University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the People of Colour Committee

Unconfirmed Minutes

6:30pm, Wednesday the 10th of March 2021

Meeting 5(21)

Location: Online via Zoom

Meeting opened at 6:33pm by Emily AlRamadhan.

1. **Procedural Matters**

   1.1. Election of Chair

   > **Motion 1: Emily AlRamadhan be elected as chair.**
   >
   > **Mover:**   Emily AlRamadhan   **Seconder:**   Mayank Gurnani
   >
   > *CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT*

   1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

   So acknowledged.

   1.3. Attendance

   Emily AlRamadhan, Hiba Adam, Mayank Gurnani, Mohamed Hadi, Sian Tjia Hennessy, Emily Kaji, Myo Mon San, Vignesh Krishnan, Vishal Chopra

   Sian has joined the meeting at 6:38 PM

   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:**   Emily AlRamadhan   **Seconder:**   NILL

> *CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT*

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

> **Motion 3: The previous minutes of 26/02/2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.**
>
> **Mover:**   Emily AlRamadhan   **Seconder:**   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

Anti-Racism Workshops – Applications and Discussions

We've received a good number of applications so far, some are strong applications, some are not. We could potentially fill spots for workshops up till week 7 both online and in person. More discussion on this would come later during this meeting.

Collectives & Events in a COVID normal UMSU

There has been a lot of confusion and back and forth with the events department about this. The university has relatively tough measures in place about in person events. Unsurprisingly, the deciding factor is whether food is served or not during any collective or event. So, from now on we need to give 3-4 weeks notice for any in person event that has food; considering that we have *a lot* of those we have our work cut out for us. We've had a few collectives this week, but we should properly start up in week 2 with most of the collectives we have.

Media Literacy Workshop

One of the anti-racism workshop applications we've received was for a racial media literacy workshop which would fit perfectly as part of the PoC x Media Collective. So, we pitched it to the media department, and they would love to do it in week 4 of the semester.

SummerFest+ – Speed friending with the Host Program

We're collaborating with the Host program to have an autonomous speed friending event where new students can meet each other! Because of covid, it'll be online with up to 60 attendees that

can register. This is happening on Monday which is exciting! Meeting new students and all and hopefully getting them to make friends and get involved with the department. Most of the legwork has been done by the host program, we'd just be there facilitating and hopefully break any awkward silences.

Collaboration – Democracy in Colour and the Environment department
This is where it gets exciting! We've recently reached out to DIC and the environment department to collaborate with us and hold a workshop for students on organizing campaigns workshop. We're waiting on a response, but this would happen in week 4. We will have more details on this by the next committee meeting, exciting!

Website Revitalisation
The website is up and running with all the final updates in place! This, obviously, does not include modification that will be made throughout the year to accommodate incoming events and initiatives. It looks fantastic and hopefully the inclusions of the new pages and sections will make it easier for those who attend our website to understand our work here at the People of Colour Department.

Newsletter
Thankfully we've finally been able to upgrade our MailChimp account to the Essentials – up to 1.5k subscribers! We are so excited to start rolling out our first newsletter by this week. Thanks to Dee, by the time we've started this meeting, we will have our sign-up pop-up appear on our dedicated UMSU page.

BIPOC Grants Project – Application and Submission
In order to engage more extensively with students of colour and acknowledge the breadth of their work, the department will be setting aside $1,000 for grants (2 grants of up to $500 each). These grants allow students of colour to plan and deliver a project that benefits other students in their academic cohort or the wider student community. We're working on the fillable application form and will be finalising the details during this meeting!

Translation Working Group
In Students' Council 3(21), a Translations Working Group was endorsed with the People of Colour Officers, among others, nominated as members ex officio. We will be having our first meeting on Tuesday, the 9th of March. So, while we currently can't provide any more information relating to this working group, we can certainly discuss this by the time this meeting starts.

Special Project – Summer Welfare Packs

Finally! A move has been made on the Summer Welfare Packs! We've purchased all of the items for the welfare packs and are currently awaiting their arrival in the UMSU offices. As soon as the items are received, our jobs logged with comms will be resumed and we will advertise the packs and applications for them. While we may have to re-name to project to Post-Summer Welfare Packs, we're excited to finally put a close on our first proposed project!

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:**   NILL
CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- None

7. Motions on Notice

7.1. Collectives – People of Colour x Media

Formerly known as First Nations x PoC in Media, this autonomous collective will be held on a fortnightly basis with a mixed delivery mode of in person and online collectives. Unfortunately, the First Nations department has opted out of this year's media collective due to lack of interest from their cohort. The money passed for collective would contribute to any vouchers/catering expenses given to students.

Motion 5: To move $200 from the "Collectives" budget line for expenses relating to PoC x Media collective.
Mover: Mohamed Hadi   **Seconder:**   Hiba Adam
CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Mohamed explained a little bit about the collective logistics
- Mayank asked if any collectives are going to be in person
- Mohamed explained that Nishta and the media officer are overseas so it's difficult to know when the in-person collectives will happen, but noted that it is up for more discussion

7.2. Anti-Racism Workshops – Speaker Payments

Last committee meeting a few applications were discussed for the first few student led workshops in the department's anti-racism workshop program. "Decolonizing the body positivity movement" and "Medical Racism" workshop topics have been approved in the last meeting and we've confirmed speakers for both in person workshops in Week 3 and week 5 respectively. In addition, we've confirmed one online anti-racism workshop to be presented, whose topic you'd find in the supporting documents.

Motion 6: To pass up to $450.00 from the 'Special projects and Events' budget line for the speaker payment of 3 Anti-racism workshop presenters ($150 each).

Mover: Mohamed Hadi   **Seconder:**   Mayank

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- No discussion

7.3. Anti-Racism Workshops – AV costs & Catering

These are expenses relating to in person workshops. AV costs refer to renting out a big screen for speakers to do their PowerPoint presentations. Catering would be in the form of takeaway food packets/ in union food vouchers to comply with UMSU's COVID protocols.

Motion 7: To pass up to $250 for catering and AV costs for the workshops in Week 3 & 5.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi   **Seconder:**   Myo Mon

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- No Discussion

7.4. Departmental Outreach - Social Media Advertisements

Thankfully, the money passed previously that was used for social media advertisements has done us good. We've used it all up in the promotion of several posts, and with an idea of how much we need to spend, we would like to move an additional $50 for the continuation of the utilisation of social media advertisements.

Motion 8: To pass up to $50 from the "Department outreach" budget line to pay for promotional advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi	**Seconder:** Vignesh Krishnan
CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT	

Discussion:

- Mohamed talks about how beneficial the paid advertisements were it for a bit
- Vishal asked about the way targeted paid ads worked
- Mohamed explained the three ways the paid ads can be setup and how he chose that targeted ads to people who had interest in the university of Melbourne so it could reach students at the university

7.5. BIPOC Grants Program - Applications for Semester 1

With the start of the academic year, we wanted to open our applications for the BIPOC Grants Program. However, several decisions need to be made by the committee for the finalisation of the grants applications. Namely,

   (a) the frequency, range, and duration of any grants approval rounds;
   (b) the requirements for grants applications;
   (c) the approval process and review criteria; and
   (d) the acquittal process.

Here are the propositions made by the officers:

   (a) the grants be provided under two separate approval rounds, where each student or group (minimum of 75% students) may apply for grants of up to $500. This will total to a maximum of $1,000 per semester. The dates for the approval rounds fall within one month of each other, with one ending at the beginning of April and the other ending at the beginning of May;

   (b) the eligibility criteria ensure adhesion to the UMSU Financial regulations and follows the aims and objectives of the department, i.e.:

       a. the applicants must be students at the University of Melbourne; if the application is for a group project, at least 75% of the group must be University of Melbourne students.

       b. the applicants must fall under any of the following categories: Bla(c)k, Indigenous, and People of Colour.

   Additionally, the application process includes the following actions:

       a. Submit a draft of the application as a PDF or Word doc, via email, to the People of Colour Officers by email.

        b.   Attend a pre-liminary consultation (to discuss their project and application) with the UMSU People of Colour Officers prior to submitting the final grant application;

(c) the approval process follows a similar outline to the Student Initiative Grants. Firstly, following the deadline of each approval round, the final proposals of that round be provided to committee alongside the agenda for the nearest available committee meeting; this must be done with the omission of personal details to avoid possible bias. Secondly, during the committee meeting, there will be a discussion surrounding the proposals. Thirdly, the committee will vote on the proposals, choosing the proposal they most believe is suitable for the grant. Finally, considering the comments made during the committee discussion, final decisions will be made surrounding the additional requirements for the successful grant application;

(d) the officers provide the successful grant applicant/s with an acquittal form. The acquittal form must include: a completed budget (including estimated and actual budget), all supporting financial documents, documentation of the project and the process, and all publicity materials. This must be finalised within 30 days of the completion of their project.

Motion 9: For the UMSU People of Colour department to open the applications for the BIPOC grants program for semester 1 of 2021. With the deadlines of 14th of April and 16th of May for the two separate rounds.

Mover: Emily AlRamadhan   **Seconder:**   NILL

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Discussion:

- Vishal asks if the application form is separate from the preamble in the agenda
- Emily confirms and proceeds to talk about how financial regs dictate a lot of the questions asked in the form, and indicates that she wants input from committee
- Mayank asks if there are any extra eligibility criteria in regard to one's financial position and compared it to creative arts program
- Emily answers by saying that we will not ask about the
- Mayank shares that he applied for university emergency support fund and he didn't have a great experience and he doesn't want students to go through that.
- Emily says that the department won't ask people for their bank transcripts, and we will follow the financial regulations only
- Emily Kaji asks if it's an academic scholarship of some sort or is it for creatives of colour or projects by students of colour

- Emily's response is that according to the financial regulations for SSAF it must be something that benefits students of color and their needs.
- Mohamed notes that committee needs to decide on a deadline.
- Mayank suggests for committee to have until after easter break for people to submit their applications.
- Emily agrees that this should be after the easter break, and suggests Friday following the end of easter break, 16th of April for the applications closing and amonth from that which would be the 14th of May
- Mayank says that's wise, committee agrees
- Deadline for the two rounds is set for April 16th, May 14th.

7.6. Office Supplies

Given that we're able to go back into the office, we will need to purchase additional office supplies over time in the case that the officers deem them necessary. Since we've purchased a majority of the office supplies that we need, we will only move a small amount for now.

> **Motion 10: To pass up to $60 from the "Office supplies" budget line to pay for office supplies.**
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> **Mover:**　Mohamed Hadi　　　　　　　**Seconder:**　Mayank
>
> *CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT*

Discussion:

- Mohamed notes an amendment to the budget line switching out the "department outreach to "Office supplies" budget line

8. Motions Without Notice

8.1. Media Literacy Workshop presenter

> **Motion 11: To pass up to $150 from the "Special Projects and Events" budget line to renumerate the Media Literacy workshop presenter as part of the PoC x Media Collective.**
>
> **Mover:**　Mohamed Hadi　　　　　　　**Seconder:**　Mayank
>
> *CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT*

Discussion:

- No Discussion

8.2. Anti-Racism workshop application 2 outcome

Motion 12: For the UMSU PoC Department to reject Application 2 in the Anti-racism workshop document

Mover: Vignesh Krishnan   **Seconder:**   Hiba Adam

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

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9. **Other Business**

    Discussion:

    - Vishal asked are the offices open to come visit.
    - Emily says that she's in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
    - Mohamed notes that because of density limits he doesn't think visitors are allowed notes he's overseas so he can't visit anyway
    - Mohamed goes on to discuss the applications which were sent to committee in a confidential file
    - Mohamed notes that the applicant for Special Application 1 has withdrawn their application and explains the Media literacy workshop as part of PoC x Media collective
    - Mayank notes that Application 1 is similar to a previously accepted workshop so it might be better to provide opportunities for more diverse ideas
    - Emily comments that a potential idea is to contact both applicants about this and do a potential collaboration between the two
    - Mohamed moved on to Application 2 discussion
    - Mayank notes that he doesn't like it
    - Vignesh doesn't like application 2, notes that it's vague and needs more work to become a decent workshop
    - Hiba agrees and does like that its centered about white people and draws comparison to application 1 and 3 and how much better they are in comparison
    - Mayank agrees
    - Vignesh says it sounds slightly angry and tells nothing about the actual plan of the workshop. He then later moves to reject the application which can be found in "motions without notice"
    - Mohamed moves on to Application 3

- Mayank – asks if committee agrees on his thoughts and that the workshop is crucial and topic is interesting, he notes that we need to destigmatize the sex industry and this talks about it being a very important issue.
- Emily Kaji agrees and heavily agrees and likes that the speaker and would love to see this and attend the workshop
- Vignesh likes the application and says that its very organized that the applicant has been very prepared on this topic and looks like they're ready to present
- Mohamed notes
- Application 4
- Vignesh says they have decent topic but doesn't feel confident or feels that theyre prepared to present, with more detail and a better outline is needed.
- Vignesh asks if there's any follow-up email to be done by the officers
- Mohamed says he will follow-up with the speaker
- Mohamed moves to application 5
- Sian notes thinks it's really cool and if they could pick one or two subtopics which they outlined that'd be good
- Mayank notes about the racism being bad section, it's dangerous to talk about it in a workshop or the alternative is to have nuance on it
- Emily said she understands the point that Mayank made and they get what they're trying to say, but notes everything isn't black or white in regards to internalized prejudice. Could be phrased in a way that's more substantiated or nuanced.
- Vishal notes the applicant said some interesting points, but there needs to be a focused argument on it, and they haven't zoomed in or articulated their argument very clearly, they'd like to see more depth in this presentation
- Mayank – thinks their points are good but needs to tread lightly on this, which doesn't necessarily with reasonable arguments and don't want to tread into disinegous arguments, so point doesn't come as derogatory, they will outline in an effective way and that they're speaking from their own personal experience and not attack other communities
- Emily K says that she agrees with what Mayank said, it could be a bit risky to hold a workshop which teaches people to not that doesn't make people fragile and puts blame on how poc express their anger or frustration. In general, it caters to fragility.
- Mayank makes a point about the section on minimizing the emotional labor of people of color, this is making it palatable to white audiences.

- Vishal notes that he doesn't agree with the some of the arguments, if we do accept, we make it clear that it's someone's personal take on it
- Hiba notes that she's the coordinator of the activist collective happening from 1-2 pm and gives some shameless promo

10. Next Meeting

We will be holding the next meeting exactly two weeks from now in March 24th every two weeks from then

11. Close

Meeting closed at 7:47 pm.