

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Agenda
11:30AM, 18th of March 2019
Meeting 6(19)
Location: Private Dining, Union House

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
Councillors: Ari Sandler
Office Bearers: Will Ross
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
No changes to membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- 2.1. Minutes of Students' Council, Meeting 5(19)

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

President	Submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	Not submitted
Clubs & Societies	Submitted
Creative Arts	Submitted
Disabilities	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Not submitted
Environment	Submitted
Indigenous	Not submitted
Media	Submitted
People of Colour	Submitted
Queer	Submitted

Welfare	Submitted
Women's	Submitted
Burnley	Not submitted
Southbank	Submitted

7. Chief Executive Officer's Report

8. Other Reports

- 8.1. UHT End of Year Report

9. Operational Business

- 9.1. Student Initiative Grant Report, UMMS
- 9.2. Student Initiative Grant Report, St. Vincent's Clinical School
- 9.3. Student Initiative Grant Application, Change x Unzipped
- 9.3. Student Initiative Grant Application, Early Childhood Cohort Graduation Evening
- 9.4. Travel & Conference Grant Reports, NUS NatCon
- 9.5. Recommendations, Renew Our UMSU
- 9.6. Council Charter and Terms of Reference, Renew Our UMSU

10. Motions on Notice

- 10.1. Be Heard, Not Harmed (SSDP Campaign)
- 10.2. Safer Partying Initiative
- 10.3. March 15 Climate Strike
- 10.4. Careers Fair
- 10.5. Request to endorse NTEU Working with Children Check Petition – Casual Staff Count!

11. Motions Without Notice

12. Other Business

13. Next Meeting

- 13.1. Meeting 7(19), 12:00pm Tuesday 02nd of April

14. Close

10.1. Be Heard, Not Harmed (SSDP Campaign)

The debate around pill testing is reignited each summer in Australia. Thousands attend night-life events, multi-day festivals and other social spaces, and since August 2018, 5 young people have died as a result of illicit drug use.

Successful programs in the US, UK, Portugal and Netherlands use GCMS machines to test for toxic adulterants, purity and to provide pathways to counselling and rehabilitation.

This is a medical treatment issue. The Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Royal Melbourne College of General Practitioners and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians have all supported on-site testing. But amidst growing pressure, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has urged young people to abstain from using drugs. “It’s the only safe way.”

Despite young people being at the centre of this push-and-pull between conservatism and harm reduction, our voices have not been heard. In 2019 Students For Sensible Drug Policy Australia (SSDPAUS) have launched the first, and last, campaign to implement effective drug policy.

Student Unions are and have been a critical platform for young people to organise and reflect issues that effect them. The Safer Partying Initiative of UMSU Welfare has begun a commitment from the Union to publicly support this movement.

It’s about saving lives, not condoning drug use. It’s about being heard, not harmed. UMSU won’t be on the wrong side of history.

Motion:

1. That the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) endorses the ‘Be Heard Not Harmed’ campaign.
2. That the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) encourages Officer Bearers to share materials to encourage the campaign on campus.

Moved: Molly Willmott

Seconded:

10.2. Safer Partyng Initiative

Motion: To pass \$2000 from Whole of Union for the procurement of pill testing kits for continuation of the Safer Partyng Initiative in Semester 1.

Moved: Ashwin Chhaperia

Seconded:

10.3. March 15 Climate Strike

1. We are in a climate crisis. According to the landmark Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report issued last year, we have 12 years to limit temperatures rising to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. At this threshold, we are heading toward a mass extinction of coral, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, destruction of whole ecosystems and the collapse of vital crops. At the current trends there is little hoping of even reaching the more conservative 2 degree target. According to the IPCC, a 2 degree temperature rise would be far worse than 1.5 degrees, with all the effects mentioned earlier greatly magnified/
2. It is incumbent upon UMSU, as the democratic organisation of Unimelb students, to take a position on this question. Not only do a majority of Australians consider climate change a serious and pressing problem (59 percent according to the latest Roy Morgan poll), but we represent university students – among whom there is even greater concern regarding the climate crisis (see Wachholz et. al. 2014). What the members of the unimelb community say and do regarding climate change matters, and can help strike a chord in the rest of society, particularly with a federal election in the pipeline.
3. On November 30 last year, 15,000 high school students protested on the streets as part of a national school strike. It was enthusiastically received by the media and almost all quarters of society, save for a few curmudgeons down in Canberra. The effect has been that discussion of the climate crisis has increased and there is mounting pressure on politicians to commit to a real response in the lead up to the federal election. This highlights an important reality – the way forward to prevent environmental destruction on apocalyptic levels is mass action.

Platform

1. The University of Melbourne Student Union endorses the March 15 national school student strike for the climate, believing it to be an important initiative to help put serious action on climate change on the agenda in the lead up to the federal election.

2. The University of Melbourne Student Union encourages all UniMelb students and staff to attend or support the demonstration in solidarity with the school strikers.

Motion:

1. The UMSU President will advertise the passing of this motion with a press release.
2. UMSU will co-host the Facebook event and share the event on its social media platforms.
3. The UMSU President and Office Bearers will promote the Unimelb student contingent to the School strike on campus from O-Week with a combination of posters, information at Summerfest stalls, orientation announcements, leaflets distributed in Oweek Show bags and through the student newspaper/ online media
4. There will be an UMSU contingent to the demonstration.
5. The council will provide \$1000 from the whole of union budget for professional advertising of the student strike.

Moved: Mindi Suter

Seconded: Will Ross

10.4. Unethical Employers At University of Melbourne 2019 STEM & Built Environments Fair

On Wednesday 6 March 2019, the University held its 2019 STEM & Built Environments Fair to advertise graduate employment opportunities to students.

For this event, the University of Melbourne charged \$650 for each non-profit and government department employer, and \$1300 for other employers.

A number of employers were included in the graduate fair whose destructive impact on the world should exclude them from participation in our University.

A lot of international organisations have put a blanket ban on investing in these arms companies because they are unethical. The largest sovereign wealth fund in the world, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund, no longer invests in arms companies. Many other public institutions (like the Dutch pension fund ABP, and our own LaTrobe Uni) have done the same.

The University needs to place the public good above profit-seeking, and break ties with these destructive organisations.

These employers include:

- **ASIO:** Australia's domestic spying agency run by Peter Dutton; whose agents can be made immune from prosecution for the use of force; and about whose operations journalists can be restricted from reporting.
- **Aurecon and GHD:** two companies providing infrastructure services to Adani in order to build the massive Carmichael Coal Mine in Queensland.
- **Boeing:** The second-largest arms producer in the world (behind Lockheed Martin, with whom the University partnered in 2017 despite protests over Lockheed's links to civilian deaths in Yemen). Not to be outdone, Boeing has also been linked to the deaths of hundreds of civilians in Yemen. Fragments of Boeing JDAM bombs were found in the debris of a 2016 attack on a marketplace near the Yemeni capital of Sana'a that killed 107 civilians, including 25 children. The company made USD\$26.93b in weapons sales in 2017.
- **Defence Force Recruiters:** Despite the last few years revealing that the Australian military engaged in military exercises with Saudi Arabia, that Australian troops flew a Nazi flag from an Australian army vehicle in Afghanistan, and that Australia contributed to the bombing of Iraq and Syria with a highly destructive impact on civilian populations, the University is taking money from military recruiters in exchange for access to students.
- **Loy Yang B Power Station:** one of the five dirtiest coal-fired power stations in the country; an ancient station that suffered a major failure in 2018; LYB's

owner Alinta Energy recently asked the Federal Government for public money to “upgrade and prolong the life of” this outmoded power station.

- **Shell:** or Royal Dutch Shell, is the fifth biggest oil company in the world, responsible for an overwhelming percentage of global emissions. Known for its vice-like political grip on the state of Nigeria, and has been accused of contracting militant groups to execute local anti-drilling activists. In 2008 and 2009, Royal Dutch Shell's 55-year-old pipeline ruptured and spilled millions of litres of crude oil into the Niger delta. Cleanup work only just began in the past year.

MOTION

(1) UMSU calls on the University to:

- (a) Explain why these employers were permitted to advertise jobs to students at the Careers Fair, given their destructive impact both in Australia and globally; and
- (b) In consultation with students, create a list of unethical employers to be banned from holding stalls at future Careers Fairs.

(2) Students Council calls on the UMSU President to publish a statement condemning the invitation of these organisations to the Careers Fair.

Moved: Cam Doig

Seconded: Will Ross

10.5. Request to endorse [NTEU Working with Children Check Petition](#) – Casual Staff Count!

The NTEU Casual Staff of Melbourne Uni are unionised casual and sessional academic and professional staff, employed by The University of Melbourne. We are passionate about working with students and academics and we enjoy taking part in a vibrant academic community. Nevertheless, working here often means being underpaid, working in insecure work and treated like a second-class employee even when we are doing first-class work. Almost 50% of academic and professional workers at the University of Melbourne are casual workers. Many of us must re-apply for jobs every semester even though we have worked here for years. Casual workers are involved in all aspects of University activities. We are lecturers, tutors, research assistants, coordinators, lab technicians, administrators, project officers, customer service, ICT support, library workers - across every faculty and school. Many of us are also students that work at the University and straddle the line between paying student and underpaid worker.

We will continue to demand that the University meet its obligation to address job insecurity and discriminatory employment practices in our University community. We will work with all of our NTEU union members to create a university community that is inclusive for all staff and all students.

As many of us have been organising Working With Children Checks, paid for by the University, some casual (sessional) staff have been told they need to pay for their own checks. Adding to the financial impost, the University has informed staff of this out-of-pocket cost after new contracts have been signed.

We are deeply concerned that the University of Melbourne chose not to pay the \$123.40 Working with Children Check (WWCC) fee for approximately 4,000 academic and professional casual staff, while picking up the tab for continuing and fixed term staff. Application of this "policy" is uneven across the University – some faculties and departments realise the unfairness of this impost and are covering the cost of the WWCC for ALL staff. For example, we heard earlier in March this year that the Melbourne Graduate School of Education had agreed to cover all costs.

Unionised casual and sessional academic and professional staff, employed by The University of Melbourne, are organising to fight this unfair treatment.

Motion:

We demand that the University of Melbourne:

- reimburse current casual staff for the cost of the WWCC.
- reimburse the WWCC fee to those casual staff that have re-applied for roles in Semester 1 2019 that they previously held (e.g. rolling contracts) in 2018.
- pay the WWCC for all future casual, continuing and fixed term staff should they not have a WWCC at the time of their employment.

We are asking you, students of the University of Melbourne and those that represent you and your interests, to stand up for casual staff at the University of Melbourne by signing our petition, and to endorse our broader Casual Staff Count Campaign in solidarity with our struggle.

Moved: Rosie Joy Barron
Seconded: