration, leaving approx. \$225 for accommodation.

Other proposals were (i) from Toby, 1's get registration, 3's get full funding, and 2's got the remainder shared equally; (ii) Elizabeth T suggested moving *more* money for full funding. It was determined that Committee in fact could, if it wished, reallocate the budget in this manner. Daniel suggested that if \$10,000 in total were available, this would leave 25 funded to \$500, with some variation.

Alice moved a motion to move \$3,000 from CSPE to Grants. Elizabeth T moved an amendment to move \$3,600, with Conor Clement seconding. This was then further amended to \$4,000 from CSPE to Grants, with Toby Silcock seconding.

Motion 7 That \$4,000 be moved from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events (CPS&E) budget line to the Grants budget line.

M: Elizabeth Tembo

S: Toby Silcock

Carried.

("Yeet": Conor).

Hannah left at at 3:46pm. When Hannah questioned if she didn't count for quorum, Alice say "I don't literally care if you die", which was requested to be minuted.

The "0's were disregarded.

Committee resolved to fully fund the 3's, which amounted to \$480 each.

The 1's were considered individually.

Grant 17 demonstrated clear financial need, so was allocated registration, \$20 for 4 days, rounded up to \$280 for accommodation.

Grant 23 received registration only, \$160.

Grant 24 didn't note that they required financial assistance, so received registration only, \$160.

Of the remaining 2's, Conor noted that the majority demonstrated financial hardship sufficient that they couldn't otherwise attend. Committee resolved then that the 2's would receive a proportionate remainder of \$460. The 1's received the case-by-case noted above.

Final Allocation		
Grants	Allocation	Purpose
25, 26	\$480	Accommodation, transport, registration
7, 23, 24	\$160	Registration
17	\$280	Registration and accommodation
18	Ineligible.	
All others	\$460	Registration and remainder for accommodation and transport.

Motion 8 That grants be applied in the manner noted in Final Allocation.

M: Chair

CWD.

7. Motions on Notice

7.1. Syndicate Flyers

This was an invoice for the first collective meeting, which Conor forgot to pay and pass money for.

Alice didn't speak to her seconding rights.

Elizabeth T thought it would be better to have a calendar and prospective funding. Conor noted that this was from the beginning of the year when he was still getting used to things.

Daniel noted that finance sometimes caused problems (although retrospective funding wasn't ideal).

Motion 9 That \$286 be passed from the Printing budget line for flyers that were used to advertise Syndicate's first collective meeting.

M: Conor

S: Alice

Carried.

7.2. Build a Better Budget Equipment

Conor spoke to his moving rights. This video equipment was used to make a video which is being compiled as a promotional record of the event, through both the NUS and Ed webpages.

Alice didn't speak to her seconding rights.

Motion 10 That \$54.54 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to pay for the hire of a video camera, microphone stand, and lectern used for the Build a Better Budget campaign launch.

M: Conor

S: Alice

CWD.

7.3. Study with Ed

This was meant to be for a petition meeting before the first one, which was already held. Attendance was very strong, just people studying. A good way to engage with the department.

Toby noted that \$400 was designed for \$100 per event, pegged to the standard collective budget.

Motion 11 That up to \$400 from the CPS&E budget line to pay for food for Education Academic's Study with Ed event.

M: Toby

S: Alice

CWD.

8. Motions without Notice

None.

9. Other Business

9.2. Budget Update

Not circulated, deferred until next meeting.

10. Next meeting

10.1. Future Meetings

No future meetings scheduled.

11. Close Meeting

Meeting closed at 4:08pm.

Appendix A – 3.1 Education Academic Report

SRN

The third meeting of the SRN took place on Tuesday 22nd of May. We had pizza, and possibly the highest attendance of the year, as well as some really good discussion on assessment, the BA course review, and special consideration (amongst other things).

Common to both TALQAC and APC [and maybe others] was discussion of special consideration and academic misconduct. Both are connected through the Advocacy Quarterly Report, which we tabled, largely concerning misconduct arising from fraudulent medical certificates submitted with special consideration requests.

On special consideration, we have remained firm in trying to quash moves within Engineering and FBE to restrict access to special consid. on the basis of students “gaming” the system by applying, then not sitting the special consid exams after receiving their marks. We noted significant problems with the data that came out of Exams Subcommittee (which we have reported on before), and reiterated students’ entitlement to special consideration, and that there is no actual problem with students’ “gaming” conduct.

On Academic Misconduct, we have reiterated the importance of academics being trained, like student reps. We will continue to raise this at coming meetings, to put pressure on the University Secretary. Gregor Kennedy presented interesting data on the low attendance rate for lectures and general lack of engagement with lectures. He also reiterated the consistent ambivalence in the data as to the relationship between lecture recordings and attendance. The report has yet to be published, so will be reported on after its release.

In terms of meetings:

- SPC had an emergency meeting to consider the Bachelor of Health and new guaranteed pathways for high achieving high school students.
- TALQAC discussed special consideration, academic misconduct hearings, as well as the BA course review. The review had many problematic findings – such as the lower grades for international students, as well as the very high dropout rate in the BA Extended. We submitted that the latter should go to a working group, instead of simply go back for more data. We will see what comes of this, and might have to be firmer in checking on the progress of this. We will prepare a more detailed exec summary of the BA Course Review for the SRN for next meeting.
- APC considered effectively the same issues as TALQAC, as well as approved the Bachelor of Health, which is now dead.

VCA

The form for VCA/MCM course standing committee representative on the SRN will be live before Council, and sets out the process for appointment. We hope to have this position filled by the end of June.

Refugee Scholarship

We’ve been working with Conor and Reem to develop a plan for the University to provide a refugee scholarship. Watch this space.

Stressless Week

We had a screening of Happy Feet that was quite well attended. Although there were some problems with the AV, we found a way around it and the screening went well.

Appendix B – 3.2 Education Public Report

Change the Rules rally & NTEU strike

A fair amount of time was spent in the previous couple of weeks since last council building for this—we did a bunch of lecture announcements and campaigned at both our own stalls and ones led by the NTEU. UMSU Education paid for the production of some flyers that were designed to have general information about industrial action and why it was being taken by NTEU members.

The strike itself on Wednesday May 9th had a decent turnout from students, despite a relatively early start—I guessed around 50 students were there, and this number grew after we actually got to Trades Hall for the change the rules rally. Overall, I was confident that students were at least aware that the strike was happening, and this will only improve as the bargaining process continues. Already there has been some progress made—as of the NTEU’s most recent update, the university have offered a revised proposal on academic workloads (including a tentative cap of 1725 hours of work a year, and workloads to be “consistent with appropriate work-life balance, health and safety and the reasonable expectations of [a] position”). The NTEU continue to seek a similar guarantee for professional staff, but progress is still slow on the split agreement front, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and committing to intellectual freedom.

The NTEU’s next meeting will take place on the 29th of May, and this will be reported on at June’s council.

NUS Budget Stunt at Liberal HQ

On the 7th of May, I attended a stunt in the CBD at Liberal Party HQ organised by the National Union of Students around higher education funding for tertiary education. The original plan was for this to be held at Derryn Hinch’s office in South Melbourne, but this was changed. The stunt was attended by around 30 students, of whom 6 were Melbourne University students.

National Union of Students Build a Better Budget Campaign launch

On Wednesday the 16th of May, UMSU Education hosted the National Union of Students as they launched a campaign in opposition to some of the measures in the recently announced federal budget (as well as some suggestions for improvements), called the Build a Better Budget Campaign. Desiree spoke at this event on the importance of having a legislated minimum Student Services and Amenities Fee proportion to be distributed to democratically elected student organisations. We were also lucky enough to have Ged Kearney MP come in and speak about improvements in the budget required to have a more equitable society, especially in the context of 30 years of neoliberal policy in Australia.

Asylum seeker & refugee scholarship

On May 21st, we (the Ed OBs) met with Desiree and Reem to discuss how we could move forward with getting the university to begin a scholarship program for refugee and asylum seeker students, as well as former refugees who do not have access to the HECS/HELP system or Commonwealth Supported Places. I’ve done a bit of preliminary research into what kinds of programs are offered by universities in Australia for refugee and asylum seeker students, and from now Reem and I will be collaborating to see what else we can dig up with regards to permanent residents who are of that background. Hopefully during the winter break we can draft some kind of research paper with the help of UMSU Advocacy to make it a bit more legitimate before presenting it to University management.

Stress Less Week

Education ran a screening of the Aussie classic *Happy Feet* in the student lounge on Thursday the 17th of May. It was cute and there was lots of pizza but we were unable to stress less due to some pretty intense technical difficulties involving sound, which were eventually resolved when we borrowed a Bluetooth speaker from Welfare. Moral: don’t set up AV Melbourne equipment with the help of AV Melbourne.

Appendix C – Motions Passed

Motion #	Motion	Mover	Seconder	Result
Motion 1	That Daniel Beratis be ablaacted chair.	Alice Smith	Toby Silcock	Carried.
Motion 2	To suspend so much of standing orders as would prevent Dominic Ilagan from proxying to Hannah Buchan for this meeting.	Chair		CWD
Motion 3	That the Agenda circulated at the meeting be adopted as presented.	Chair		CWD
Motion 4	That the Education Academic report be accepted.	Chair		CWD
Motion 5	That the Education Public report be accepted.	Chair		CWD
Motion 6	To move directly to item 9.1.	Alice Smith	Toby Silcock	CWD
Motion 7	That \$4,000 be moved from Campaigns, Special Projects and Events (CPS&E) budget line to the Grants budget line.	Elizabeth Tembo	Toby Silcock	Carried
Motion 8	That grants by applied in the manner noted in Final Allocation.	Chair		CWD
Motion 9	That \$286 be passed from the Printing budget line for flyers that were used to advertise Syndicate's first collective meeting.	Conor Clements	Alice Smith	CWD
Motion 10	That \$54.54 be passed from the CSP&E budget line to pay for the hire of a video camera, microphone stand, and lectern used for the Build a Better Budget campaign launch.	Conor Clements	Alice Smith	CWD
Motion 11	That up to \$400 from the CPS&E budget line to pay for food for Education Academic's Study with Ed event.	Toby Silcock	Alice Smith	CWD.

Appendix D – Consideration of Grants

Grant #	Comments	Ranking
1	None	2
2	Mainly relying on workshop as criteria; moved from interstate	2
3	Noted financial hardship (no money for flights or transport)	2
4	Noted receiving Youth Allowance	2
5	Presenting, and living out of home. Also raised issues about respective weight of casual work vs Centrelink payments	2
6	International student, not employed, but not presenting	2
7	Both been before, and financial situation not bad	0
8		2
9	Hasn't been before; demonstrated financial need	2
10	Committee noted they were appealing Centrelink ("fight the power")	2
11	Planning to present a workshop, living with a disability, working below poverty wages	2
12		2
13	Applied for NUS grant, but this wasn't taken into consideration; otherwise, had been before, and was planning to present a workshop, and required financial assistance	2
14	Considering presenting something; had a good "life story"	2
15	Presenting 3 things! Otherwise financial need noted	2
16		2
17	Had been before, and not presenting, but otherwise in need of financial assistance	1
18	Graduated last year, and deferred masters of international relations, so not entitled to SSAF money	[Ineligible]
19		2
20	Never been before, simply wishing to observe; single mother supporting children (significant financial hardship)	2
21		2
22	Paid volunteering (contradiction in terms); has attended before	2
23	Working full time, <i>and</i> with savings which others haven't, and possible to attend otherwise	1
24		1
25	Presenting a workshop, demonstrated financial hardship, and hadn't been before	3
26	Met all 3 criteria	3
27	Particular circumstances of underpayment noted	2