

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Welfare Committee**

**Agenda**

**(Thursday, 28th, March, 2024, 9:00 am)**

**Meeting 6(24)**

**Location: Zoom and Meeting Room 201 L2 Building 168**

**Zoom:** https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/81745081879?pwd=MHdoQ2ZCWnRyK1pDYWJBQW9EU1J0dz09

Password: 377508

1. **Procedural Matters**

*Meeting opens at 9:04 am*

* 1. Election of Chair
     1. Motion to elect Chair

Motion: To elect Divyanshi Sati as Chair

Mover: Divyanshi Seconder: Filia

CWD

* 1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

*So acknowledged*

* 1. Attendance
* Joshua Stagg
* Divyanshi Sati
* Filia Cahyadi
* Bridgit Nugent
* Udit Jain (arrived at 9:13 am)
* Ally Tayler
* Jayde East
  1. Apologies
* Alessandra Ward
  1. Proxies

N/A

* 1. Membership

N/A

* 1. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion: To adopt the agenda as presented

Mover: Divyanshi Seconder: N/A

CWD

1. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

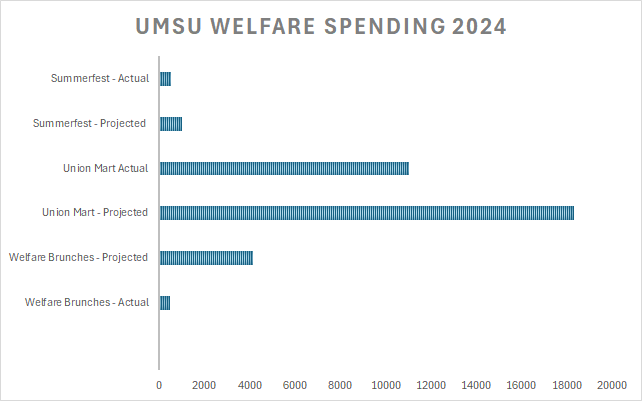
Motion: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting 5(24)

Mover: Divyanshi Seconder: N/A

CWD

1. **Conflicts of Interest Declaration**
2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

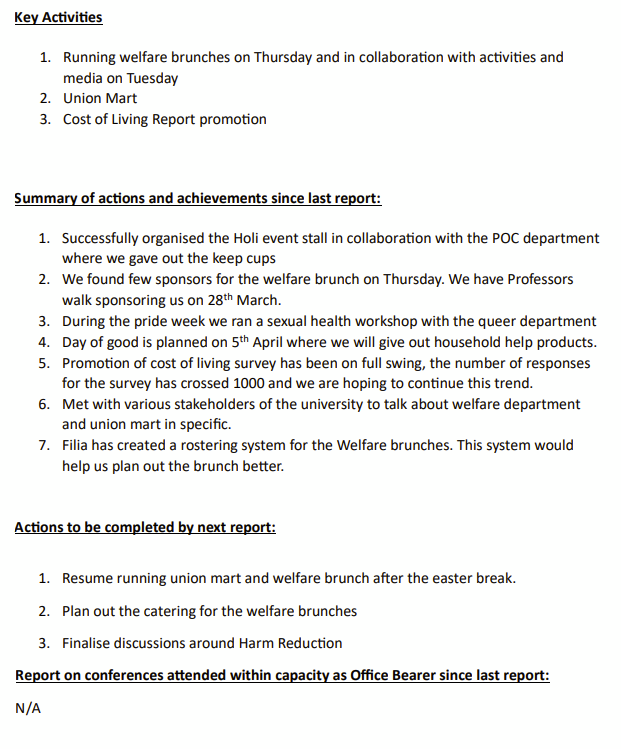
As requested, Joshua has prepared a graphic displaying our spending so far in 2024:



* Joshua explained the significant discrepancies between projected and actual Welfare Brunch spending is due to the supplier still not having provided the invoice.

1. **Correspondence**
2. **Office Bearer Reports**

**6.1** Divyanshi



**6.2** Joshua

**Key Activities**

* Operating Union Mart
* Running Welfare Brunches
* Promoting Cost of Living Report

**Summary of actions and achievements since last report:**

1. We have had a member of our Welfare Committee and Union Mart Manager, Filia, provide great aid in the administration of Union Mart. The new system should be more efficient and ensure that the shift distribution is more equal.
2. Union Mart procedures for open and close were finalised formally with Lachie James
3. New product point counters were printed, laminated and put up around Union Mart
4. Prepared financial information for Welfare Committee 6(24) as requested in 5(24)
5. Trained various Managers on pricing goods within Union Mart
6. Run another week of Union Mart and Welfare Brunches
7. Published the Cost of Living Survey - we have had over 1000 responses within the first week
8. Begun writing the Cost of Living Report
9. Met with various stakeholders around campus to discuss food insecurity and their potential to contribute to the Report
10. Various interviews about Union Mart and Harm Reduction
11. Met with the Welfare Officer at RMIT to discuss the set up of Union Mart and how a similar program can be established on their campus.

**Actions to be completed by next report:**

1. We will have continued work on the COLR
2. We will have run another two weeks of Union Mart and Welfare Brunches
3. We will have had further discussion re Harm Reduction

**Report on conferences attended within capacity as Office Bearer since last report:**

N/A

Motion: To accept the Office Bearer Reports en Bloc

Mover: Divyanshi Seconder: N/A

CWD

1. **Motions on Notice**
   1. Motion on spending for Weeks 8 and 9 of Union Mart

Motion: That the Welfare Committee approve the spending of $3333.32 from budget line Events General (03-60-630-3840) to purchase supplies from various suppliers to stock Union Mart in Weeks 8 and 9 of Semester 1.

Mover: Filia Seconded: Bridgit

CWD

* 1. Motion on spending for Weeks 8 and 9 of Welfare Brunches

Motion: That the Welfare Committee approve the spending of $833.32 from budget line Events General (03-60-630-3840) to purchase supplies from a hospitality supplier in Victoria to be provided at the Welfare Brunches in Weeks 8 and 9 of Semester 1

Mover: Filia Seconded: Ally

CWD

7.3 **Motion:** Changes to the NUS Change the Age Campaign

**Motion**: Changes to the NUS Chang the Age Campaign

UMSU Welfare committee endorses the NUS Change the Age campaign, however we believe that this campaign is an important opportunity to highlight other areas that need to be addressed in aiming to reform the Youth Allowance system and tackle the issue of Student Poverty more generally.

***Reforming Centrelink Policies: Advocating for Fair Assessment of Independent Students in Relationships***

If an Independent student applies for Centrelink, their income and assets are assessed as an Individual. However if a student begins to live in the same household as a romantic or sexual partner this changes and the student is now assessed as a member of a couple and their partner’s income and assets are considered joint and assessable by Centrelink. This change largely results in a student’s Youth Allowance being cut off, with the Centrelink system informing them that they should instead rely on their partner's income and assets while studying.

This is an outdated practice and system that encourages dangerous domestic situations that foster financial, physical and mental dependency abuse. The current income threshold for a couple is so low and lagging behind the current cost of living, that it is virtually impossible to support two individuals on and is forcing students into extreme poverty, out of study or into fraudulent situations in an effort to survive.

Students should be assessed as individuals, not as a dependant of their partner, just as other students who are the age of 22 are no longer marked as dependent on their parent’s income even while living at home during their studies.

The cost of living crisis has forced more students into this difficult situation and desperate action is needed to have policy that reflects the current needs of todays students.

***Recognising that student poverty impacts all students***

UMSU Welfare offers a variety of initiatives to aid students with the ongoing cost of living crisis. For the first month of Union Mart, 90% of all customers were international students. This speaks to a deeper issue; all students, be them domestic or international, are suffering the effects of rising prices.

The UMSU Welfare Department calls upon the National Union of Students to broaden their current Change the Age Campaign to address student poverty more broadly as the present platform serves to reinforce the stereotypes of wealthy international students and isolate some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Mover: Jayde East Seconder: Bridgit

CWD

7.4 Motion to reimburse Joshua Stagg for various Union Mart related urgent expenses

Motion: That the Welfare Committee reimburse Joshua Stagg the sum of $370.06 from budget line Events General (03-60-630-3840) for the below items.

***GoGet Purchase***

For the Foodbank Victoria delivery in Week 4, our driver for that week, Luv Golecha, called in ill at 11:45 am on 6/3/24. Joshua then made a last minute booking on his personal account for a GoGet and drove out to get the delivery. The total came to $74.40

***Welfare Brunch Last Minute Order***

For the Week 4 Welfare Brunch on Thursday, Joshua failed to send through the correct minutes authorising the spending for this brunch to admin before the close of business Wednesday. This meant that it was now not possible to secure a slot at Coles before 11:00am on Thursday, which would not be possible for the Welfare Brunch. Joshua purchased the supplies for the Thursday Brunch on Wednesday night out of his personal account.

This consisted of three transactions (receipts circulated):

> $186.86 at Woolworths for Soup

> $19.50 for Coles cups and ladle

> $55.40 for Coles bread

> $33.90 for Coles bread (two transactions to save time at checkout)

Mover: Filia Seconded: Udit

CWD

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

* Discussion regarding purchase of a subscription for the POS, but Jayde pointed out that it may be more effective to purchase monthly and thus avoid paying for it during non academic breaks. Joshua said he would look into it.

1. **Next Meeting**

When2Meet will be circulated shortly.

1. **Close**

*Meeting closed at 9:27 am*