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| **University of Melbourne Student Union**  Meeting of the Education Committee  Minutes  Friday 22nd of December 2023  Meeting 1(24)  Location: Level 3, Building 168 and a Zoom option  **Zoom Link:** https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/86863332511?pwd=eldNQTl6YzdMYWpKV2IwYTBwQjlBQT09  Password: 861065 |

**Meeting opened at 6:04PM**

**1. Procedural Matters**

**1.1 Election of Chair**

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| **Motion:** That Lucy Rachman Vascotto be moved as chair.  **Mover:** Julian De Marco **Seconded:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Carried** |

**1.2 Acknowledgment of Indigenous Custodians**

So acknowledged.

**1.3 Attendance**

Lucy Rachman Vascotto, Bella Beiraghi, Raphael Cahen, Amaya Castro Williams, Whitney Chen, Julian De Marco, Kristine Gia Hue Hong, Frederick Wenas, Wen Hao Wu.

**1.4 Apologies**

Anndrya Chua, Ruby Craven

**1.5 Proxies**

Wen Hao Wu acts as a proxy for Anndrya Chua.

* 1. **Membership**

**1.7 Adoption of Agenda**

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| **1.8 Procedural** To move the Motions 8.1, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8 en bloc  **Mover:** Wen Hao Wu  **Seconder:** Kristine Hong  Kristine Hong, Whitney Chen, Frederick Wenas and Wen Hao Wu (carrying Proxy) vote for the Motion  Amaya Castro Williams votes against  **Carried** |

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| **1.9 Procedural** To amend Motion 8.2 to read ‘That the Ed Committee approves expenditure from the Promotions Budget Line of up to $200 for three A-frames’ changing the proposed expense from $400, as stated in the agenda, to $250.  **Mover:** Wen Hao Wu  **Seconder:** Whitney Chen  Kristine Hong, Whitney Chen, Frederick Wenas and Wen Hao Wu (carrying Proxy) vote for the Motion  Amaya Castro Williams votes against  **Carried** |

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| **1.10 Procedural** to amend motions 8.1, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8 adding onto the end of them, “for the purpose of campaigning around free education, defending against education cuts, campaigning to cut ties with weapons manufacturers, on the basis that these are issues which students care about.”  **Mover:** Raphael Cahen  **Seconder:** Wen Hao Wu  **Carried without dissent** |

Wen Hao Wu speaks on the exorbitance of using $500 to buy banner painting supplies, speaking against the motion.

Julian De Marco speaks against the amendment, for the original motion, saying that it is good governance to budget for up to $500 as it gives the committee a buffer if estimated costs of goods do not align with their real cost.

Raphael Cahen speaks against the amendment, saying that banner painting is an essential part of student activism and that as an education department it is important that there is a strong activist element that fights to defend student rights.

Whitney Chen speaks from her experience as a former Education Committee member saying that activism is not the only tool that the education department can use to advocate for student rights.

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| **1.11 Procedural** to amend Motion 8.4 to read ‘That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and Supplies Budget Line of up to $200 for banner painting supplies’ changing the proposed expense from $500, as stated in the agenda, to $200.  **Mover:** Wen Hao Wu  **Seconder:** Whitney Chen  Wen Hao Wu (carrying proxy) votes for  Amaya Castro Williams and Kristine Gia Hue Hong votes against,  Frederick Wenas and Whitney Chen Abstain  **Failed** |

Whitney Chen speaks against the Procedural 1.12, saying that student run campaigns are not very effective.

Amaya Castro Williams speaks for the motion

Bella Beiraghi speaks for the motion

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| **1.12 Procedural** To amend point 1 of motion 9.1 to read “We urge the Education Office Bearers to initiate campaigns to reduce the recently increased tuition fees specifically the 10% annual increase slated for the 2023 to 2024 academic year” rather than ‘We urge the Education Office Bearers to initiate discussions with central university authorities regarding the possibility of reducing the recently increased tuition fees. The current rate of increase is deemed excessively burdensome for the student body.”  **Mover: Amaya Castro Williams**  **Fails** |

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| **1.13 Procedural** To adopt the agenda as presented  **Mover**: Julian De Marco  **Seconder**: Amaya Castro Williams  **Carried without dissent** |

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

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| **Motion:** To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting **19(23)**.  **Mover:** Julian De Marco  **Carried without dissent** |

**3. Conflict of Interest Declarations**

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**None.**

**5. Correspondence**

**None.**

**6. Reports**

**None.**

**7. Operational Business (Motions on Notice)**

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| **7.1** To approve the 2023 Education Department Budget, allocated  into the following budget lines  Lucy Rachman Vascotto explains that this budget assigns money to individual ‘containers’, allowing the committee to get a general overview of the aims and vision of incoming OBs. Wen Hao Wu inquires into the purpose of this process, and whether it is able to be amended as the year continues. Lucy Rachman Vascotto explains that this is done for the sake of transparency and good governance and can be amended or changed into 2024.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3231 Promotion expenses** | **$1500** | | **3352 Consumables and supplies** | **$2000** | | **3713 Printing - external** | **$4000** | | **3774 Subscriptions and literature** | **$0** | | **3531 Grants** | **$2000** | | **3840 Events** | **$20,500** | | **3839 Programs** | **$0** | | **Total** | **$30,000** |   **Mover:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Seconder:** Wen Hao Wu  **Carried without dissent** |

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| **7.2** That the Education Committee approves budgetary delegation to the Operations Sub-Committee of up to $2000 for the Education Committee Budget Lines  **Moved:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Seconded:** Wen Hao Wu  **Carried without dissent** |

**8. General Business (Motions on Notice)**

Wen Hao Wu speaks against the motions en bloc, says that to begin a campaign, proper procedure would be to pass a motion outlining what the campaign would be before passing General Business motions regarding spending. Wen Hao Wu speaks about the vagueness of the campaigns the motions are speaking to, and how it isn’t clear what the value of passing this amount of money would be without a clear vision of what the money will do.

Bella Beiraghi speaks for the motions en bloc, citing the importance of campaigning for students, to end student poverty

Kristine speaks against the motions en bloc, says that transparency and clarity are important before any spending is passed.

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| **Motions en bloc 8.1, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8**  **8.1:** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Events Budget Line of up to $1000 for the purchasing of 600 P2 masks for distribution in the Ed office space, at collective meetings, department forums and future protests for the purpose of campaigning around free education, defending against education cuts, campaigning to cut ties with weapons manufacturers, on the basis that these are issues which students care about.  Quote 1:  PPE Tech offers 600 masks for $899, plus shipping  https://ppetech.com.au/collections/p2-face-masks/products/australian-made-black-p2-4-l ayer-face-mask-with-earloops-600-carton  **8.3** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and Supplies Budget Line of up to $200 for batteries for the purpose of campaigning around free education, defending against education cuts, campaigning to cut ties with weapons manufacturers, on the basis that these are issues which students care about.  **8.5** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Printing - external of up to $400 for posters for the purpose of campaigning around free education, defending against education cuts, campaigning to cut ties with weapons manufacturers, on the basis that these are issues which students care about.”  **8.6** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and supplies of up to $200 for megaphones for the purpose of campaigning around free education, defending against education cuts, campaigning to cut ties with weapons manufacturers, on the basis that these are issues which students care about.  **8.7** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Promotion expenses Budget Line of up to $150 for **a guillotine** to slice leaflets. for the purpose of campaigning around free education, defending against education cuts, campaigning to cut ties with weapons manufacturers, on the basis that these are issues which students care about.  **8.8** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the events Budget Line of up to $800 for **professional banners** for the purpose of campaigning around free education, defending against education cuts, campaigning to cut ties with weapons manufacturers, on the basis that these are issues which students care about.  **Mover:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Seconder:** Wen Hao Wu  Amaya Castro Williams votes for  Whitney Chen, Frederick Wenas and Wen Hao Wu (carrying a proxy) votes against  Kristine Gia Hue Hong abstains  **Fails** |

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| **8.2** That the Ed Committee approves expenditure from the Promotions Budget Line of up to $250 for three A-frames.  **Mover: Wen Hao Wu**  **Seconder: Whitney Chen**  Amaya Castro Williams votes against  **Carries** |

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| **8.4** That the Education Committee approves expenditure from the Consumables and Supplies Budget Line of up to $500 for banner painting supplies  **Mover: Amaya Castro Williams**  **Seconder: Kristine Gia Hue Hong**  Wen Hao Wu and Whitney Chen vote against  Amaya Castro Williams votes for  Frederick Wenas and Kristine Gia Hue Hong abstain  **Fails** |

Julian De Marco speaks in favour of the motion, speaking on the ongoing relevance of these booklets to the aims and vision of the Education (Academic Affairs) Department.

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| **8.9** That the Education committee approves up to $2000 for the printing of Know your Rights and Know your University Booklets, based on the recommendations of Mary Kin Chan, Education Academic Affairs officer for 2023. This is in line with the cost of the booklets from 2023, and in line with other departments that print from the company Kosdown Printing.  **Mover:** Wen Hao Wu  **Seconder:** Amaya Castro Williams  **Carried without dissent** |

**9.Other Business (Motions without Notice)**

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| **9.1** The Education Office Bearers (OBs), in conjunction with the UMSU CEO, are to investigate the processes that can be pursued with the University of Melbourne administration to address the urgent issue of escalating tuition fees, specifically the 10% annual increase slated for the 2023 to 2024 academic year.  The aim is to explore and secure measures for financial relief for students, including, but not limited to, the following proposals:   1. Tuition Fee Reduction Negotiation: We urge the Education Office Bearers to initiate discussions with central university authorities regarding the possibility of reducing the recently increased tuition fees. The current rate of increase is deemed excessively burdensome for the student body. 2. Expansion and Accessibility of Grants: The University of Melbourne should offer an increased number of grants to students experiencing financial hardship. Additionally, the process for applying for these grants should be clearly communicated to all students, preferably through direct email notifications, ensuring ease of access and understanding. 3. Extension of Tuition Fee Deadlines: In an effort to alleviate the financial stress experienced by students and their families, the University should consider extending the deadlines for tuition fee payments. This extension would provide much-needed relief and flexibility for those in challenging financial situations. 4. Weekly/Regular Support Events by the Education Department: The Education department will inform committee members to the best of its knowledge of existing regular community events, particularly those which offer free meals as a direct response to rising cost of living pressures. These events will not only provide financial relief but also serve as a platform for students to voice their daily concerns and challenges, fostering a supportive and responsive university community.   **Mover:** Whitney Chen  **Seconder: Wen Hao Wu**  Kristine Gia Hue Hong, Wen Hao Wu, Whitney Chen, Frederick Wenas votes for  Amaya Castro Williams abstains  **Carried** |

**10. Next Meeting**