

University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the People of Colour Committee
Unconfirmed Minutes
6:00pm, Wednesday the 10th of February 2021
Meeting 3(21)
Location: Online via Zoom



Meeting opened at 6:05pm by Mohamed Hadi.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: Mohamed Hadi be elected as chair.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Sian Tjia Hennesy

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Emily AlRamadhan, Hiba Adam, Mayank Gurnani, Mohamed Hadi, Sian Tjia Hennesy, Emily Kaji, Myo Mon San, Vishal Chopra.

1.4. Apologies

None.

1.5. Proxies

None.

1.6. Membership

No changes.

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: That the agenda, as presented, be adopted.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion 3: The previous minutes of 27/01/2020 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi

Secunder: NILL

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

No declarations presented.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No such matters arising from the minutes.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence.

6. Office Bearers' Reports

Semester planning

Since last meeting, we've spent time submitting basecamp project requests for regular collectives and events, namely PoC collective, Bla(c)k collective, Anti-racism Workshops, QPOC collective, department's BIPOC grant programs, Activist collective.

The CME (Comms, Marketing, Events) department is quite busy right now preparing for Summerfest so we wanted to keep all these projects on the basecamp so there aren't any surprises in any logistical items.

Racism Reporting form

We wanted to reform this form (lol) and make it more accessible to students. However, the comms team informed us that there aren't many options to make this form look better, so to say. We've compiled a list of mental health services, most of them specifically for BIPOC, some are the generic resources which includes the unimelb mental health service and lifeline.

These resources show up for students after they submit the form in case they need urgent assistance or would like to speak to a professional. When the semester is close to starting, we'll do a big social media push to make sure that students know this exists and find a way to keep it on the department's pages.

Summerfest Summerfest SUMMERFEST

Does it ever end? SO much to do! We've settled on what events to do during the online Hopin Summerfest. To show both aspects of the department we're potentially doing a cooking class in collaboration with UMSU International to showcase three dishes of varying to prepared and their

recipes, mainly being handled by Emily. Secondly, we're hosting a panel discussion on active antiracism, mainly handled by Mohamed. We've decided to have 3-4 student panellists of various positionalities on this and book them for an hour on Hopin. Half of the session would be asking them questions and invoking a discussion on subtopics related to active antiracism. The remainder of the hour would be a Q&A on anything discussed in the panel. We want to compensate them for their time, so an appropriate compensation would be discussed in this meeting, along with the main talking points.

Diversity and inclusion meeting

Along with a bunch of other departments we've met up with some people from the university's diversity and inclusion committee. They gave us the usual run down of the university's strategy on this, in their spiel they actually said "anti-racism initiatives" for once, instead of the usual CUItUrAl sEnsItiviTy and InClusIon. Honestly, we're not too interested in the big fancy way they say things and make it look like they're interested in doing anything; we want to hear more about their action plans and how student voices fit into that and how the People of Colour department and UMSU can contribute to their plans. They said they'll contact and follow up with us but it's looking like we're chasing some execs soon.

Newsletter

As the semester & Summerfest are approaching, we've started thinking about the elements to the newsletter and we're looking for feedback on the structure:

- Upcoming special events
- Upcoming Collectives (include iCal/google calendar link)
- Resources Section
- Report racism link
- Contribute (Feedback/ suggestions)
- Acknowledgement of country

2021 Semester 1 Budget

We are happy to announce that this is, for the most part, done and dusted! We've gotten our budget, for the first semester of the 2021 academic year, passed by the Students' Council. We've already passed a financial motion in the Students' Council meeting where this budget was approved and so we can now officially pass financial motions in committee.

6.1. Accepting the office bearer report

Motion 4: To accept this office bearer report, and retroactively accept all hitherto submitted reports.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Seconder: Sian Tjia Hennessy

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Vishal Chopra wanted to note that no video was uploaded, and Mohamed explained it will be updated by Summerfest.
- Sian Tjia Hennessy asked about the resources section. Mohamed explained it will be a recommendation of certain media that pertain to BIPOC.

7. Motions on Notice**7.1. Semester 1 2021 Budget - Accepting the Budget**

The departmental budget for Semester 1 2021 has been drawn up and passed by Students' Council during meeting 3(21) with \$18,300 allocated to the People of Colour department.

Motion 5: To adopt the budget for 2018 for the People of Colour department.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Seconder: Vishal Chopra

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Mayank asked why such a seemingly low amount was allocated to the Southbank collective and Mohamed responded by explaining that this collective would only be held twice during the semester due to low turnout.
- Mayank Gurnani asked about allocation funds towards speakers and events for collectives. Mohamed explained that this allocation was in another budget line ('Special Events and Collectives') and that the expenses noted for events are only relating to in-person provisions.
- Emily asked about the exclusion of the Migrant Workers Collective for this year as opposed to prior years and Mohamed explained that the collective has been simply renamed to Activist Collective to be more inclusive and accessible.
- Vishal Chopra asked about the movies that were planned to be showcased during the semester and Mohamed explained there were no finalised decisions as to which movies will be displayed.

- Mayank Gurnani asked about how the paid ads will be accessible to students overseas and Emily explained that these ads will mainly be social media advertisements.

7.2. Summerfest – Social Media Advertisements

To start this year off with a bang and introduce as many students of colour, specifically first year, as possible, we wanted to utilise social media advertisements (mainly Facebook and Instagram) to promote Summerfest activities.

Motion 6: To pass up to \$50.00 from the ‘Department Outreach’ budget line for expenses relating to paid social media advertisements.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Secunder: Mayank Gurnani

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Emily AlRamadhan explained that \$50.00 is a pretty high estimate but will help the department understand how much should be spent for events in the future.
- Sian Tjia Hennessy asked about the types of ads and if they would be promoted through CME. Emily AlRamadhan explained that the events will simply be “promoted” or “boosted” once they have been posted in our own channels as opposed to CME channels.

7.3. Summerfest – Anti-racism Student Panel

We want to have around 3-4 panelists here. Half of the session would be asking them questions and invoking a discussion on subtopics related to active antiracism (see possible topics below). The remainder of the hour would be a Q&A on anything discussed in the panel. Remuneration for the panelists is up to committee, we suggest \$100 for each person but this can be amended.

We want suggestions from committee about discussion topics; these are the possible subtopics for the panel:

- Passive vs Active Anti-racism
- Performative Allyship
- COVID and social media activism
- The spike in white fragility

Motion 7: To cede chair to Emily AlRamadhan.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: NILL

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Motion 8: To pass up to \$400.00 (\$100 each) from the ‘Special Projects and Events’ budget line for remunerating the student panellists.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Hiba Adam

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Mohamed made a note to committee to not express any interest in applying until after the motion passes to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Vishal Chopra asked if 100 dollars reflective of the hours we expect them to spend on research with Mohamed Hadi responding that it is set for emotional remuneration and the time spent gathering info is up to the panelists.
- Mayank Gurnani asked about the events location and Mohamed Hadi explained that it will be held online, via Hopin for SummerFest.
- Mayank Gurnani also asked about the specificity of the remuneration. It was explained that remuneration for past panelists had been set at \$150 but a lower number has been chosen because less preparation is needed for this panel.
- Sian Tjia Hennessy suggested we have a more open discussion for it to be less formal and therefore more inviting.
- Mohamed Hadi clarified that the Q&A is more conversation based and will follow the initial discussion between panelists. We need panelists to discuss before input from attendees so that there is a structure that still offers freedom.
- Sian Tjia Hennessy asked about the selection of the panelists. Mohamed replied saying that this was a last-minute idea and booking a guest speaker is hard and we also want more representation of students of colour leading these conversation so new students see themselves, as students, represented.
- Emily Kaji followed up on what Sian Tjia Hennessy said and asked what the criteria would be for choosing panelists and Mohamed Hadi explained that first it would be open to people from the People of Colour committee, then to the autonomous People of Colour group, and then we would extend our invitation to First Nations committee.

- Following discussion, it was also clarified that no one will apply to be a panelist if they lack extensive knowledge around the subjects of discussions.
- Discussions surrounding the topics of the workshop arose and it was decided that the contents of the panel would surround personal experiences within a higher education setting.

Motion 9: To cede chair to Mohamed Hadi.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Secunder: NILL

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

7.4. Summerfest – Cooking with UMSU International

In collaboration with UMSU International, we will cook three different dishes with the following in mind: dishes must be cheap, dishes must take less than 15 minutes of hands-on work, dishes have to be from varying backgrounds, and dishes have to be of different categories (i.e. 1x main, 1x side, and 1x dessert). The plan is to record two of the dishes being made on video and have the third be a live interactive session to showcase three small dishes to be prepared mainly being handled by Emily.

Motion 10: To pass up to \$60.00 from the ‘Special Projects and Events’ budget line for expenses relating to the Summerfest cooking panel.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Secunder: Sian Tjia Hennessy

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Mayank Gurnani asked about the logistics of this event and Emily AlRamadhan explained that they have not been finalised, but they will be following a meeting with the Vice President (Cultural and Social department) of UMSU International.

7.5. Special Project – Summer Welfare Packs

In December of last year, we decided to collaborate with the UMSU Welfare department on getting students welfare packs for the summer as a way to reach out to students.

Unfortunately, due to financial mishaps, UMSU Welfare was not able to purchase all the items that we wanted in the packs. Having the mailers already purchased, we’ve decided to contribute to finance the items where we pay \$2000 and UMSU Welfare pays for \$3000.

Motion 11: To pass up to \$2000.00 from the ‘Special Projects and Events’ budget line to fund the purchasing of contents for the Summer Welfare Packages.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Secunder: Hiba Adam

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Emily AlRamadhan showed examples of the products that were to be purchased.

7.6. Departmental Outreach – MailChimp Subscription

There are plans to initiate a newsletter for the UMSU People of Colour department and so user-friendly design and communication platforms are essential. Aside from being used solely for the newsletter, these platforms will be used for Myriad and general publicity.

Therefore, we require a 6-month subscription of MailChimp.

Motion 12: To pass up to \$200.00 from the ‘Department Outreach’ budget line for a 6-month subscription of MailChimp Essentials up to 1.5k.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Secunder: Vishal Chopra

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Sian Tjia Hennesy asked why the Office Bearers chose MailChimp Essentials. Emily AlRamadhan explained that there was a need for the ability to curate for 3 different audiences.
- Emily Kaji asked about the UMSU MailChimp subscription and Emily AlRamadhan clarified that CME had agreed to allowing the department access to its own Mailchimp subscription.
- Vishal Chopra asked about the need of MailChimp from a design perspective and Emily AlRamadhan responded by explaining how having access to MailChimp would help from a design and uniformity perspective.

7.7. Special Events – Anti-racism Student Panel Speaker Applications

We want to open speaker applications for the student led anti-racism workshops. The method to apply to this would be a form to be filled on the website, which collects contact details and a brief overview of the workshop. We’re thinking of having applications on a rolling basis starting mid-February until all spots are filled. Ideally, we would have 2 workshops a week, one online and one in person, on weeks 3, 5, 7, 9. We’re open to suggestions and recommendations on this.

Motion 13: For UMSU People of Colour to open speaker applications for the student-led Anti-racism workshops for Semester 1 and select the panellists.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Seconded: Mayank Gurnani

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Sian Tjia Hennessy asked about possible themes for the panels and it was explained that there is a possibility for themes if they coincide with a certain themed week that is recognised by the university or the committee.
- Sian Tjia Hennessy also asked about the authority of the speakers on the topics and Mohamed explained that the speakers will be presented to the committee prior to final selections.
- Mayank Gurnani suggested that we should look for as many different perspectives as possible. Mohamed agreed and noted that they will be a big push through our multiple social media channels to obtain a diverse range of people with their respectively diverse experiences.
- Emily Kaji suggested that there be a specific format that speakers follow for uniformity and structure. An example that she presented was to ask them to begin with a broad introduction prior to entering the specifics of their topic.
- Sian Tjia Hennessy talked about Celeste White (from a previous collaboration with the UMSU women's department from a few years back). She mentioned that the topic of Celeste's workshop was the Intersection of Indigeneity and Feminism.

8. Motions Without Notice

8.1. Special Event – Speaker Applications for Anti-racism Workshops

The operations sub-committee (Op-Sub) is a subcommittee of students' council that exists to keep UMSU running with small operational expenses; if we need more money than we have in our budget that is under \$1000, this motion allows us to go to Op-Sub and get those funds.

Motion 4: To accept this office bearer report, and retroactively accept all hitherto submitted reports.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan

Seconded: Sian Tjia Hennessy

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- No discussion.

9. Other Business

9.1. Additional Discussion – (7.3) Summerfest – Anti-racism Student Panel

- Sian Tjia Hennessy suggested that we should choose topics that are more personal so that we make it easier during discussions, while Emily AlRamadhan suggested we wait until panelists are chosen and they could choose what topics they're more interested in discussing.
- Sian Tjia Hennessy believed opposite because she thought it would be more conducive for panelists to apply if we advertised this with a broad topic so that they know if they'd like to participate or not. Mayank agreed with Sian and wanted to note that it would be a better window if we keep topics surrounding personal experiences for students specifically attending the University of Melbourne.
- For possible topics, Sian Tjia Hennessy wanted to suggest mental health as a student of colour or experiencing classes as a person of colour or micro aggressions experienced at the University of Melbourne.
- Mohamed Hadi suggested that further opinions may be emailed to us prior to final decisions.
- Emily Kaji wanted to suggest that the application form for panelists would contain the topics that we were thinking of and they could choose what they're more interested in discussing. She also suggested leaving an empty space for potential panelists to input their own ideas as to what they would actually want to be included as a possible topic and see if it's feasible for us.
- Vishal wanted us to update committee via our own personal groups since the event will be prior to any planned committee meetings.

10. Next Meeting

TBC. To be set for the end of February, may coincide with Summerfest date-wise.

11. Close

Meeting closed at 7:13pm.