

University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

UNCONFIRMED Minutes

2:30pm, Friday the 17th of August, 2018

Meeting 14(18)

Location: Founders Gallery, Elisabeth Murdoch Building, Southbank Campus

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Desiree Cai be elected Chair.

Moved: Desiree Cai

Seconded: Milly Reeves

Carried without dissent

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged

1.3 Attendance

1.4 Apologies

Councillors: Katie Doherty, Dominic Roque Ilagan, Blake Atmaja

Office Bearers: Lucy Turton

1.5 Proxies

Katie Doherty to Stephanie Zhang, Dominic Roque Ilagan to Emma Parkinson or Noni Bridger (when former is not present), Blake Atmaja to Catriona Smith, Elizabeth Tembo to Dana Riley

1.6 Membership

Hanady Kaik has resigned as Students of Colour Representative. Rory O'Kane has been caused to resign as General Representative under C58.1(e).

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda be presented, but that 5.1., 9.1., 9.5., 10.2., and 10.3. be discussed before other items.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

5. Correspondence

5.1. Presentation, Randall Pearce

Randall presented the Governance Renewal Project – termed Renewing Our UMSU – to the Council.

Conor Clements and Cecilia Widjojo entered at 2:46pm

Catriona Smith left at 3:02pm

Quorum lost at 3:02pm, half-hour period begins

Motion 3: To move immediately to item 3, conflict of interest declarations.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Cameron Doig, Noni Bridger, and Hannah Buchan declared a conflict of interest on 9.1, and shall abstain.

Catriona Smith returned at 3:05pm

Quorum regained at 3:05pm

9.1. Appeal against Disaffiliation, Greens on Campus

The Chair addressed the Council, outlining the rules of the appeal process as outlined in the Constitution, and noted that Greens on Campus had appealed under grounds b) and therefore can only consider matters under the grounds.

Annie Chessells (Greens on Campus) spoke to the Greens on Campus' appeal, noting that there had been lapses in procedure, but that the club had not breached activity reporting requirements, noting documents circulated to Council thereof. Annie also spoke to the C&S Department's response to the appeal.

Nellie Seale spoke to the C&S Department's response to the appeal, noting that the threshold to have recognised and valid events is low and is able to be met.

Jacob Sacher asked whether the Greens on Campus had held an orientation stall; they had done so.

Nellie Seale pointed out that activity reporting requirements excluded orientation activities.

Kayley Cuzzubbo spoke to the petition brought by the C&S Committee in 2017 against the Greens on Campus, noting that she believed one activity held in 2017 was not valid for the purposes of activity reporting, and that the C&S Officers should be trusted in their process.

Nellie Seale noted that the C&S Committee made the decision, and that they had a wide breadth of experience with clubs that contributes to make decisions of this nature.

Matthew Simkiss noted that two petitions were brought against the Greens on Campus, one for disaffiliation and one for probation, as the Committee believed they were potentially across the threshold. Matthew additionally noted that the Committee chose to disaffiliate after evidence was received. Matthew pointed out that there were over two hundred clubs and that resources had to be directed towards clubs that were active and providing activities to their members—he suggested that this was the reason this grounds for disaffiliation existed.

Annie Chessells spoke in reply, and thanked the Council for their consideration.

Motion 4: That the appeal of the Greens on Campus against disaffiliation be upheld.

Moved: Chair

Lost

Five abstentions

9.5. Volunteering Policy

Justin Bare spoke to the Volunteering Policy, and moved one friendly amendment that non-University of Melbourne students would be able to participate as UMSU volunteers if the related program would negatively suffer. He noted that wording would be finalised at a later

date. Justin additionally spoke to the history of the development of the policy and the need to support volunteering programs within UMSU within a framework.

Isa Verrocchi spoke to the policy, and noted that the VCE Summer School would be incompatible with this policy in its current form. She noted that prior concerns had been raised with the policy, and she suggested that not many of those changes were implemented in the proposed policy.

Justin Bare spoke to the purpose of the policy, and its role in ensuring that UMSU would establish how it wanted to run its volunteering programs. He noted that the point of the policy was not to keep volunteering as it was, but to establish how it would run in the future.

Jessica Miller asked Isa Verrocchi what elements of the policy conflict with the VCE Summer School. Isa spoke to the purpose of the VCE Summer School. Madeleine Johnson noted that the broad range of tutors required by the VCE Summer School, including diversity of lived experience and background, would be difficult to establish under the proposed policy.

Jessica Miller asked what incentives were provided to VCE Summer School tutors. Isa Verrocchi noted that certificates and coffee vouchers were provided to tutors, as well as training for tutors. Madeleine Johnson noted that most funding for the VCE Summer School is not sourced from UMSU, and that while some non-UoM students benefit from the VCE Summer School, it was suggested that this is similar to Clubs and Societies who serve mostly, but not completely, UoM students.

Milly Reeves spoke to her positive experience as a tutor for the VCE Summer School.

Alex Fielden asked for clarification surrounding definitions of volunteering, including barbecues, and asked whether a procedure noted in the volunteering policy could be circulated or otherwise amended within the volunteering policy proper. He also asked why a club executive carve-out existed. Justin Bare noted that supporting procedures would be finalised after the policy is approved, and that the procedure discussed did not exist yet. He also noted that while there may not be an extensive training program for events such as barbecues, sufficient training is required. He also noted that the club executive carve-out was to ensure that club executives were covered by C&S Regulations and not this policy.

Jacob Sacher asked for clarification around the proposed amendment from Justin Bare. Justin clarified that the amendment was not currently within the proposed policy but would be added later. Jacob noted that there were stakeholders present that were claiming that non-UoM students should be a part of these volunteering programs, and that this policy did not reflect that, and that Council should consider whether they were comfortable with that.

Horace Wong asked whether there would be financial consequences as a result of the passage of this policy. Justin noted that apart from insurance obligations, there would be no consequence, and that there should not be a consequence from insurance.

Jacob Sacher asked the Chair whether the proposed amendment would need to be moved separately by Council. Justin proposed wording.

Molly Willmott suggested that the amended wording be put in a new draft and that the policy would otherwise be deferred.

Alex Fielden asked whether the amendment would be phrased as “and” or “or”. Justin said that it should be “and”, as UoM students should be prioritised. Alex noted that “and” was too restrictive.

Madeleine Johnson noted that the end-users of the VCE Summer School were high school students, unlike other volunteering programs, and that there had been disagreements with UMSU about this in the past. Madeleine noted that the VCE Summer School would feel uncomfortable with introducing an element of recruitment that discriminated against a certain group. She also noted that given the nature of the volunteering role, which

encompasses multiple weeks of full-time work, there should be opportunity for advancement for tutors, and that directors had been non-UoM students before who were paid with revenue and not SSAF money. She noted that it was important for the VCE Summer School to maintain this and to not rule out the possibility.

Kayley Cuzzubbo noted that experience should be included within the proposed amendment, as it was separate from skills.

Milly Reeves asked for clarification on the proposed amendments from multiple sources. Madeleine Johnson noted that program directors should not be restricted to UoM students.

Motion 5: That the policy be noted and deferred.

Moved: Hannah Buchan

Carried without dissent

10.2. Affirmation of QC 2018 Motion Regarding NUS Queer/LGBTI Officer

Andie Moore spoke to their motion.

Motion 6: That speaking time be limited to 30 seconds.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Carried without dissent

Milly Reeves seconded the motion, and reminded UMSU of their Constitutional obligations against transphobia.

Callum Simpson noted that the person in the motion had appeared at other universities as well, and that their behaviour was at issue here and not their opinions.

Jessica Miller spoke and said that she felt uncomfortable to endorse the motion, but supported the motion.

Jacob Sacher said that a transphobic person should resign.

Milly Reeves said that the person was refusing to resign and that this was part of the issue.

Andie noted that QC voted with only one person abstaining, and said that non-queer people should feel comfortable voting for the motion.

Cameron said that he supports the sentiment of the motion but expressed concerns with the breadth of the QC motion and expressed concerns about the evidentiary burden.

Alston noted that evidentiary concerns should be resolved by the QC motion given the strength of support shown by QC, and noted that evidence-gathering would be difficult.

Andie noted that the burden of proof falls on the people who've been harrassed if evidentiary concerns are the issue, and that queer people should be supported.

Motion 7: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved Chair:

Carried without dissent

Motion 8: That 9.2., 9.3. and 9.4. be discussed en bloc.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Carried without dissent

9.2. Student Initiative Grant Report, Wildfire

9.3. Student Initiative Grant Report, Rural Ball

9.4. Student Initiative Grant Application, VCA Dance Graduation Ball

Motion 9: That the reports and application be accepted en bloc.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

10.3. Solidarity Week

Hiruni moved in Reem's stead, and noted that Solidarity Week was a collaboration taking place in Week 6. Reem seconded the motion.

Molly said that the motion was in the spirit of the Whole of Union line. She said there might be concern about costings, but that it was important to pay Indigenous speakers.

Kayley said that the Indigenous Department had only used 20% of their budget and that it might be appropriate to spend from there.

Noni moved a motion without notice to shift the Campaigns budget line in full to the Whole of Union line, which was moved to the end of the agenda.

Alston noted that Indigenous may have allocated a lot of money to different events which may not have yet taken place or been spent. Kayley noted that she had accounted for this.

Jacob noted that Departments don't spend their budget through the year and that it was important to spend it before coming to Council.

Reem said that Indigenous planend to run other events in the week as well that weren't included in the budget breakdown.

Motion 10: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: Chair

Carried

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes of Meeting 13(18), for confirmation

The minutes were requested to be amended such that rulings from prior Councils be represented in the minutes and that discussion be more fully represented in the minutes.

Motion 11: To confirm the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. Please see the attached document: Office Bearer Reports.

President	Submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	Submitted
Clubs & Societies	Submitted
Creative Arts	Not submitted
Disabilities	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted

Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted
Environment	Submitted
Indigenous	Submitted
Media	Submitted
People of Colour	Submitted
Queer	Submitted
Welfare	Submitted
Women’s	Not submitted
Burnley	Submitted
Victorian College of the Arts	Submitted

Molly spoke to the rally and thanked Office Bearers, including Clubs and Societies and Activities; Molly also spoke to the University’s actions since the rally.

Callum spoke to Enviro week taking place next week.

Nellie spoke to Awards Night and that it was successful.

Ashleigh apologised for not submitting a report but noted that Tastings was opening and encouraged persons attending to come.

Kayley requested that UHHP be discussed at next Council.

Alex asked whether people wanted a budget breakdown for UHHP.

Motion 12: To accept the Office Bearer reports en bloc.
 Moved: Chair
 Carried without dissent

6.2. Please see the attached document: Office Bearer Recommendations.

Motion 13: To accept the Office Bearer Recommendations en bloc.
 Moved: Chair
 Carried without dissent

7. Chief Executive Officer’s Report *(in confidence)*

Motion 14: To exclude strangers.
 Moved: Daniel Beratis
 Carried without dissent

Quorum lost at 3:58pm

Motion 15: To revoke the time limit
 Moved: Daniel Beratis
 Carried without dissent

During the exclusion of strangers, Justin spoke to his report and to the financial reports.

Motion 16: To accept the CEO’s report.
 Moved: Chair
 Carried without dissent

Elizabeth Tembo entered at 4:00pm

7.1. Financial Reports, July 2018

Motion 17: To note the Financial Reports.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

Motion 18: To include strangers.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Carried without dissent

8. Other Reports

9. Operational Business

9.6. Alcohol Policy

Justin spoke to the policy and noted that this policy came to Council last time and hadn't been changed since.

Jacob asked how theatre groups would sell alcohol outside the Guild Theatre. Justin responded that if sale is through UMSU, it must be through the Ida Bar, and if not, then a temporary liquor license must be sought.

Alex asked if this would affect North Court in a different way. Justin said that it would not. Alex further asked if it would be amenable to allow individual Departments or Clubs to set price points for alcohol. Justin responded that in the policy this could be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, but otherwise the prices were the prices.

Jacob sought clarification on profits from the Ida Bar. Justin noted that rebates would go to the relevant source.

Motion 19: To endorse the policy.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

9.7. Leave, Cecilia Widjojo

3rd September to 7th September

9.8. Leave, Kareena Dhaliwal

3rd September to 7th September

9.9. Leave, Elinor Mills

3rd September to 7th September

Molly asked what would happen if Council had to ratify by next Council. Ratification and Operations Sub-committee are both available.

Motion 20: To approve the applications en bloc.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. Separate Reporting

Kayley spoke to her motion, explaining that she had spoken to most Departments and that this was intended to be a trial.

Matthew seconded.

Milly said she was concerned about duplications of effort where reports would look the same due to both office bearers doing the same work. Kayley said that she wanted to see how it would actually work, as a trial.

Noni said that she was concerned that personal or life problems may cause difficulties for separate reports. Kayley said that this was not meant to shame people but that it was intended to encourage equal division of work. Kayley also said that it was obvious that people are people. Noni said that there might be situations where people did not want to discuss problems in public. Kayley said that it was not a case of having one incomplete report and being targeted.

Alex echoed what Milly said and expressed concern that there was a distrust of OBs inherent in the motion.

Milly asked whether things could be reverted after the first four reports. This was amenable to the mover.

Toby said that joint offices meant that people were jointly responsible and that people were collaborative, and that it would mislead Council.

Nellie seconded the motion after Matthew's departure.

Catriona Smith entered at 4:28pm.

Quorum regained at 4:28pm

Motion 21: That discussion immediately move to ratification of Council.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Carried without dissent

Motion 22: That the proceedings of Council be ratified.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Carried without dissent

Quorum lost at 4:29pm

Motion 23: That the motion 10.1. be agreed to.

Moved: Chair

Lost

10.4. Transphobic Speaking Tour

In the absence of the mover, Desiree Cai moves and Jacob Sacher seconds.

It was requested that it be minuted that Molly Willmott said "I'm done with rallies."

An amendment that UWA be specifically supported within the motion was proposed. This was amenable to the mover and seconder.

An amendment that this motion be used as a statement was proposed. This was amenable.

Motion 24: That the motion be agreed to as amended.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

It was noted that as Council was currently inquorate, ratification would have to occur before the actions of the motion could be formally endorsed by Council and promulgated.

10.5. Refugee Commonwealth Athletes

In the absence of a mover, Molly Willmott moves and Amelia Reeves seconds.

Jacob noted that it was unfortunate that the mover was not present to move their motions that were otherwise submitted to Council.

Motion 25: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: Chair

Carried without dissent

11. Motions Without Notice

11.1. Campaigns to Whole of Union

Motion 26: That the motion be deferred.

Moved: Jacob Sacher

Carried without dissent

12. Other Business

13. Next Meeting

30th August, 3pm, as scheduled

14. Close

Meeting closed at 4:47pm.

10.1. Separate Reporting

Preamble:

Anyone who has been involved in UMSU for more than a few years will be aware that a main issue Office Bearers face is tension with-in their own department. This often arises from OB’s not contributing equally to the department. While this is not a universal experience for office bearers it is common to varying degrees. Separate OB reports have been proposed as a potential solution for two main reasons:

1. It allows each office bearer to receive credit for the work they complete. Different people have different work ethics and it is naïve to think that in such a flexible role all parties will commit the same amount of time to the office. Sometimes it is only a small discrepancy but when there is a difference of several hours every week it can be trying. With joint office bearer reports there is little avenue for any form of individual recognition which is arguably the root cause of strain. The purpose of this is not to shame or make a competition about who can get more done. It is about OB’s knowing that their contribution to the department as an individual is being acknowledged
2. It allows for better self-reflection and self-awareness. In a role where there are no real KPI’s or set structure it is very easy to get caught up in a semester and neglect UMSU duties. With joint office bearer reports it is easy to hide behind the word “we” and not need to acknowledge lack of productivity. Being required to write your own report means that no one can avoid evaluating their productivity and can serve as a real wake up call if needed. It has the potential to help keep everyone on track with their own goals for their term too.

In general, it provides more transparency and accountability in the organisation as OB’s cannot get by using “we” and know that they will have to report on their own individual actions. It also provides council and committees with a much clearer picture of what is occurring in an office.

It is being proposed as a three-month trial, to test how it works in practice, mainly to see if it causes any significant inconvenience for OB’s. The main issue I would see arising from this system is for departments where OB’s work closely together, the reports may have a lot of overlap. While there is no intention to inconvenience the more balanced departments the purpose is to help the less balanced departments run smoother. On the whole this has been a better year than most, in regard to OB’s co existing peacefully, so please do not feel targeted. If this trial occurs with no major negative feedback from the OB’s in a “good year” I believe it should be made permanent because it will really help the functionality of UMSU in more trying years.

Motion: To direct all departments with more than one office bearer to provide the General Secretary with notice that they will be presenting separate reports to Student’s Council and their respective committees for the next three months (to October 17th).

Mover: Kayley Cuzzubbo

Basic Example Submission:

_____ Department

OB 1:

Key activities

Plans for next council

OB 2:

Key activities
Plans for next council

Joint Matters:

Minutes
Budget

Moved: Kayley Cuzzubbo

10.2. Affirmation of QC 2018 Motion Regarding NUS Queer/LGBTI Officer

CWs: References to harassment, misgendering, transphobia

Preamble: Queer Collaborations 2018, Australia’s largest national queer student conference held in Brisbane this year, called for the removal of NUS LGBTI/queer Officer Jasmine Duff for instances of transphobia, bullying and intimidation unbecoming of a national representative. Multiple students spoke to their experiences with Duff as making them feel harassed, unsafe, targeted and intimidated, often on the basis of sexuality and gender identity, and multiple queer officers felt she was not meeting the constitutional requirements set by the NUS for the NUS LGBTI/queer officer, and not doing enough to collaborate and empower queer departments. Recognising that Queer Collaborations is the largest representative queer student body in Australia, the Student’s Council should affirm Queer Collaborations’ call for Jasmine Duff’s resignation.

Motion:

1. That the UMSU Student’s Council publicly affirms the motion presented and passed at Queer Collaborations 2018 (attached) calling for Jasmine Duff’s resignation as NUS LGBTI Officer.

Moved: Andie Moore

10.3. Solidarity Week

The UMSU People of Colour (PoC) and Indigenous departments will be hosting Solidarity Week in collaboration with each other during Week 6 of Semester 2. The week aims to promote the concepts of anti-racism and decolonisation, while allowing our departments to come together in solidarity to work towards our shared aims. Current events for the week include a joint Collective, speaker events and a WoC/NB PoC weaving afternoon. Efforts have been made to make this a whole of union event with multiple departments participating. A Google Form has been circulated for other departments to submit their event proposals and several have already expressed interest in taking part. A budget breakdown is provided below for the planned expenditures:

\$500 from the whole of union budget line for a Welcome to Country.

\$6000 from the whole of union budget line for speaker fees for two Indigenous speakers at a \$3000 each, that will be speaking about the importance of practicing indigenous religion.

\$1600 from the whole of union budget line to cater for the two speaker events and the two collectives at \$400 each, this will be used solely for catering for the four events.

\$1500 from the whole of union budget line to fund a speaker fee for Solidarity Week event speaker and organiser, the speaker is an academic from the field of racism.

\$1000 from the whole of union budget line for 4 speakers/workshop facilitators at \$250 each that are running our interdepartmental Women's and NB people weaving workshop collectives.

Motion: To pass up to \$10,600 from the Whole of Union budget line to pay for Solidarity Week-related expenditures.

Moved: Reem Faiq

10.4. Transphobic Speaking Tour

UMSU condemns the transphobic speaking tour being organised by the extreme conservative Australian Family Association (AFA).

The tour features Quentin Van Meter, who has notoriously claimed that transgender people are delusional and that surgeries to aid transition amounts to child abuse. The AFA has a history of campaigning against the rights of LGBTI people, the right to abortion, and against the Safe Schools program.

These disgusting views have no place in our society.

The growth of far right politics in Australia can be keenly felt in this moment.

Fraser Anning has just spoken in parliament calling for a "final solution" to the immigration "problem" that right wing politicians have invented. The March For Men, organised by notorious sexist and racist Sydney Watson, will take place in Melbourne next week.

The Van Meter speaking tour is another grotesque example of this trend.

UMSU stands in opposition to transphobia and condemns the views represented by this tour.

Action: UMSU will take a photograph showing opposition to this tour.

Moved: Anneke Demanuele

10.5. Refugee Commonwealth Athletes

UMSU calls upon Home Affairs minister Peter Dutton not to deport athletes who fled the Commonwealth Games to seek protection and safety in Australia.

The athletes are under threat of being deported to countries where they face grim persecution.

Following the Commonwealth Games held at the Gold Coast in April this year roughly 250 athletes sought protection in Australia.

A number of the athletes are LGBTI. If they are forced to return to their home countries where homosexuality is illegal, they face the prospect of vicious punishment including "corrective" rape. Others face persecution for having political opinions that oppose their home governments.

All of these athletes should have the right to live safely in a country which will protect them.

UMSU calls upon the Home Affairs minister to grant these athletes suitable protection in Australia.

Moved: Anneke Demanuele