



University of Melbourne Students' Council

STANCE BOOKLET

(Last updated 01/07/2019)
(Endorsed 19/08/2019)

Introduction

The following booklet comprises the political and/or ideological stances taken by the University of Melbourne Student Union from 2009 to current. These stances act as ideological precedence that may have an impact on policy that guides the Union's political and social activism. Motions shall remain in this document until they are actively rescinded by Students' Council.

This booklet takes its stances from the motions passed through Students' Council, which acts as the Union's highest authority on the control and management of UMSU, including the management of finances, affiliation to third parties, and the coordination of the Union's activities. This booklet also outlines the evolution of Students' Council's involvement in public discourses and its commitment to issues that impact not only students but our wider community.

These stances in this booklet are intended to align the Union's constitutional purposes. The purposes for which the UMSU Incorporated is incorporated are:

1. To advance the welfare and interests of Students;
2. To represent Students of the University within the University and to the community;
3. To provide amenities and services, principally for Students and other members of the University community, and incidentally to the public, but in all cases not inconsistent with agreements made with the University, as the case may be, from time to time;
4. To provide an independent framework for Student social and political activity;
5. To develop, maintain and support Student clubs, societies and associational life generally;
6. To promote and defend the rights of Students to education on the basis of equality, without regard to race, colour, sex, sexuality, gender identity, age, physical disability, mental illness, economic circumstances, political religious or ideological conviction, or national or social origin;
7. To oppose violence and/or hatred through militarism, nationalism, or discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, sexuality, gender identity, age, physical disability, mental illness, economic circumstances, religion, or national or social origin.
8. To provide a democratic and transparent forum in which Students' affairs and interests can be governed in an effective and accountable manner; and
9. To promote free and accessible government-funded education.

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This list includes stances that have no end date.

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Asylum Seekers

ABBOTT GOVERNMENT REFUGEE POLICIES

13th February 2014 - Meeting 3(14)

That Students' Council condemns the Abbott government's refugee policies.

Mover: Ruby Healer	Seconder: James Crafti
CARRIED	

MANUS ISLAND & NAURU

1st March 2016 - Meeting 5(16)

(i) call on the government not to send any asylum seeker or refugee to Manus Island or Nauru; (ii) call on the state government to not cooperate with any attempt by the Federal government to return any of the 267 to Nauru;

(iii) will provide appropriate moral, financial and material support for the campaign by community and refugee advocacy groups to prevent asylum seekers being returned to Manus Island and Nauru;

(iv) declare solidarity with the houses of worship throughout Australia offering sanctuary;

(v) in memory of our union's past sheltering of East Timorese refugees and anti-war activists from forcible removal, offer the Union House building as sanctuary for the 267, and are prepared to mobilise the university community to defend that sanctuary.

(vi) should sanctuary be required, to call on the University and colleges to offer their facilities as sanctuary

Mover: Anisa Rogers	Seconder: James Bashford
CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT	

TRANSFIELD

12th August 2014 - Meeting 15(14)

That Students' Council reiterate our opposition to mandatory immigration detention.

That Students' Council commit to divesting from all contracts with Transfield and other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention.

That Students' Council call on UniSuper to divest from Transfield and all other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention centres.

That Students' Council further call on NTEU National Executive to urge UniSuper to divest from Transfield and all other businesses or funds with investments in immigration detention centres.

Moved: Madeline Clarke

Seconded: Kyle Webb

CARRIED

WILSON SECURITY

19th May 2016 - Meeting 11(16)

1. That Students' Council condemns Wilson Security's role in Australia's system of offshore detention.
2. That Students' Council condemns the University of Melbourne for providing contracts to Wilson Security.

Moved: Anneke Demanuele

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

RALLY FOR REFUGEES

5th October 2017 – Meeting 18(17)

- (i) Condemn Peter Dutton's callous and racist treatment of refugees on Manus and Nauru, and in Australia;
- (ii) call on the government to shut the detention centres and Manus and Nauru immediately and resettle the asylum seekers safely in Australia;
- (iii) call on the Victorian government to go beyond its stated guarantee of temporary income support for the affected refugees, and protect them from any attempt at deportation;
- (iv) reaffirm our promise to provide moral, financial and material support for the refugee campaign to bring them here;
- (v) endorse the Rally for Refugees on the 8th October 2017;
- (vi) resolve to host an UMSU contingent to said rally, and direct UMSU to publicise this contingent via all available channels, including hosting the contingent event on Facebook;
- (vii) direct the president to release a statement to these ends.

Moved: Ella Shi

Seconded: Guong Jie

CARRIED

REFUGEE COMMONWEALTH ATHLETES

17th August 2018 - Meeting 14(18)

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 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: Molly Willmott

Seconded: Amelia Reeves

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

DEREGULATION

14th May 2015 - Meeting 13(15)

That Students' Council:

- reaffirms UMSU's support of free and accessible government-funded education.
- denounces the Government's plans to continue to push for the deregulation of undergraduate university fees, to cut postgraduate research programs and to reduce Commonwealth funding to students in Commonwealth Supported Places, amongst other higher education and welfare measures.

Mover: Hana Dalton

Seconder: Stephen Smith

CARRIED

17th March 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

- (i) Notes its concern about the government's higher education policy following the comments of Education Minister Simon Birmingham at the Universities Australia Conference.
- (ii) Notes the danger of the government introducing a 10% hike to HECS fees alongside a 20% funding cut to the higher education sector.
- (iii) Notes its concern that deregulation of university fees remains Liberal party policy (iv) Reaffirms UMSU's commitment to campaign for free and accessible government funded education.

Moved: Akira Boardman

Seconded: James Baker

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

TURNBULL GOVERNMENT

6th October 2015 - Meeting 23(15)

That the Council acknowledges that there is nothing to suggest that the Turnbull Government will be any less hostile to students and the higher education sector than the Abbott Government was.

Subsequently, that the Council reaffirms its opposition to the Coalition Government on the basis of ideological hostility, demonstrated through detrimental policies.

This affirmation extends to the endorsement of campaigns to this effect, including those which oppose specific policy measures which are detrimental to students, as well as those which focus on the electoral success of this government for as long as anti-student policies remain in place.

Mover: Conor Serong

Secunder: Steven Connolly

CARRIED

2 Abstentions Noted

Environment

FOSSIL FREE

22nd October 2013 - Meeting 21(13)

That Students' Council endorses the Fossil Free MU campaign spearheaded by the UMSU Environment Department.

Mover: Vicky Fysh

Seconder: Bridget Chappell

CARRIED

1st April 2014 - Meeting 6(14)

That the Students' Council endorses the Fossil Free Melbourne University (FFMU) campaign. To signify this endorsement, that the President and the General Secretary sign the FFMU Open Letter on behalf of the Students' Council.

Mover: Alexa Thompson

Seconder: Hanna McCreath

CARRIED

FUNDING CUTS TO CSIRO & CLIMATE CHANGE

17th March 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

The Turnbull government has made significant funding cuts to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) which will prevent the continuation of critical climate science and environmental research. The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) recognises that these cuts diminish the global climate science research effort and Australia's adaption and mitigation capacity. Accordingly, UMSU disapproves of these funding cuts and endorses the Save CSIRO Jobs Campaign and signs onto support the following public statement "Science is vital to tackling climate change. We call on Malcom Turnbull to restore CSIRO climate science and fully fund public science in Australia", approving the display of the UMSU logo on the statement and other campaign materials.

Mover: Zachary Power

Seconder: Megan Pollock

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

STOP ADANI

12th July 2017 - Meeting 12(17)

That Students Council publicly endorses the campaign to Stop Adani.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Abstentions

Ethically Conscious

CAGED EGGS

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That Students' Council joins with the Cage Free Campus Society in calling for all University of Melbourne eateries to go "cage-free" and that a Students' Council representative presents a resolution to the University Council and to MUSUL calling for a complete cage-free egg policy on campus.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

CORKMAN PUB

Due to the significance of this building, both to the residents of Carlton and the students of this University, Student's Council resolves to:

- (i.) Condemn the actions of the developers who ordered the demolition as unlawful and in violation of Council protections.
- (ii.) Express its support for the coalition of Melbourne University students and concerned citizens who have begun a campaign to resurrect the Corkman pub, and to encourage UMSU departments to circulate the petition that this group has produced.
- (iii.) Call upon the Melbourne City Council to order that the developers pay for the full restoration of the building, and that no further development of the site in violation of Council protections should be allowed to take place.
- (iv.) Call for the Melbourne City Council to launch a public inquiry into the demolition of this building for profit and the need for stronger protections of Melbourne landmarks in general.

Moved: Gulsara Kaplun

Seconded: Harry Adam

CARRIED

FAIR TRADE UNIVERSITY

8th May 2012 - Meeting 8(12)

That UMSU supports Fair Trade products on campus. That UMSU supports the University's decision to seek accreditation to become a Fair Trade University and will assist in meeting the requirements for accreditation.

Moved: Mark Kettle

Seconded: Ayesha Cain

CARRIED

LOCKHEED MARTIN

1. Students Council reiterates its commitment to opposing violence through militarism and denounces the collaboration between the University of Melbourne and Lockheed Martin in respect to the establishment of the STELaRLab and in defense research.
2. Students Council declares that research conducted at the University of Melbourne should be considered against the highest ethical standards and that until demonstrated otherwise that military research conducted in partnership with defense companies like Lockheed Martin are not ethically sound
3. Furthermore Students Council declares that research conducted at the University of Melbourne should be conducted in the interest of a better and more peaceful society. Students Council emphasises in the strongest terms that the power of science and education should be harnessed for the betterment of all people and not in the interest of militaristic outcomes, especially not those of a foreign military force or national interest.
4. To call on Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) James McCluskey to clarify the ongoing relationship Lockheed Martin and the University of Melbourne share and the exact nature of their collaborations. Additionally to demonstrate that research and development stemming from this collaboration will not be responsible for ending the lives of any persons or facilitating an ongoing military technology race.
5. To call on the Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis to speak to the University of Melbourne's position in respect to the development of weapons technologies and involvement in the weapons industry. Additionally, to show cause for the engagement the University has with the ongoing U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Innovation Initiative by proxy of an ongoing relationship with Lockheed Martin. Finally to consider and speak to the risk that the University of Melbourne takes in further developing automated weapons systems that will not be accountable to us but we will be accountable to.
6. To call on the Honourable Premier for Victoria Daniel Andrews to clarify how research and investment in military research and development in Victoria is ethically sound and in the best interests of both the Victorian and University of Melbourne community. Additionally how supporting the Defense Innovation Initiative by proxy of endorsing the

University of Melbourne and Lockheed Martin collaboration came to be decided and the reasoning behind such a move.

7. To call on the Honourable Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Greg Hunt to explain and provide insight into the strategic necessity for Australia to opt into working with the U.S. D.o.D on the DII. Additionally to provide clarity as to how such an apparent necessity is balanced against the ethics of weapons manufacturing and the research and development of these technologies. Finally to answer to what extent will the University of Melbourne be complicit in the development of technologies that Australia will not control and that will be used to inflict death and destruction.

Moved: Dominic Cernaz

Seconded: Anneke D'emanuele

CARRIED

Xavier Boffa abstained

CARLTON UNITED BREWERIES WORKERS

13th September 2016 - Meeting 16(16)

UMSU condemns this vicious attack on workers and their unions, and demands that CUB immediately reinstate the 55 on their original pay and conditions. UMSU supports the picket and is heartened by the support it has received from fellow workers and the community.

Moved: Jason Wong

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

Xavier Boffa abstained

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

6th October 2016 - Meeting 17(16)

UMSU opposes the cutting of the CCP as:

- Cutting CCP guts the arts
- The Dean is erasing the future of socially engaged art
- VCA is losing Australia's only centre for community and socially engaged art -We lose an institutional home for socially-engaged and transdisciplinary artists
- Cutting CCP severs ties between artist/researchers and the wider community

UMSU condemns the behavior of the university administration:

- Misconduct in cutting the CCP -Failing to meet with and consult with students
- Disregarding the emotional, financial and academic repercussions that students will face
- Misleading international students who have only recently moved to Australia to take part in the course
- Failing to provide secure employment to the teaching staff at CCP

Action Points:

- UMSU commits to supporting any and all actions taken by the Save CCP campaign
- UMSU departments and offices are strongly encouraged will share and promote the facebook page and take every effort to attending any actions called by Save CCP
- Students Council will take a photo of solidarity to send to the CCP students
- UMSU will give financial support of up to \$750 to the Save CCP campaign from the Education Department Budget Line.
- All departments and offices will sign and share the online petition found here

Moved: Anneke D'emanuele

Seconded: Frances Connors

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

MELBOURNE LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE

13th August 2015 - Meeting 19(15)

That the student union support the strike action of these workers [Melbourne Liquor Distribution Warehouse] in their fight for job security and better working conditions.

Mover: Lia Vassilidis

Seconder: Patrick Dollard

CARRIED

SYDNEY COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

13th September 2016 - Meeting 16(16)

UMSU expresses its solidarity with the students at SCA and roundly condemns Vice Chancellor Michael Spence and USyd administrators for pressing this neoliberal attack. It is evident that no lessons have been learned after VC Spence and his ilk were made to back down on fee deregulation after massive student opposition.

The Council resolves to:

- (i) support the LET SCA STAY campaign and its demands, and stands in solidarity with the occupiers and their supporters;
- (ii) communicate this support publicly on social media, including Facebook and the weekly UMSU email digest;
- (iii) donate a proposed \$200 to the occupation fund;
- (iv) call upon the National Union of Students to affirm the LET SCA STAY demands and provide financial support;
- (v) remain vigilant against similar tactics employed by UniMelb administrators in the Business Improvement Program, the Flexible Academic Program, and the impending demolition of Union House under the Student Precinct development project.

Moved: Akira Boardman

Seconded: Anneke D'emanuele

CARRIED

VICTORIAN TEACHERS

24th April 2012 - Meeting 7(12)

That UMSU support Victorian teachers in any upcoming industrial action

Moved: Jeremy Gibson

Seconded: Patrick Alves

CARRIED

1 ABSTENTION

YOUNG WORKERS CENTRE FRANCHISE SURVEY

24th April 2012 - Meeting 16(17)

The Young Worker's Centre operates out of Trades Hall in Carlton, and aims to inform young Australians below the age of 30 of their rights at work. They also assist in getting young people back pay, helping them approach their employer about issues they see at work, and generally helping to engage young people in the union movement.

In light of the recent scandals from Grill'd, 7/11, Bakers Delight, and Subway (to only name a few), the Young Worker's Centre has dedicated time to educating workers about the systematic failures of the franchise operating model so that they may begin to reform their workplace. This might take the form of terminating zombie agreements, or collectively speaking to management.

In order to take the fight to the next level, YWC has launched a survey collecting the experiences of people who have worked for a franchise. This information will be used to better inform their campaign against stores that systematically exploit young people.

1. That UMSU endorses the survey and reaffirms its solidarity with young workers, many of whom are university students attempting to make ends meet.
2. UMSU spreads the survey via its weekly newsletter and publicizes it via relevant social media channels.

Mover: Louis Devine

Seconder: Desiree Cai

CARRIED

UMSU SUPPORTS STRIKING STAFF

Over the early months of this year the University and College Union in Britain has executed a large scale strike to protect working conditions and pensions for University Staff. The central question of the UCU strike has been around the issue of casualisation with Universities aiming to make it easier to fire employees and leave them with virtually no benefits or secure source of income.

The strike is occurring in more than sixty universities and has been running since late February with unionists refusing to capitulate on their demands and with students

unionists standing in solidarity with them, arguing with other students the importance of a picket line and why it should not be crossed.

UCU have also stated that this is a political battle between how the future of universities should be shaped. The administration desires a push to a business model of education in which students are customers who purchase their degrees at the highest rate possible meanwhile they push the conditions of the staff down in order to turn over the most profit possible. Staff and students within these universities are fighting to see education as a right, not a commodity.

These dynamics are not isolated to the UK however. Melbourne University also faces similar circumstances, with staff conditions under threat.

Motion:

UMSU supports the UCU strikes and the USS campaign

UMSU recognises the importance of industrial action for staff trying to improve their conditions and acknowledges the importance of student unions playing a productive role in those strikes

UMSU recognises that when industrial action is taken by staff it is the unions responsibility to not be conciliatory to any attempt by administration to sabotage strike action

UMSU will make a public statement of support for the ongoing action taken by UCU and the students supporting their staff

Moved: Melinda Suter

Seconded: Nick Reich

Carried

Indigenous

FREMANTLE COUNCIL - AUSTRALIA DAY

7th December 2016 - Meeting 2(17)

That UMSU shows its support for Fremantle City Council in their decision to hold alternative Australia Day celebrations on a date that is more culturally inclusive.

That UMSU condemn the Federal Governments banning of Fremantle City council to hold citizenship ceremonies on the Australia Day alternative day.

The UMSU highly encourages other organisations to take a similar stance and action as appropriate to that organisation, including local councils in the Melbourne vicinity, the University of Melbourne and Triple J.

Moved: Tyson Holloway-Clarke Seconded: Tom Crowley

CARRIED

KEEP INDIGENOUS HOUSING IN INDIGENOUS HANDS

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That UMSU endorses the statement made by Motion 7: the Intervention Rollback Action Group.

Moved: Ruby Warber Seconded: Tim Arnot

CARRIED

In Sympathy

BUSHFIRE RELIEF

12th February 2009 - Meeting 3(09)

That UMSU extends its sympathy and support to students and staff who have lost family, friends and homes in the bushfires.

Moved: Goldie Pergl

Seconded: Katherine Klaus

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

National Union of Students

CONDEMNING NUS MOTIONS IMPINGING ON FREEDOM OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

23rd July 2017 - Meeting 12(12)

Students' Council condemns the motions passed at the NUS Education Conference [motions included condemning representatives for visiting Israel and banning students from the Liberal Party], as being contrary to the freedom of political association, and the principles of democracy and liberty, the foundations upon which UMSU is built, and which the Students' Council as the representative body of the wider Melbourne student community are charged to uphold.

Moved: Justin Boyd

Seconddr: Stephen Smith

FOR: Matthew Lesh, James Duncan, Charlie Cartney, Chris Jermyn, Bridget Bourke, Justin Boyd

AGAINST: Jeremy Gibson

ABSTENTION: Adam Galvin, Hana Dalton, Sarina Murray, Annalivia Carli Hannan, Jess Evans, Belinda O'Connor, Maddee Clark

CARRIED

TRANSPARENCY AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

12th November 2015 - Meeting 26(15)

1. That Students Council reaffirms our commitment to accountability, transparency and accessibility for all events, including off campus organisations we financially contribute to.

2. That Students Council calls on our elected delegates to, if a motion comes up, to oppose any motion, which would prohibit student journalists from covering the NUS National Conference.

Moved: Pat Dollard

Seconded: Andrea Bozic

FOR: Itsi Weinstock, Danielle Bagnato, Pat Dollard, Lachlan Gell, Steven Connolly, Lachlan McCall, Joshua Rose (for Stephen Mitas)

AGAINST: Nil

ABSTENTIONS: Destan Dikbas

CARRIED

National Tertiary Education Union

BAILLIEU AND ERC STAFF CUTS

16th June 2011 - Meeting 8(11)

The University of Melbourne Student Union opposes the planned staff cuts at the Baillieu and ERC libraries. Students value the service provided by staff at these libraries. We support the NTEU campaign to prevent these cuts from taking place and will support the proposed action during second semester. If library management want to respond to changes in library service, they should do so by actually consulting with staff, students and unions first.

Students Council endorses the NTEU campaign opposing staff cuts at the Baillieu and ERC

libraries, and will invite the NTEU to place the UMSU logo on any posters and other materials that are part of this campaign, after consultation with the Education Public Affairs Department.

Moved: Liam Byrne

Seconded: Dominique Ottobre

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

SUPPORT OF NTEU IN UNIVERSITY STAFF CUTS

19th May 2009 - Meeting 12(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union supports the demands of university staff for a fairer deal at work, and supports the National Tertiary Education Union.

Moved: John Shipp (Chair)

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

12th August 2014 - Meeting 15(14)

Students' Council will support all actions called by the National Tertiary Education Union to fight job cuts to University of Melbourne Staff as a result of the BIP.

Mover: Zoe Efron

Seconder: Stephen Smith

CARRIED

Patrick Clearwater dissents

NTEU SOLIDARITY

29th August 2017 - Meeting 16(17)

That UMSU stands in solidarity with the NTEU on the issue of academic freedom at the University of Melbourne. The 'number one' University in Australia should not be afraid of critical enquiry, intellectual discourse, or public controversy. These qualities are fundamental to the role of universities in the public sphere; it is through rigorous intellectual discourse that academics contribute to public dialogue.

That UMSU stands in solidarity with the NTEU on the issue of staff cuts. Cuts to staff are cuts to students. UMSU condemns large scale and unjustified cuts to staff

Moved: Sinead Manning

Seconded: Daniel Beratis

CARRIED

UMSU SUPPORTS THE NTEU STRIKE

19th May 2009 - Meeting 12(09)

Since February 2017, negotiations have been taking place between University of Melbourne management and local National Tertiary Education Union over the creation of a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA). These negotiations have yielded little results, in no small part due to University obstructionism and an inability for their representatives to bargain in good faith. One of the many actions from the University that displays this is their refusal to offer staff a small pay rise as is customary during such a drawn out negotiation process.

The University is clearly motivated to reduce the bargaining power of the NTEU on campus—this is best exemplified by their demand to split the current EBA into one for academic staff and one for professional staff. This divide-and-conquer mentality to bargaining will serve as a pretext to the University being able to rearrange services such as Stop 1 at will with little regard to the job security of people in those areas, before coming for academic staff, who will have little support left.

It's important to recognise the effect that some of the changes proposed by the University will have on students, too. The removal of student-to-student ratios, for example, will result in increased class sizes, which means more work for teachers and less time for students to interact with them. Here we can see that there is a clear link between the interests of students, and the interests of staff, which are currently on the line.

With that in mind, NTEU members recently voted in favour of stopping work from 9am-1pm on May 9th, (and attending the Change the Rules rally instead) as a beginning to pressure the University to back off from their more insidious demands, as well as to begin considering more suggestions from the NTEU. This strike action needs to support of both staff and students if it is to succeed.

1. UMSU supports the NTEU and University staff in fighting for fairer conditions at the University of Melbourne.
2. UMSU will stand in solidarity with all NTEU industrial action that is taken to improve the terms of their EBA.
3. Students' Council directs Office Bearers and Councillors to attend and participate in the NTEU action on Wednesday the 9th, 9am, at gate 4 (Monash Road Entrance), and join the NTEU/UMSU contingent to the Change the Rules Rally (from 10am-1pm that same day) unless they have work, significant personal reasons, or classes for which both their attendance would be marked and attendance is required under the handbook.
4. Student's Council directs office-bearers to use their department social media channels, opportunities at events, and other means within their responsibilities to publicise and inform students about why we should stand in solidarity with staff in their industrial action, and encourage them not to attend classes, and to attend rallies or picket lines.

Moved: Conor Clements

Seconded: Toby Silcock

CARRIED

Political Issues

DONALD TRUMP PRESIDENCY

7th December 2016 - Meeting 2(17)

1. UMSU stands firmly opposed to President Elect Donald Trump.
2. UMSU recognises and opposes the array of right wing forces in Australia, including the Liberal government, Pauline Hanson and fascist groupings like the United Patriots Front, who have gained a confidence boost out of Trump's election.
3. UMSU recognises the positive role a protest against Trump can play in countering those forces and making sure a new right wing consensus doesn't become mainstream.

Mover: Anneke D'emanuele

Seconder: Alice Smith

CARRIED

OPPOSE THE FAR RIGHT AND ITS SYMPATHISERS, BOYCOTT ARCADIA

7th December 2016 - Meeting 2(17)

1. That this student council reasserts its constitutional commitment to standing in opposition to militarism, nationalism, and discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, gender identity, religion, and national or social origin
2. This student council` notes that the aims, and ideals of far-right, and fascist groups are in fundamental opposition to the aforementioned constitutional commitments.
3. That this student council condemns the Australian Liberty Alliance (ALA)'s far-right politics,
4. That this student council condemns the ALA's choice to nominate for the seat of Caulfield an associate of far-right figures including a man convicted of the anti-semitic harassment of a Rabbi, gangs associated with far-right ultraviolence, figures who have called in public fora for pictures of Hitler to be displayed in every Australian classroom, as well as self-professed neo-nazis.
5. That this student council notes the owner of the Arcadia Hotel in South Yarra has noted public sympathies for the ALA, and its politics, and has routinely hosted events for the ALA.
6. That, due to the Arcadia Hotel's links to far-right groups, this student councils imposes a rolling boycott upon any future association with or use of the facilities of the Arcadia Hotel, and calls upon its constituent clubs, and societies, and all students to take the same stance in principled opposition to the far-right, and in solidarity with all students

under threat from the spectre of racism, anti-semitism, sexism, queerphobia, transphobia, ableism, and militarism

Mover: Daniel Beratis (Chair)

CARRIED

SAFE SCHOOLS

17th March 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

UMSU's student council supports the Safe School Coalition and recognises its important role in working with staff and students in creating a safe and inclusive environment for same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, staff and parents.

Moved: Akira Boardman

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

SEX WORKERS AND TRANS PEOPLE

25th May 2017 - Meeting 10(17)

The President release a statement reaffirming UMSU's commitment to including sex workers and trans people in decision making that affects them, supporting their right to bodily and political autonomy and condemning any activism or ideology on or off campus that does not include, support and respect these communities

Moved: Cassandra Prigg

Seconded: Lizzie Nicholson

Jesse Krause voted against

Gavin Sittampalam abstained

CARRIED

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE POSTAL SURVEY

15th August 2017 - Meeting 15(17)

1. In recent days, after a second failed attempt to move a plebiscite on marriage equality in the Senate, the Coalition government has authorised a postal survey asking Australians on the electoral roll for their opinion as to whether the law should be amended to allow marriage equality.

2. This policy--a policy that nobody wants--asks a question nobody (except conservatives in the government) believes should be answered by the public. It will deliver a result that will sway nobody and have no legal authority to implement marriage equality in Australia.

3. Instead of simply allowing a free vote in the Parliament, the government has instead persisted with this policy--a costly, unnecessary ballot with massive consequences for a vulnerable community.

4. The pain this survey will cause LGBTI Australians and LGBTI young people especially can already be seen. Lyle Shelton, the head of the Australian Christian Lobby, is calling

children of LGBTI Australians "the stolen generation". Politicians such as Pauline Hanson and George Christensen are implying unfounded and malicious slippery slopes, linking marriage equality to polygamy, bestiality and paedophilia. This has happened, and will continue to happen throughout this process, causing direct harm to LGBTI Australians young and old, as studies of the Irish experience have shown.

5. In recent days, the prospect of a boycott to delegitimize the postal survey has been raised in several quarters. Polling indicates that, in the event of a postal survey or plebiscite, that 15% of LGBTI Australians would prefer a boycott, whilst more than half would prefer a 'yes' campaign. Given the community's preference, UMSU should seek to bolster the yes case, rather than pursue a boycott that may play into the hands of 'no' advocates.

6. Aims 1 and 7 of this student union are clear as to what our position must be. This postal survey has already unleashed and will continue to unleash hatred and trauma upon a vulnerable community. We must do everything in our power as a student union to ensure that we beat back the tide and ensure that a resounding vote of yes is returned, so that marriage equality may become law in this country.

1. That UMSU condemns the divisive, hurtful and unnecessary marriage postal survey as an unrepresentative and damaging policy by a government who could legislate for marriage equality tomorrow, if it so wished;
2. That UMSU nonetheless urges all students to enrol to vote, to update their address, and to vote for marriage equality;
3. That UMSU strongly encourages all Office Bearers to promote the same and enable students to do so as such at their events, in their collectives and through their communications with students;
4. That UMSU strongly promotes those events and others seeking to enrol students and update their details, and shares a link to enrol across appropriate social media platforms once immediately, and once just before or on August 24th;
5. That UMSU publicise on social media channels and at postal survey-related events resources for those affected by the postal survey, provided by either UMSU or the University, including but not limited to resources for queer students and mental health resources, as collated by the President, General Secretary, Queer Officers or other relevant Officers and Staff;
6. That these publications additionally be regularly published in the same way with accompanying reminders to vote, once every fortnight beginning on September 12th, and ending as close as practicable to November 7th; and
7. That the President direct the General Manager to ensure that these publications begin, alongside reminders to enrol or vote as appropriate, as soon as possible, but no later than September 12th for voting reminders, and no later than August 23rd for enrolment reminders.

Moved: Daniel Beratis

Seconded: Matthew Simkiss

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

TRANSPHOBIC SPEAKING TOUR

17th August 2016 - Meeting 14(18)

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: Desiree Cai

Seconded: Jacob Sacher

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

INDIAN STUDENT ASSAULT

3rd June 2009 - Meeting 13(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union strongly condemns the racist attacks on Indian students.

We condemn the appalling response by the Victorian Police to the attacks in denying the racist nature of the attacks and blaming the victims.

We also condemn the National Labour Party Students for not seriously addressing the real issues of racism in Australia, and ignoring the demands of Indian Students.

We also condemn the federal and state governments for failing to address the concerns of Indian Students and for fostering racism through their treatment of international students.

We call on the government to provide:

- Adequate funding for support services for international students. This includes housing and employment services, counselling, translation etc.
- Affordable and liveable housing for students near universities so they are not forced to live in the outer suburbs
- Increase staff at train stations and on trains, and increased lighting and surveillance cameras
- Transport concession cards for all international students.

Moved: Frances Lewis

Seconded: Liam Byrne

CARRIED

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstentions: 11

SAY NO TO RACISM

That UMSU:

1. UMSU opposes all messages of racism, islamophobia, xenophobia and fascism.
2. UMSU supports all Muslim students to feel comfortable to express their religion and cultural identity at university.
3. UMSU stands against anti-semitism and all other forms of racism.
4. UMSU will always oppose fascist movements, on and off campus.

Mover: Lia Vassiliadis

Seconder: Molly Willmott

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

WE MUST ACT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

22nd March 2018 - Meeting 6(18)

1. Antisemitism is often dismissed as a phenomenon of the past, both in public debate and academic discourse. People mistakenly assume that anti-Semitism is merely historical. The opposite of this is true. 2017 saw a 9.5% rise* in recorded anti-Semitic incidents and a huge increase in anti-Semitic activity occurring on campuses across Australia.

*Executive Council of Australian Jewry 2016-2017 Report of Anti-Semitism in Australia (<http://www.ecaj.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ECAJ-AntisemitismReport-2017.pdf>)

2. One such example is the incident which occurred at the University of Melbourne on the first day of the semester. Two men were seen handing out discriminatory leaflets. They allegedly called one student a “faggot” and were seen spitting in front of another student who identified herself as Jewish after she was questioned about her ethnicity.

3. In an increasingly hostile campus environment, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure the safety and security of Jewish students. It is vital that the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU), the peak representative body for students at the university, acknowledges and acts to prevent the rise in anti-Semitism, consistent with the motion passed by the National Union of Students in December 2017.

1. UMSU condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms as defined by the globally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. This is the working definition used by both Australian and international Jewish representative bodies. This is also the definition that was adopted by the National Union of Students on 14 December 2017. It states that: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”.

2. UMSU commits to working with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), as the peak representative body for Jewish students on campus in Australia and New Zealand, to ensure UMSU activist spaces, events and protests are inclusive and welcoming of Jewish voices and perspectives.

3. UMSU will formally recognise and publicise January 27, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and work with AUJS in either partnering or sharing material designed to educate and commemorate the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Moved: Raf Ungar

Seconded: Jacob Sacher

CARRIED

Transport

CONCESSION CARDS

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That the University of Melbourne Student Union Students' Council endorses the Melbourne wide Concession Cards Coalition and its demands for transport concession cards for international and postgraduate students.

Mover: Tim Arnot

Seconder: Josh Schmidt

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

EAST WEST LINK

17th December 2013 - Meeting 23(13)

That Students' Council formally oppose the construction of the East West Link and call on the Victorian Government to invest instead in public transport, and that the UMSU President advocate to the University that it adopt a similar position.

Moved: Alexander Sheko

Seconded: John Lister

CARRIED

FARES FAIR PTV CAMPAIGN

21st April 2016 - Meeting 6(16)

Victoria is the only state in Australia where full time post-graduate students are not entitled to a public transport concession card. The Graduate Student Association is currently running a campaign, Fares Fair PTV, to get the Victorian Government to entitle all full time post-graduate students to a public transport concession card.

The University of Melbourne Student Union recognises the basis of this entitlement is inconsistent with the rules applied to other students and is unfair.

The University of Melbourne Student Union endorses the Fares Fair PTV campaign and commits to actively promoting it.

Moved: Kelly Smith

Seconded: Zachary Power

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

31st March 2009 - Meeting 6(09)

UMSU recommends the abolishment of section 2.20DA of the 'public transport amendment act of 2007' on the grounds that it unfairly discriminates against postgraduate and international students.

Mover: Tristan Clack

Secunder: Frances Lewis

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

UNIVERSITY STATION

25th August 2016 - Meeting 15(16)

UMSU supports the University of Melbourne's proposal to name the new Melbourne Metro Train Station located on Grattan Street the aptly named 'University Station'. That Students' Council establishes the principle that we include the name Union or a derivative of in the new Student Precinct.

Mover: Tyson Holloway-Clarke

Secunder: Daniel Sango

CARRIED

UMSU Services

BAR

30 July 2015 - Meeting 18(15)

1. That Students' Council reaffirms its commitment to student control of student affairs/services
2. That Students' Council recognises UMSU's reliance on its allocation of SSAF from the University, and the vulnerability this creates for a post-SSAF environment; Students Council recognises that we ought to be working towards alternative revenue streams/commercial outlets, as many other unions have.
3. That Students' Council recognises that the most effective way to run a popular bar for students is to allow students to make key decisions around its operation.
4. That the Students' Council approves, in principle, an UMSU-run café and bar in level 1 space overlooking North Court.

Mover: Rachel Withers

Seconder: Hana Dalton

CARRIED

Steven Connolly Abstained

BOOK CO-OP

28th July 2009 - Meeting 15(09)

That Students' Council endorses and supports the establishment and operation of the UMSU Book Cooperative.

Moved: Sam Cossar-Gilbert

Seconded: Adelaide Rief

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

CLUBS & SOCIETIES ENDORSEMENTS

30 March 2010 - Meeting 5(10)

That both the Socialist Alternative Club affiliated to UMSU and the Socialist Alternative Organisation be informed that they may not put up posters or distribute material that states that they are supported or in anyway endorsed by UMSU without following due process of seeking approval of Students' Council or relevant departmental committees.

Moved: Shaun Khoo

Seconded: Kon Moisisdis

For: 11

Against: 5

CARRIED

30 March 2010 - Meeting 5(10)

That no club or group or society should ever say 'supported by UMSU' if not supported via due process.

Moved: Esther Bohmer

Seconded: Joshua Anderson

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

EVENTS

8th May 2012 - Meeting 8(12)

That UMSU supports the right of departments to run social and educational events for the benefit of students.

Mover: Anna Morrison

Seconder: Stephen Smith

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Satellite Campus Events

1st December 2015 - Meeting 1(16)

That all UMSU Departments are required to have at least one event or a specific campaign at a non-Parkville campus per semester.

Mover: Martin Ditmann

Seconder: James Baker

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

ISLAMIC PRAYER SPACE

18th of March 2009 - Meeting 5(09)

In 2007 Melbourne University demolished the Islamic prayer space on campus without guaranteeing another space for Islamic students to practice their faith. UMSU played a key role, through the submissions process, alongside the Islamic Students Society in ensuring that a space would eventually be guaranteed on campus for Islamic Students. RMIT has taken away the Islamic prayer room on their campus, and have refused to provide any other facilities for the use of Islamic Students. UMSU condemns this racist attack, and supports the campaign at RMIT for an Islamic prayer room. UMSU:

1. Condemns RMIT for refusing to return the Islamic prayer room for use by Islamic Students.
2. Endorses the 'Right the Wrong, Return the Prayer Room' campaign being conducted by the Islamic Society at RMIT.

3. Endorses the Public Protest to “Give us a Fair Go, Right the Wrong! Return the Prayer Room! will be held on Monday 23rd March 2009 on Bowen St from 2pm onwards with a march to the state library and VC office.

4. Endorses any demonstrations, forums, or other actions that the RMIT Islamic students hold as a part of this campaign. Students’ Council directs the UMSU President to submit this motion in a press release to all major media outlets, and to write a letter to Professor Margaret Gardener AO, the Vice Chancellor of RMIT, expressing our support for the Islamic Prayer room at RMIT to be returned to the Islamic Students.

Moved: Frances Lewis

Seconded: Liam Byrne

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

OFFICE BEARER CONDUCT

30 March 2010 - Meeting 5(10)

That the UMSU Constitution exists to:

‘promote and defend the rights of Students to education on the basis of equality without regard to race, colour, sex, sexuality, gender identity, age, physical disability, mental illness, economic circumstances, political, religious or ideological conviction, or national or social origin’/ As such, the office bearers of UMSU are reminded that they, as holders of office, have a duty to operate under these values.

In this we recognise that:

- all UMSU Office-Bearers have a right to a workspace in which they are not subjected to bullying, discrimination, harassment;
- the UMSU Office should be a safe space for Office-Bearers and their guests, free from intimidation;
- UMSU Office-Bearers are responsible for the behaviour of their guests while in the UMSU Office;

Students’ Council compels that UMSU Office-Bearers:

- treat each other with respect and courtesy at all times;
- undertake to ensure that the UMSU Office is a space that is free of bullying, discrimination and harassment;, and uphold the values of UMSU as outlined above;
- ensure that any guests to their Offices behave in a way that does not compromise the above;

- make every possible effort to resolve any issues that arise due to incidents in the UMSU Office by opening a dialogue with the other Office-Bearer(s) involved in the matter.

Moved: Lydia Bevege

Seconded: Jesse Overton-Skinner

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

SSAF

15th July 2015 - Meeting 17(15)

That UMSU Students' Council:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the SSAF as a means of supporting student representation, studentcentred services and student activities on campus
2. Expresses its qualified support for the University's plans to use a portion of its unallocated SSAF funds to create and upgrade study spaces, with the following conditions
 - a) That the University provides for adequate student representation on any decision-making body relevant to the planning of study spaces funded by SSAF. Such student representation shall involve UMSU representatives including, but not limited to, the President, General Secretary, Education (Academic Affairs) Officer/s and Welfare Officer/s.
 - b). That the University commits to establishing guidelines for the distribution and use of unallocated SSAF funds in future, ensuring that UMSU is represented in this process.

Mover: Hana Dalton

Seconder: Rachel Withers

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

6th October 2015 - Meeting 23(15)

That the Council reaffirms in the strongest possible terms its wholehearted support for the SSAF, and endorses any campaigns seeking to raise the profile of, and support for, both the SSAF and student unionism more broadly.

This includes the endorsement of campaigns from the National Union of Students and other student organisations to this effect.

Furthermore, that the Council condemns any move to return to a system of VSU, which saw student organisations, and by extension student life, welfare, advocacy and campus culture, suffer throughout the Howard era.

Mover: Conor Serong
CARRIED

Seconder: Rachel Withers

1st December 2016 - Meeting 1(16)

1. UMSU Students' Council reaffirms its support for the Student Services Amenities Fee and declares its opposition to any moves that would require annual ballots to approve the existence of SSAF and the catastrophic uncertainty this would cause.
2. UMSU reaffirms its commitment to student control of student affairs.
3. UMSU Students' Council believes that student organisations should directly receive a large percentage of SSAF to ensure students have maximal say over how the SSAF is spent; students should always be consulted on the breakdown of the SSAF between organisations.
4. UMSU commits to work with the National Union of Students, National Tertiary Education Union and Universities to campaign in defence of the SSAF
5. Students' Council directs that all publications (including Farrago), designs and communications from across the organisation, including student representative and staffing departments, are to clearly display a "Funded by SSAF" logo or slogan where relevant, to ensure students are informed of the benefits of their SSAF contribution.

Mover: James Bashford

Seconder: Akira Boardman

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

BENDIGO STREET OCCUPATION

25th August 2016 - Meeting 15(16)

1. UMSU stands in solidarity with the occupants of Parkville and Bendigo Street, which include victims of domestic violence, young children, and LGBT+ people. The majority of occupants have been battling homelessness for years due to lack of resources and public stigma.

2. UMSU condemns both Victorian Housing Minister's actions in calling the police and trying to forcibly displace these people without offering them alternative accommodation, and the Housing Minister's current inaction that have led to a housing crisis where the incidents of homeless have increased by 74 percent in two years.

Mover: Lotus Ye

Seconded: James Bashford

CARRIED

CONDEMNATION OF JOE HOCKEY'S SPEECH

24th April 2012 - Meeting 7(12)

That UMSU condemns Joe Hockey's statements [about welfare] and calls for a maintenance and expansion of student income support and the welfare state. That the Student Union lobby federal members in the lead up to the Federal Budget on Student Income Support and the Welfare State.

Mover: Carl LaRosa

Secunder: Jade Eckhaus

CARRIED

HARM REDUCTION

13th September 2016 - Meeting 16(16)

The students' council resolves to implement this drug harm reduction program in the lead-up to the summer festival season, and endorses the distribution of packs of relevant information and reagent test kits at the Union House information desk. Students Council understands the limitations surrounding this testing, and affirms that all distribution will be accompanied by a verbal discussion.

The students' council acknowledges the limitations of reagent kits as a test method for drug purity and adulteration, and will therefore work toward making more accurate and effective tests available.

The students' council therefore calls upon the University of Melbourne to explore providing access to gas chromatography facilities for this purpose.

Moved: Gulsara Kaplun

Seconded: Yasmine Luu

CARRIED

4th April 2017 - Meeting 7(17)

1. That UMSU affirms its commitment to holistic, judgment-free and evidence-based approaches to drug harm reduction.
2. That UMSU implement a series of education sessions, available to all students at no cost, outlining steps that they can take reduce the harms associated with drug use
3. That UMSU run a campaign calling for high quality pill testing facilities such as gas chromatography mass-spectrometry to be made available to the public

Mover: Gulsara Kaplun

Seconder: Molly Willmott

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

REPRESENTATION AT DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

13th August 2015 - Meeting 19(15)

1. UMSU Students' Council reaffirms its support for the democratic and autonomous representation of marginalised student groups in their student union.
2. UMSU Students' Council calls upon the Deakin University Student Association to establish autonomously and democratically elected representatives with full voting rights on the DUSA Committee of Management, bringing DUSA into line with the majority of other student organisations in Australia.
3. UMSU further encourages the implementation of affirmative action in multi-member committees and councils.
4. Students' Council direct the President, in consultation with the Wom*ns' and Queer officers, to write to the President of DUSA to communicate council's position.
5. UMSU also encourages DUSA to look toward establishing a disabilities department in the spirit of democratic and autonomous representation.

Mover: James Bashford

Seconder: Allison Ballantyne

CARRIED

Women's Rights

ABORTION

3rd June 2009 - Meeting 13(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union supports the right of all women to choose what happens to their bodies. UMSU stands with pro-choice protestors in Brisbane who are calling for the charges to be dropped. UMSU condemns these charges and demands they be dropped immediately and abortion be decriminalised.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED Abstentions: 1

17th December 2013 - Meeting 23(13)

1. That Students' Council congratulates and supports pro-choice activists for their lively counter-demonstration defending every woman's right to control their own body.
2. That Students' Council condemns those who attended the anti-woman, anti-choice 'March for the Babies'.
3. That Students' Council condemns the Melbourne University Liberal Club for attending the sexist, anti-choice 'March for the Babies' and reaffirms that UMSU stands against sexism.

Mover: Jade Eckhaus

Seconder: Jeremy Galvin

CARRIED

World Issues

CHILEAN STUDENTS' MOVEMENT

24th April 2012 - Meeting 7(12)

That UMSU send a letter of solidarity and support to CONFECH and encourage NUS to do the same

Mover: Patrick Alber

Seconder: Jeremy Gibson

CARRIED

2 Abstentions

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

19th May 2009 - Meeting 12(09)

The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns Israel's war on the population of Gaza. The University of Melbourne Student Union calls for Israel to lift the blockade of Gaza's borders and allow the passage of all food, fuel and medical supplies. The University of Melbourne Student Union condemns the Australian Government and Western governments around the world for ignoring the plight of the Palestinian people.

Moved: Sadia Schneider

Seconded: Liam Byrne

CARRIED

For: Josh Schmidt via Phoebe Kelloway, Phoebe Kelloway, Liam Byrne, Onagh Bishop via Dominique Ottobre, Dominique Ottobre Taylor Kendall and Dan Musil (7)

Against: Goldie Pergl, Jesse Overton-Skinner, Kyle Dadleh, James Smith via Clinton Markwell, Clinton Markwell, John Shipp (6)

Abstentions: Brendan Thomas-Noone, Sisi Ying via Goldie Pergl and Rudolph Hosri (3)