



University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

Tuesday May 12, 2:00pm

Meeting 10(20)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/95607077878?pwd=Wm41Yjl3OXdzY096YStlSnJIUlc1dz09>

Jack explained how votes work over Zoom – using the voting in the participants panel - yes, no, coffee cup abstaining.

Reminder regarding keeping muted, and using the chat for the speaking list, being polite, not talking over people etc.

Breakout rooms will be used for in camera items.

Meeting opened at 2.08pm

1. Legal Advice Regarding Online Council Meetings

Procedural: to move into camera to discuss legal advice

Mover: Jack Buksh

Seconder: Hannah Buchan

CARRIED

Meeting moved in camera at 2:08pm

During this time UMSU Students' Council discussed legal advice received about the holding of Council Meetings during COVID-19

Meeting moved to allow strangers at 2:15pm

2. Procedural Matters

2.1. Election of Chair

Motion 2: That Jack Buksh be elected chair

Mover: Jack Buksh

Seconder: Chris Melenhorst

CARRIED

2.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged by Jessie Ferrari Thomas

2.3. Attendance

Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Allen Xiao	Y	6
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Max Dowell	Y	6

Queer Representative on Students' Council	Andie Moore	Y	4
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Tejas Gandhi	Y	5
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Hayley Kebbell	Y	5
Students' Council (General Representative)	Evelyn Ranogajec	Y	6
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joshua Bruni	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Christopher Melenhorst	Y	6
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nick Reich	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Lachlan Hinds	Y	6
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raiyaan Mahbub	Y	5
Students' Council (General Representative)	Felix Sharkey	Y	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Amal Whebe	N	0
Students' Council (General Representative)	Varaidzo Chipunza	Y	7
Students' Council (General Representative)	Hannah Krasovec	N	4
Students' Council (General Representative)	Matthew Harper-Gomm	Y	6
Students' Council (General Representative)	Emma Dynes	Y	1
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nurul Juhria Binte Kamal	Y	3
Students' Council (General Representative)	Thonya Deverall	N	6
Students' Council (General Representative)	Catriona Smith	Y	6
Indigenous Committee	Jess Ferrari-Thomas	Y	5

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
President	Hannah Buchan	Y	7
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	Y	7
Activities Officer	India Pinkney	Y	3
Activities Officer	Hayley Stanford	Y	4
Clubs & Societies Officer	Jordan Di Natale	Y	7
Disabilities Officer	Hue Man Dang	Y	7
Disabilities Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	N	5
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Charlie Joyce	Y	4
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Noni Bridger	Y	3
Environment Officer	Olivia Sullivan	Y	6
Environment Officer	Sophie Kerrigan	Y	4

Media Officer	Bethany Cherry	N	4
Media Officer	Amber Meyer	Y	5
Media Officer	Sarah Peters	N	6
Media Officer	Tharidi Walimunige	Y	6
People of Colour Officer	Nicole Nabbout	N	5
People of Colour Officer	Gurpreet Singh	Y	6
Queer Officer	Ciara O'Sullivan	Y	5
Queer Officer	A'bidah Zaid	Y	2
Welfare Officer	Declan Kerger	N	4
Welfare Officer	Natasha Guglielmino	Y	7
Women's Officer	Aria Sunga	N	2
Women's Officer	Naomi Smith	Y	4
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Joshua Munro	Y	7
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Georgia Walton Briggs	Y	7
Creative Arts Officer	Emily White	Y	5
Creative Arts Officer	Olivia Bell	N	6
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Y	4

2.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Aria Sunga

Councillors: Hannah Krasovec, Nurul Juhria Binte Kamal

Leave of Absence Requests

2.4.1. Leave of Absence – Council 7(20)

Office Bearers:

- *Srishti Chatterjee*
- *Olivia Bell*
- *Sarah Peters*
- *Declan Kerger*

Voting Council Representatives:

- *Hannah Krasovec*

Motion 3: to approve the leave applications of Srishti Chatterjee, Olivia Bell, Sarah Peters and Declan Kerger

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

2.5. Proxies

None Received

2.6. Membership

Emma Dynes has been appointed to Council

2.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 4: To adopt the Agenda as presented

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 6(20)

Motion 5: To move the Minutes of Meeting 6 as a true and accurate record.

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

4. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Chris Melenhorst – NTEU member

Andie Moore – NTEU member

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

6. Correspondence

Nil

7. Office Bearer Reports

President	Hannah Buchan	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities	India Pinkney	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Hayley Stanford	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs and Societies	Jordan Di Natale	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts	Emily White	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Bell	<i>Not submitted</i>
Disabilities	Hue Man Dang	<i>Submitted</i>
	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Not submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs)	Georgia Walton Briggs	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Joshua Munro	<i>Not submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs)	Charlie Joyce	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Noni Bridger	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Sophie Kerrigan	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Olivia Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Hope Kuchel	<i>Submitted</i>
	Shanysa McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media	Bethany Cherry	<i>Submitted</i>
	Amber Meyer	<i>Submitted</i>
	Sarah Peters	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Tharidi Walimunige	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour	Gurpreet Singh	<i>Submitted</i>
	Nicole Nabbout	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer	Ciara O'Sullivan	<i>Not submitted</i>
	A'Bidah Zaid	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare	Natasha Guglielmino	<i>Submitted</i>
	Declan Kerger	<i>Not submitted</i>
Women's	Naomi Smith	<i>Submitted</i>
	Aria Sunga	<i>Submitted</i>

Southbank	Verity Crane	<i>Not submitted</i>
	Hayden Williams	<i>Not submitted</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>

Emma Dynes: How did the discussions with the VC go?

Hannah Buchan: Meeting with DVC tomorrow, mainly about assessments, but will bring it up as face to face. Will report back next council

Lucas : How're exams going to be carried out? Any other info?

Hannah Buchan: UMSU doesn't know what every subject is doing, Uni is taking differing approaches.

Georgia Walton Briggs: We've had close to 100 responses – very few subjects have specifically named exam software. Many have just said "online", and we fear some are going to use Zoom to supervise exams which raises a lot of questions. Something called GradeScope has come up as well – Advocacy has gone to investigate. There's concern regarding privacy issues. No software that has been mentioned so far is using Proctoring software which is good

Chris Melenhorst: Really good to see all the departments making the most of being online – congratulations.

Anneke d'Emanuele: Please tell us more about the meeting you're having tomorrow with the DVC – can we get a campaign going with letter writing perhaps?

Hannah Buchan: Letter great idea, meeting tomorrow is focused on assessments and what is happening.

Andie Moore: Concerns regarding privacy regarding the financial aid assessments and what data the uni is going to use from the forms for financial aid. Also raised concerns about the new bargaining agreements.

Hannah Buchan: raising concerns re financial aid with uni on a daily basis. Very difficult. Regarding bargaining agreement, we will figure that out.

Charlie Joyce spoke to his report – no report handed in. Lost track of time. Ed has been running collectives, joining in with the Save our Students campaign and we have a bunch of exciting events coming up. Hoping to do a lot more in the next week or so regarding coming out of this post-COVID world. Climate strike this Friday as well.

Anneke requested an email update post the meeting with the DVC tomorrow saying that Hannah and Jack attend a lot of meetings but don't update everyone.

Jack pointed out that all councillors and OBs get written updates after every meeting but that didn't go to the wider UMSU Council mailing list.

Motion 6: to accept the OB reports as presented

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

8. CEO Report

Procedural Motion: to go in camera

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

Meeting goes into camera at 1432

Council moved to allow strangers at 1446

9. Operational Business

Nil

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. NTEU National Day of Action

Preamble: On May 1st the University of Melbourne Branch held an all general members meeting to decide on the strategy for any future job cuts or attacks on working conditions.

Members voted for a public campaign to not only prevent any diminishment of job losses, mount a vote no campaign for any job working conditions, and also to plan and engage in public and socially distant protests (see full motion below). The campaign will have a two pronged focus:

- 1. The Federal Government in its abandonment of the higher education sector including international students,*
- 2. The University of Melbourne administration which has already stood down casuals and casually employed student workers across the University this semester and where many more job losses will occur in the near future.*

The NTEU Day of Action on May 21st is still being planned and will include staff social media actions and possibly a car and bicycle convoy to draw attention to the Federal Government's abandonment of the sector in its hour of greatest need. Future actions to address job losses of insecure workers will also be planned aimed at the University of Melbourne administration.

We therefore ask the UMSU Council to:

- Endorse and promote the NTEU's public and online actions to #SaveHigherEdJobs and promote actions that students can take on May 21st.

- Assist in planning a joint action with a joint list of demands focused on staff working conditions and staff job losses as well as student fees and student learning conditions. An action that is being proposed this week to the NTEU branch committee will be a University Assembly. NTEU and UMSU could jointly call its membership to meet and form a [University Assembly](#) of staff and students to vote on demands.

Moved: Noni Bridger (on behalf of Annette Herrera) Seconded: Charlie Joyce

Both Noni and Charlie spoke to their moving and seconding rights.

Andie Moore spoke in favour of the motion, and suggested that they would do some organizing for the NDA.

Nick Reich spoke in favour, reiterating his support for workers in the tertiary education industry and condemning wider attacks on our education

Requested amendments saying that "UMSU supports the vote no campaign – no concessions on pay or conditions" and a second amendment condemning the VC on commencing negotiations on changing the EBA to whittle away staff pay and conditions.

Noni says she's happy for the final one, but would like input from Andie and Chris on the first as she's not a member.

Andie says that it would be fine -it's the position of the branch to support this

Anneke said perhaps we could also put that we support the NTEU fightback campaign on the facebook page as well as a show of solidarity

Charlie J suggests unease weighing in on an internal NTEU issue -UMSU clearly stands on the side of the Unimelb branch, but we shouldn't weigh in on their decision making.

Briana suggested that the Unimelb branch voted it up – so doesn't see why we wouldn't publish support for that. It's not condemning the NTEU – disagree with Charlie.

Anneke – agree with Briana – need that solidarity with the Unimelb branch.

Luca – this is directly related to student teaching and conditions – we need to support the members of the Unimelb NTEU branch

Procedural Motion: move straight to a vote

Mover: Catriona Smith

FAILED

Charlie J: Important to respect the degree of democratic centralism that unions adhere to. At the same time we need to be completely against attacks against pay and conditions.

Really comfortable with making statements but on a NTEU matter, we should run it by the Unimelb Branch before we speak on their business.

Motion 7:

That UMSU supports the NTEU Vote No campaign (no concessions on pay or conditions) and condemns the VC on commencing negotiations on changing the EBA to whittle away staff pay and conditions

We therefore ask the UMSU Council to:

- Endorse and promote the NTEU's public and online actions to #SaveHigherEdJobs and promote actions that students can take on May 21st.
- Assist in planning a joint action with a joint list of demands focused on staff working conditions and staff job losses as well as student fees and student learning conditions. An action that is being proposed this week to the NTEU branch committee will be a University Assembly. NTEU and UMSU could jointly call its membership to meet and form a [University Assembly](#) of staff and students to vote on demands.

Moved: Noni Bridger (on behalf of Annette Herrera) Seconded: Charlie Joyce

CARRIED

10.2. Ratification of motions

Motion 8: To ratify Motion 11.2.1 – 11.2.4 (below) from the town hall meeting of councillors on the **XXX of May, 2020.**

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

11.2.1 Exam Spy Software

A number of universities around the country, including ANU and UQ, have been attempting to roll out the usage of incredibly invasive software to oversee exams carried out under isolation. The software (proctor U, proctorio etc) is an AI invigilator that monitors student's keystrokes, takes control of the camera and mic of student's personal computers, films students in their homes, or reports students for having "suspicious" facial, eye or body movements and postures.

Melbourne University has previously attempted to roll out similar invasive software, CADMUS. In fact some faculties may still be using CADMUS software for assessments. For this reason it is not at all unlikely that exams at Melbourne University may use spying software to conduct exams during this lockdown.

Platform

- Any type of invasive invigilating software are an entirely unnecessary, Orwellian encroachment on student's privacy which UMSU, in principle, opposes
- UMSU supports the student campaigns against exam spy software at other universities around the country
- UMSU opposes any existing use of CADMUS or similar software at the University of Melbourne and will not stand for the lockdown being used as an excuse to extend these practices

Action

- UMSU will investigate whether any faculty intends to use any variant of invigilating software for exams during the lockdown
- UMSU will also investigate whether CADMUS or similar software is already in use
- UMSU will campaign against any spy software being used on students for any assessments

11.2.3 Student Organising Resistance

PREAMBLE: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused one of the greatest economic crisis for the higher education sector. International students who make up a considerable amount of revenue for universities are unlikely to keep coming to Australia - a massive hit for the economy as this is Australia's third biggest export. Alongside that is the lack of relief funding the Liberals have offered universities which clearly indicates the government no longer sees this sector as profitable. This means we can expect governments and VCs to go on the offensive against students and staff from here on out.

Universities Australia predicts 21,000 jobs will be axed in the coming months, and the University of Tasmania has already slashed 400 courses. University of Sydney has announced cuts to courses and staff. Discussions of shortening courses increases. They are making students and staff pay for this crisis. But we won't foot the bill for the crisis caused by governments and Vice-Chancellors. Students Organising Resistance in the Pandemic (SOR) was set up as a campaign group for left wing students who want to campaign nationally against these attacks and argue for a vision for fully funded, free education for all students. On 24 April SOR organised an online rally and photo petition against the current attacks and is planning more for the future.

Platform

- UMSU demands that students will not be forced to pay for this crisis. We demand income support and full cancellation of Semester 1 fees for domestic and international students
- UMSU supports the demand for fully funded free education for all students
- UMSU stands in solidarity with staff at UniMelb! UMSU demand no cuts to jobs, wages and conditions!
- Full rights for international students! We demand access to welfare and an indefinite extension of student visas!

Action

- UMSU will support the Student Organising Resistance campaign against any attacks to higher education
- UMSU will provide resources to future SOR campaigns and use their social media platforms to promote organising meetings and future events

11.2.4 Town Hall Meeting

The university sector is facing an unprecedented crisis, which university management is attempting to handle by cutting the conditions of staff and students. Defeating these cuts will require a nationwide campaign and building a mass student movement like the one that defeated fee deregulation in 2014 and made students a force to be reckoned with. The COVID-19 pandemic is

making traditional protests more difficult, so student unions should try to find online equivalents where possible.

A Town Hall-style meeting, between management, staff, students, UMSU and the NTEU, will provide such an opportunity for mass online action. We can use such a meeting to mobilise students alongside staff to demand transparency from management and push for cuts to be dropped. In addition to hopefully defeating cuts, the collective action in these difficult circumstances can help to cohere and politicise students as a force in society. A fighting uni student movement would not only have the potential to defeat cuts, but to fight for free education, climate justice, and other social issues. Joint action with staff can also show the students and staff they're on the same side, laying the ground for solidarity between them in the future.

Platform:

- UMSU opposes any attempt by the university management to put the cost of the current crisis onto students and staff
- UMSU condemns the lack of transparency in the university's response to the crisis
- The interests of staff and students are counterposed to the profit-oriented interests of the university administration
- Defeating these cuts requires mobilisation of students. When safe, demonstrations must be a core part of this strategy, but even in online spaces it is important to mobilise and cohere large numbers of students

Actions:

- UMSU will organise a Town Hall-style online mass meeting between the university management, students and staff and their respective unions. The immediate purpose of this meeting will be for students and staff to pressure management to drop all cuts to staff and student conditions and to be transparent about all changes they have made or discussed
- UMSU will use this meeting to organise and build the movement of students demanding their rights and the rights of staff
- As part of action (2), UMSU will promote this meeting as a chance for students to fight for their rights (for instance through UMSU newsletter, President's Address etc.)

11.2.5 No Cuts to Education – Students stand with Staff

Preamble: The economic crisis caused by Covid-19 has severely impacted the revenue of Australia's university sector. In response to this, university administrations across the country are making students and staff pay for massive restructures to education geared around course cutting and mass layoffs. Universities Australia have said at least 21,000 workers in the industry will be fired over the coming period.

The sector has received an 18 billion dollar relief package from the government but without guarantees for working conditions and against job losses and wage cuts, this is not enough. Hundreds of casual staff have been sacked around the country and now staff that remain are expected to take on more work and up to 10% pay cuts. In a situation where many people are likely living in households where others have lost their jobs, this is enough to push people into poverty. Meanwhile Vice Chancellors who make millions and have taken a temporary 20% pay cut are saying that everyone must make sacrifices. Clearly some will sacrifice more than others. As workers, university staff hold a good deal of industrial power. Rank and file staff members have indicated that they are willing to fight to demand that all staff, including casuals, keep their jobs, their wages, and conditions, as well as fight to support the demands of students who have been impacted by COVID19. Students should commend the actions of staff to defend their rights and stand firm alongside them. Past policies from Liberal governments have attempted to restructure the university

sector to be more expensive for students, more exploitative towards staff, and more profitable for bosses, there is no reason to believe the Morrison Government will not use this crisis as an opportunity to continue on that trajectory. In a time where higher education is so casualised and undergoing massive restructuring, students and staff must stand together to demand that their conditions and education are not undermined.

Platform

- UMSU rejects the idea that staff should be made to pay for the COVID 19 crisis.
- UMSU condemns attempts by the university to undermine wages and working conditions for staff.
- UMSU stands with University staff and rank and file union members who want to fight to defend their conditions.

Action

- UMSU will use its social media platforms to condemn attacks on university staff and working conditions and support staff fighting to keep their working conditions.

11. Motions Without Notice

11.1. UMSU stands for equitable support for Research Higher Degree students

Background:

Higher Degree Research (HDR) students make up 7% of the student body and are an integral part of the University's research outputs. The COVID-19 crisis is causing significant and sustained disruptions to HDR students' research and lives due to closures of key research facilities and resources, cancellation of research trips, loss of income, inadequate working-from-home arrangements, increased caring responsibilities, and major mental and physical health impacts. The situation is particularly grim for HDR students who do not receive stipends and international students and migrant workers. The latter, unable to access the federal government's COVID-19 support packages, are left in complete financial limbo.

Considering this crisis is expected to last for longer than anticipated, these disruptions are likely to continue. Yet, despite the severity of the situation, the University has refused to grant universal extensions to candidatures and stipends, and ignored students' demands for adequate COVID-19 support, putting the imperatives of budgetary austerity above the well-being of their students. At the same time, the University has repeatedly told HDR students to keep up with deadlines or restructure their research plans, dismissing students' suffering with a "business-as-usual" attitude.

The current measures offered by the University to HDRs, namely, the Covid-19 Leave and Emergency Fund, have proven to be inadequate and inaccessible to most students. Applications, which are to be considered on a "case-by-case basis" by supervisors, schools, faculties, and the University, are riddled with bureaucratic hoops. The Covid-19 Leave in particular forces HDRs to disclose sensitive personal information to multiple departmental staff and faculty. But to a great degree, the outcomes of students' leave applications are dependent upon their relationships with — and the goodwill of — their supervisors.

All graduate students face compelling and unexpected circumstances beyond their control due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All graduate students, domestic and international, are entitled to automatic extensions to their candidatures and stipends.

The University of Melbourne has the capacity to look after everyone during a time of global crisis. The University has a responsibility to provide compassionate, non-discriminatory assistance to HDR students. This means universal extensions to candidatures and stipends now!

We support the NTEU National Day of Action on 21 May to demand for universal extensions and in support of higher education jobs and courses. Students and staff — both casual and ongoing — rely on a well-resourced education sector. The disappearance of job security and deteriorating conditions of learning and working affect us all. When HDR and casuals' conditions are reduced, so are the working conditions for all academic and professional staff, and so are the learning conditions for all undergraduate students. We will be stronger if we fight back together.

Kaitlyn Hammond spoke to her motions, outlining her personal experience and the experiences of her peers. She highlighted the need for a more equitable way of dealing with this, and the need for extensions to candidatures.

Motion 9

- UMSU recognizes that all HDR students have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis
- UMSU supports that the University offer a universal six-month extension to Higher Degree Research student candidatures and stipends, including those beyond 3 years full-time, in addition to the existing duration of candidatures and stipend entitlements, for both domestic and international students
- UMSU supports dismantling the complex bureaucratic process of applying for COVID-19 leave and agrees that the University offer paid COVID-19 leave of 60 days to all HDRs, with additional paid leave to be granted to eligible students experiencing further disruptions

Moved: Kaitlyn Hammond

Seconded: Chris Melenhorst

CARRIED

12. Other Business

More info requested on the exam software motion and the differing stands of the uni on it.

Jack reiterated that there's no standard and that each faculty is going on its own. The belief is that alternate exam arrangements will be upheld. Discussion about other equity issues.

13. Next Meeting

27th May

14. Close

Meeting closed at 1514