

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Thursday 13th February, 2:30pm
Meeting 4(20)
Location: Jim Potter Meeting Room, Old Physics

Council opened at 2:38

1. Procedural Matters
1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: To elect Jack Buksh as Chair.

Moved: Jack Buksh

Seconded: Reece Moir

Carried Without Dissent

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

Jess spoke about the Wurundjeri people and gave respect to the Indigenous Custodians.

1.3. Attendance

Councillors

Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Allen Xiao	Y	3
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Max Dowell	N	3
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Andie Moore	Y	2
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Tejas Gandhi	Y	1
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Hayley Kebbell	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Evelyn Ranogajec	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joshua Bruni	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Christopher Melenhorst	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nick Reich	N	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Lachlan Hinds	N	3

Students' Council (General Representative)	Raiyaan Mahbub	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Felix Sharkey	N	2
Students' Council (General Representative)	Molly Willmott	N	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Varaidzo Chipunza	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Hannah Krasovec	N	2
Students' Council (General Representative)	Matthew Harper-Gomm	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Maisie Strong	N	0
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nurul Juhria Binte Kamal	N	0
Students' Council (General Representative)	Thonya Deverall	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Catriona Smith	Y	4
Indigenous Committee	Jess Ferrari-Thomas	Y	3

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
President	Hannah Buchan	Y	4
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	Y	4
Activities Officer	India Pinkney	Y	1
Clubs & Societies Officer	Jordan Di Natale	Y	4
Disabilities Officer	Hue Man Dang	Y	4
Disabilities Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	N	2
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Charlie Joyce	Y	2
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Noni Bridger	Y	1
Environment Officer	Olivia Sullivan	Y	4
Environment Officer	Sophie Kerrigan	N	2
Media Officer	Bethany Cherry	Y	3
Media Officer	Amber Meyer	N	3
Media Officer	Sarah Peters	Y	4
Media Officer	Tharidi Walimunige	Y	4
People of Colour Officer	Nicole Nabbout	Y	3
People of Colour Officer	Gurpreet Singh	Y	3
Queer Officer	Ciara O'Sullivan	N	3
Queer Officer	A'bidah Zaid	N	0
Welfare Officer	Declan Kerger	N	3
Welfare Officer	Natasha Guglielmino	Y	3
Women's Officer	Aria Sunga	N	2
Women's Officer	Naomi Smith	N	2
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Joshua Munro	Y	4
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Georgia Walton Briggs	Y	4

Creative Arts Officer	Emily White	Y	3
Creative Arts Officer	Olivia Bell	Y	4
Activities Officer	Hayley Stanford	Y	2
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Y	1
VCA Campus Co-ordinator	Verity Crane	Y	2
VCA Campus Co-ordinator	Hayden Williams	Y	3
Indigenous Officer	Shanysa Jayde McConville	N	2
Indigenous Officer	Hope Kuchel	Y	2

Other: Justin Baré, UMSU CEO; Sarah Black, Administration Officer; Reece Moir, Anneke Demanuele, Maddy Roberts, Shirley Killen, Isabelle Horton, James Gallagher, Emma Dynes, Lucas Brenning-Halsall, Briana Symonds-Maree

1.4. Apologies

Councillors: Hannah Krasovec, Felix Sharkey, Max Dowell, Nick Reich, Masie Strong, Lachlan Hinds, Nurul Juria Binte Kamal

Office Bearers: A'bidah Zaid, Aria Sunga, Naomi Smith, Ciara O'Sullivan, Sophie Kerrigan, Shanysa McConville, Amber Meyer

1.5. Proxies

Max Dowell to Matt Harper, Hannah Krasovec to Evelyn Ranogajec, Felix Sharkey to Reece Moir, Nick Reich to Emma Dynes, Masie Strong to Briana Symonds-Maree, Nurul Juria Binte Kamal to Raiyaan Mahub, Lachlan Hinds to Varizdo Chipunza

1.6. Membership

Noni Bridger has been appointed as the Education (Public Affairs) Office Bearer

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried Without Dissent

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 3(20)

Tree Smith said that the minutes did not list Will's organisation and only had XXX, and that they should list it.

Motion 3: To adopt the minutes with the amendments.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

None.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 9.1 is in the agenda.

5. Correspondence

5.1. Correspondence from MUR Motorsports RE: Disaffiliation Appeal

Jack said this is item 9.2.

6. Office Bearer Reports

Hannah Buchan gave an update on the new student precinct: Projected to be opening in 2022 to 2024. The project team will be working on the food and retail aspect this year.

Jack reiterated that missed council meetings have different consequences now.

He said that the beach party yesterday was a lot of fun and all the sand went to the local kindergarten around the corner.

Christopher Melenhorst expressed that the free tram zone doesn't reduce costs for students unless they live in the CBD and that there should be a push for free public transport.

Charlie: Ticket inspectors prey on students in the 4 stops leading up to Melbourne Uni. By extending the free tram zone, there will be harm reduction.

Josh: Do you get paid if you don't submit your OB report?

Jack: If you miss one report, Council can vote to take away the pay. It's at the Council's discretion.

Anneke: Of course we want to fight for free public transport for everyone but it's silly to say the free tram zone wouldn't affect students living outside the city.

Chris clarified that he would like free transport to be prioritised and better in the long run.

A question was posed for Disabilities about items in the lucky dip.

Hue Man: Bio friendly products, the ones I've checked have been manufactured in Australia.

Charlie: There were classes that weren't cancelled despite the hazardous smoke levels. We will be working with the NTEU to strengthen OH&S policy.

Tree posed a question for Education: Have you guys looked at the booking prices for Surge Camp?

Education said that they're just looking at quotes at the moment and they'll update info when they have it.

Allen asked about prices per student.

Charlie: \$154 pp with catering and \$80 without catering.

Motion 4: To move the OB Reports including recommendations.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

7. CEO Report

Procedural to skip straight to item 8.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

8. Other Reports

8.1. Election of the CEO Contract Oversight Committee

Jack: There were 3 nominations and all 3 are now on the Oversight Committee.

9. Operational Business

9.1. Perspektif Magazine SIG Grant

Motion 5: To accept the grant.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

9.2. MUR Motorsports Appeal

Jordan Di Natale spoke about the reasons and background for disaffiliation. He said that

- The club did not report properly
- An event they ran was a joint event and outside of the time period
- Their report only had the date but they did not provide a list of the members who attended.
- The Department sent numerous emails asking for evidence of this event, asking for attendance.
- After the deadline passed, the club responded with a report for semester 1 rather than semester 2. Nothing else was submitted by the club.
- They were invited to a committee meeting and they did not attend.

Anneke: I don't think we should uphold the decision of the C&S Department.

Reece: When were they disaffiliated?

Jordan: 18th Dec. We decided 6th of Jan. An appeal was submitted within the 2 weeks.

Motion 6: To uphold the affiliation.

Moved: Reece Moir

Seconded: Jordan Di Natale

Abstention from Chris Melenhorst

Carried

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. Alliance of Staff and Students

Charlie: The NTEU casuals network started a successful campaign of getting rights for casual staff. This is a student issue because if the casual staff are stressed because of their poor work conditions, this affects students.

Noni reflected this.

Motion 7: To accept this motion.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Secunder: Noni Bridger

Carried Without Dissent

10.2. Kill the Bill

Lucas spoke to the motion.

Joshua Bruni: As a bit of context, I grew up in a Christian household and moved away due to the way that the right Christian community treats LGBTQI people. That being said, I think this motion is particularly unfair to the Labor party considering Labor party pushed to legalise same sex marriage.

Thonya: I'd like to move to amend the motion to: "UMSU recognises that the Australian political system upholds the oppression...". I think it's offensive to say that Labor were oppressive.

Andie: It's not about one party or another. The roots of LGBTQI phobias are much deeper than politics. It was the reaction of the Labor party to the mass movement on the street. This is a disgusting, bigoted bill and we need to mobilise students to fight this. We need to stand in solidarity with the students who will be affected by this bill.

Procedural to move straight to a vote on the amendment.

Moved: Andie Moore

Carried

Motion 8: To accept the amendment.

Moved: Thonya Deverall

Sec: **Abbie**

Carried

Hannah: I agree with this motion but it's more than two parties that have been homophobic and we should recognise that.

Anneke: It's important to call out an institution who could've pushed for marriage equality but didn't. Of course, there's more issues that just marriage equality but it was just establishing that queer ppl have the same rights as ppl who aren't queer. Now it's an attempt to undermine that. Of course One Nation is homophobic. The Labor party is supposed to be the opposition, but when was the last time they acted like one?

Emma expressed the same.

Tree: I completely agree with Anneke on this point. But you can also criticise both parties as well as the political system. I'd like to move an amendment to include that.

This was amenable to Lucas, the mover.

Procedural to move straight to a vote.

Moved: Reece Moir

Carried

Motion 9: To accept the motion with the 2 amendments.

Jack

Carried

10.3. UMSU Corona Virus

James spoke to moving rights. We should take it seriously. We take a stand against racism.

Emma spoke to seconding rights, noting that the response is laced with racist connotations.

Procedural to move straight to a vote.

Moved: Tree Smith

Failed

Reece: I agree with the motion and wanted to say that by quarantining on Christmas Island we are endangering the population on Christmas Island who don't have access to good medical care.

Briana: Our gov can't respond in any other way than to lock ppl up in detention centres?
Andie agreed.

Motion 10: To move the motion

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

Procedural to move straight to the CEO's report.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

Procedural to move into camera

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

Council moved in camera at 3:38pm

Motion 12: To accept the CEOs report with recommendations.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

Procedural to move out of camera.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

Council moved out of camera at 3:51pm

- 10.4.** UMSU condemns the racism of the Labor Party
Shirley Killen spoke to the motion. She said that Australia is a racist state and that the Labor party has a racist history.

Emma: It's important to call out racism where it comes from.

Jess: It's not just Labor party that has repressed my people, it's also the Liberal government and you need to call out all the parties involved. We've had issues when parties come and hijack the rallies by handing out flyers during our Invasion Day rallies without consent.

Jess to Anneke: Did you get permission from WAR to distribute flyers?

Anneke: We talked to Mariki [sp?]. We stand for Indigenous rights. This motion is about calling out the racism of one of the parties.

Josh: What I can say on this is limited. I agree with Jess. Just want to say it's more other parties than Labor.

Jess to Anneke: I asked you a question, a simple yes or no answer, you went off topic.

Briana: The Labor party is engaged in coal mining as well and you guys are jumping to protect them.

Thonya: I agree with Jess. But also to be self-reflective and think about our own actions. We believe in reform. The Labor party is racist.

Hayley: I believe in being critical of the party you belong to but I think it's off topic to start talking about refugees.

Anneke: The Labor party directly contributed to people being in detention centres and it's on par with the motion.

Gurpreet: There are multiple mechanisms in place to keep things as they are.

Emma: The Labor Party can't be reformed. If you want to run in politics you have to uphold racism because Australia is built on racism.

Procedural to move this to a vote on the amendment.

Moved: Allen Xiao

Carried

Motion 13: To pass an amendment to the motion: to strike out 'The ALP simply cannot be reformed' and replace with 'we must work to eradicate racism on all levels'.

Mover: Thonya Deverall

Seconder: Reece Moir

Carried

Proc to move straight to vote on the motion.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

Procedural to reopen the speaking list.

Moved: Anneke Demanuele

Failed

Proc to move straight to vote on motion

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

10.5. Sickest Territory in the Game

Moved: Matt Harper

Seconded: Andie Moore

Matt spoke about the motion. This is an issue that affects a lot of students.

Anneke, James, Isabelle Horton, Briana, Emma left the room at 4:15pm.

Reece: I'd like to note in the minutes that the Trots don't care about public health and that they're children.

Motion 14: To note this.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

11. Motions Without Notice

11.1 – Privatisation is a scam

Preamble

Recent news reports have indicated that Tim Pallas, treasurer of the Andrews Labor Government, is seriously considering privatising VicRoads. As shown time and time again throughout the history of the entire world, privatisation inevitably leads job losses, increased prices and a worse service, just look at our electricity grid as an example. Privatisation only benefits bosses and businesses. You do not have to look far to see how the privatisation of VicRoads would impact students, especially those who live in the outer suburbs and areas that are not as accessible with public transport. Having a driver's license is a necessity for many people to commute, not just to train stations and university but to work as well, privatising the system that deals with driver's licenses will inevitably result in students having to fork out more money to pay for a license. Name one country where privatisation and neoliberalism has worked? It has never worked, it will never work and being a union of students, UMSU will wholeheartedly stand against privatisation and private business. Public and worker ownership is for the people, whereas businesses are solely for profit. Anyone who sides with business or believes in the goodness of business is no friend of mine or of students.

Platform

UMSU condemns the state Labor government for even considering privatisation

UMSU stands in solidarity with the Australian Services Union in their campaign against the privatisation of VicRoads

UMSU affirms its stance as ideologically opposed to business

Mover: Gurpreet Singh

Secunder: Matt Harper

Gurpreet and Matt spoke to their moving and seconding rights.

Motion 15: To accept the motion.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

11.2 - Motion: To pass up to \$3000 for an International Women's Day Event hosted by UMSU Women's, Indigenous and People of Colour to pay for the costs of one speaker and one moderator, and any left over money for catering.

Preamble: This event will be to celebrate International Women's Day, hosted and organised by three autonomous UMSU departments: Women's, Indigenous and People of Colour. We have been looking for a speaker to help attract students to our event, and are in the process of trying to secure Celeste Liddle, an Arrernte woman living in Melbourne. We have been in touch with her coordinator, who quotes her price as \$2250 excluding GST, and her coordinator is in the process of checking her availability. If we are unsuccessful in booking Celeste Liddle, we have other options for speakers, such as Santilla Chingaipe, Nayuka Gorrie, Bridget Caldwell-Bright and Allison Whittaker. We are also looking for a moderator from Murrup Barak for an interview section of the event.

Moved: Hope Michel

Seconded: Nicole Nabbout

Hope spoke to the motion.

Joshua Munro entered the room at 4:22pm

Hannah: This event sounds very exciting, good use of the Whole of Union fund.

Motion 16: To accept the motion.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried Without Dissent

11.3 - Stop celebrating eugenicists!

In 2016, the University of Melbourne changed the name of the building for mathematics and statistics to the Peter Hall building. This was because the name by which the building was previously known celebrated a self identified eugenicist. The campaign for this to happen may have taken upwards of 15 years but in this day and age there is no excuse and the university has no where to hide.

Many buildings around the university are still named after eugenicists, most notably the John Medley building which also holds the "Womenjeka" sign which allows the university to appear like it supports indigenous students whilst simultaneously celebrating racists.

The Agar theatre, in the Biosciences Building, is named after Wilfred Eade Agar who elected president of the Eugenics Society of Victoria in 1938.

The University "acknowledge[d] there is a need for a broader review of building and place names across our campuses" in 2017 and yet 3 years later the issue seems to have slipped (whilst the MSD was quickly and easily renamed).

UMSU reaffirms its stance against racism and calls upon the university to change the name of the John Medley building and the W.E. Agar theatre and to acknowledge the links that they had to eugenics.

UMSU calls upon the University to make some formal acknowledgement of Berry's role in eugenics in the form of some sort of plaque so that the history is not forgotten

\$100 to be passed from whole of union to print posters with information about Medley's role as a eugenicist to be posted around the building in the first week of classes

Moved: Catronia Smith

Seconded:

Tree spoke to the motion. Jess agreed.

Reece: When they changed the name of the building they had to speak to the family of that man.

Reece proposed an amendment – 'That UMSU reaches out to Sara Wills, Arts Associate Dean, to explore opportunities in supporting her to restart a taskforce on changing building and location names'.

This amendment was amenable to Tree.

Motion 17: To move the motion with the amendment.

Moved: Jack Buksh (Chair)

Carried

12. Other Business

Motion 18: to sign Happy Birthday to Charlie and Jack.

Moved: Jordan DiNatale

Seconded: Joshua Bruni

Carried

Council sang Happy Birthday to Charlie and Jack.

Jack Buksh: Thank you. Can you pls fill out the WhenIsGood.

13. Next Meeting

TBA

14. Close

Council closed at 4:31pm.

10.1 Alliance of staff and students at UniMelb

Preamble: Last year's casuals' campaign against casualisation and wage theft saw two on campus rallies in which students, organised through UMSU, joined with their tutors, to occupy the Dean of Arts' office for several hours and marched through the campus. The initial concessions on the part of the University show the potential for a stronger alliance of workers and students on campus to deliver real change for our University community. But the fight is far from over. To transform our corporatised University and return power to staff and students, we must begin by formalising our cooperation into a more stable and responsive structure.

The UMSU Education Department and representatives from the NTEU UniMelb Casuals' Network have discussed creating a standing rank and file organising alliance of staff and students on campus dedicated to building collective power and control over our University.

Our proposal is that this alliance would be endorsed by both organisations, the NTEU and the UMSU, with the aim to meet several times a semester to bring together activists from both unions to organise around common goals.

Suggestions for common goals of the alliance include:

- **Bring down class sizes**
Intended outcomes: maximum classroom sizes; end the flipped classroom model.
- **Secure and well paid jobs for tutors and lecturers, with no unpaid overtime**
Intended outcomes: tutors to be employed on secure part time contracts; end casualisation on campus; tutors to be paid to go to lectures; tutors to be classed as tutors, not teachers assistants; tutors to not do unpaid overtime.
- **No unsafe learning and working conditions**
Intended outcomes: bring in a strong OH&S policy for students and staff on campus. No outdoor learning and working in unsafe conditions (e.g. extreme heat, extreme other weather conditions, hazardous smoke or air pollution).

By starting small the alliance could also grow to tackle larger issues, including climate justice and social justice. For example, the University's partnership with destructive industries and addressing sexual violence and/or racism on campus. These potential joined up goals call for a joined up approach to organising and sharing of campaign tactics and actions. For example - students in the alliance could have access to NTEU campaign materials to hand out to their tutors. Conversely, staff could allow students to speak out for climate justice at lectures and tutorials as we have seen in the past in the 2019 Climate Strike.

Ultimately, this alliance would build links of solidarity between all those who strive to fight back against the corporatisation of our university and the commodification of education.

We would aim to officially launch at the beginning of Semester 1 2020 and have meetings every 3 weeks to discuss organising goals and collaboration.

Motion: That the UMSU Students Council endorse the creation of a campus alliance between students and workers to facilitate co-operation between the NTEU and the UMSU in organising towards common goals at the University of Melbourne.

Moved: Charlie Joyce

Seconded: Noni Bridger

10.2 UMSU opposes the religious discrimination bill and supports the Rainbow Rebellion movement.

Preamble:

The Morrison government's religious discrimination bill is a homophobic, transphobic and sexist disgrace. If passed, this bill would allow doctors to deny patients contraception, hormone treatment and abortions, allow the federal government to overturn state laws banning the promotion of gay conversion therapy, and further allow bigots to abuse LGBTI people and women.

This has nothing to do with freedom of religion. The Christian right that is pushing this bill is a powerful force in society and is far from oppressed. This bill does nothing to protect genuinely oppressed religious minorities, like the Muslim community. Instead, it is about winding back the rights LGBTI people have won after the successful struggle for marriage equality.

The Labor Party's response has been appalling. They have been almost completely silent, and have refused to oppose the bill. This is no surprise - the Labor Party has always been a party of LGBTI oppression. When John Howard changed the Marriage Act to define marriage as between a man and a woman, every single Labor politician approved the amendment. Both the Rudd and Gillard governments refused to pass marriage equality despite overwhelming public support. As with the marriage equality campaign, to defeat this bill we can't look to the Labor Party - we have to build a social movement in the streets.

Rainbow Rebellion is leading the movement to fight this bill. They have organised a series of protests, including nation-wide rallies last weekend. UMSU should support the Rainbow Rebellion movement, by providing material support and promotion to all future protests.

Platform:

- UMSU opposes the religious discrimination bill.
- UMSU supports the Rainbow Rebellion movement.
- UMSU recognises that both the Liberal and Labor parties uphold the oppression of LGBTI people.

Action:

- UMSU will provide material support to all future Rainbow Rebellion protests.
- UMSU will promote all future Rainbow Rebellion protests, on campus and on social media.

10.5 UMSU stands for action, not racism, on coronavirus

Preamble

Since its outbreak in December, the novel coronavirus has infected over 37,000 people and killed more than 800, making it more deadly than the 2002-3 SARS outbreak. On January 30 the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern".

This outbreak is not the result, as our media and politicians have speculated, of cultural and culinary differences between China and the West, but of a sick system that prioritises profit over the health and wellbeing of ordinary people and their environments.

As evolutionary biologist Rob Wallace wrote in the Monthly Review of the two dozen deadly virus outbreaks this century: “near nothing real was done about any of them. Authorities spent a sigh of relief upon each’s reversal and immediately took the next roll of the epidemiological dice”. Those in power refuse to take the structural measures necessary to prevent such outbreaks.

Governments should be investing in research, prevention methods and cures, but instead they are fighting the outbreak with authoritarianism and racism. Despite the WHO’s urges against measures that “unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade”, in a frankly racist response to the outbreak the Australian government have banned Chinese nationals from entering Australia, but not Australian citizens or permanent residents. According to Melbourne Uni’s Professor James McGraw, “reducing air travel has an incredibly minor effect on the ultimate spread of diseases like this”.

Citizens returning from China have been compulsorily quarantined on Christmas Island, despite the fact that quarantining large groups of people that have not been diagnosed with the virus does little to prevent its spread and can ultimately expose more people to it. The use of the Christmas Island detention centre reveals the authoritarian approach of the Australian government in response to this crisis, as well as its interest in using the outbreak as an opportunity to justify the existence and budget of Australia’s border forces.

The government’s punitive approach has drummed up mass hysteria and directed it into anti-Chinese racism. Travel bans and compulsory mass quarantining, while not only unscientific, spread the racist ideas that all Chinese people have coronavirus and that the only way to protect white Australians is to stop immigration. We have seen multiple reports of racist attacks, not only against Chinese but also against people more broadly of Asian descent.

Platform

- UMSU recognises that this health crisis is legitimate and recognises that the Australian government should be focusing on international research and health to prevent the spread of this disease.
- UMSU opposes the contradictory and unscientific travel bans and the authoritarian quarantining of citizens on Christmas Island.
- UMSU opposes the neoliberal agenda of both the ALP and LNP who have continually underfunded the health system and deprioritised scientific research.
- UMSU recognises the lack of support from the university for international students unable to return to Australia, and vows to fight for material and financial support from the university for any students affected.
- UMSU recognises and opposes the anti-Chinese racism seen in response to this outbreak, and recognises the role that both major parties play in kindling anti-immigration and xenophobic views in popular discourse.
- UMSU agrees to fight against any attempts by the University of Melbourne to respond to the outbreak at the expense of student welfare.

10.4 UMSU condemns the racism of the Labor Party

PREAMBLE

Both the ALP and the LNP have long histories of racist policy and rhetoric, but Labor’s racism in particular is often downplayed due to its role as the ‘centre-left’ party to the

Liberals' conservatism. In the context of the coronavirus epidemic, it is more important than ever to recognise and condemn racism wherever it appears.

Australia is a racist state. This has been true ever since Federation in 1901, which was preceded by over 100 years of violent colonisation. The Australian Labor Party was founded that same year and quickly passed the Immigration Restriction Act, marking the beginning of the White Australia policy. The policy restricted the immigration of non-Europeans, particularly those from the Asia-Pacific region that surrounded Australia, including China and the Pacific Islands. Anti-Chinese racism has been a cornerstone of Australian politics since and has reared its head again with the outbreak of coronavirus in Wuhan.

The Labor Party has also been responsible for the oppression of Indigenous Australians through their support of decades of devastating policies. A federal Labor government oversaw the beginning of the Stolen Generations that destroyed thousands of families and has left a legacy of intergenerational trauma. During her term as Prime Minister, Julia Gillard replaced John Howard's controversial NT Intervention with a program that continued its racism and authoritarian control of indigenous communities, just under a different name. Kevin Rudd's 2008 apology bears little weight given the continued appalling treatment of indigenous Australians, who endure some of the worst outcomes of any marginalised group in the country and are disproportionately the victims of police violence and neglect in custody.

The racism of the ALP is not a relic of the past but has been a consistent part of their platform to this day. The disgraceful treatment of refugees under Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard continues today with the ALP's refusal to end the abhorrent practice of offshore detention. It has also contributed heavily scare campaigns around refugees and immigrants – for example, in 2018 Labor leader Luke Foley called for restrictions on immigration into New South Wales, backing Tony Abbott, and Kristina Keneally also suggested that the Liberals were too soft on borders. The ALP's dedication to Australian nationalism was also put on display when Tanya Plibersek suggested that students should recite a pledge of allegiance similar to that of the US.

Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria, has come under fire over the past year for his disregard of indigenous land rights. The planned destruction of sacred birthing trees on Djab Wurrung to make way for a highway demonstrates contempt for indigenous sovereignty. The treaty promised by the Andrews government looks to be more of a PR exercise than a genuine attempt at reparations. The ALP more broadly has also refused to abolish Australia Day, or even move the date.

The ALP cannot simply be reformed. Racism is a core part of the logic of the Australian state and anyone who takes over the running of the Australian government, at state or federal level, Liberal or Labor, inherits and perpetuates this racist tradition. The long history of racist policy from the ALP continues to this day and must be called out at every step.

PLATFORM

- UMSU recognises that both major parties of the Australian government perpetuate racism
- UMSU recognises that the Australian Labor Party has a racist history and continues to uphold Australian nationalism through racist policy and rhetoric

- UMSU condemns racism from the Labor Party under all circumstances

10.5 Sickest Territory in the Game

On January 31st, the Australian Capital Territory blazed their way into history books, being the first state to legalise it.

Many may see this motion as a g-up, and arguably it is (we are moving this in council 4(20)), but it is also vital for us to acknowledge the large amount of drug use in the student body, especially marijuana. Drug use that means a lack of education on safe use, lifelong health issues, and especially in the case of marginalised groups, increased and unnecessary incarceration rates.

Drug use under the control of the legal system is wholly ineffective (prohibition SUCKS), and when we look at use with more serious drugs, it can lead to death. It is important that we celebrate any move to move this out of our criminal codes.

This is a huge step in the right direction for drug policy in Australia. UMSU should commend this move and acknowledge that while there is still a long way to go towards full legalisation of use, distribution, and all the other legal issues that come with it, this is the good kush.

And finally, as Nate Dogg says, S.W.E.D.

Motion

That UMSU congratulates the ACT in legalising the personal recreational use of Marijuana, and affirms its stance that recreational drug use is a public health issue that should be legalised, with proper harm minimisation strategies implemented.

That Students Council encourages all representatives, at the time of 4:20pm today, to face northwards in the direction of the Australian Capital Territory and whisper "nice".