

**University of Melbourne Student Union  
Meeting of the Women's Committee  
Agenda  
Monday 14 March 2022, 3pm AEDT  
Meeting 5(22)  
Location: Online**



<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82116881530?pwd=azZoSIRKWkxZTFIBM0o3NU5LcFV0UT09>

**Password: 343441**

**Meeting opened at 3:03pm.**

**1. Procedural Matters**

Lauren notes medical reasoning for Kraanti's absence.

**1.1. Election of Chair**

Lauren Scott moves to elect themselves as chair, Imogen Senior seconds.

Passes without dissent.

**1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians**

**1.3. Attendance**

Arshia Arora, Donya Delf-Achresh, Imogen Senior, Jaslyn Potter, Jemilla Lister, Kaori Weightman.

**1.4. Apologies**

**1.5. Proxies**

**1.6. Membership**

**1.7. Adoption of Agenda**

Passes without dissent.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Passes without dissent.

**3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration**

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

## 5. Correspondence

## 6. Office Bearer Reports

Lauren notes that Kraanti did not submit a report due to medical reasoning.

Acceptance of report passes without dissent.

## 7. Motions on Notice

### **7.1. To approve “TERF rhetoric is dangerous and hurts everyone: let’s talk about it.” workshop and payment for Week 3.**

Rook Davis, current Queer Officer and a non-binary trans person, has submitted an EOI to present on trans-exclusionary feminist rhetoric. - the warning signs and its harms. This will be a non-autonomous workshop. Due to the emotional labor expended on this topic and the shorter time frame given for preparation and presentation, we propose to raise baseline payment to \$350.

Action 1: To approve this workshop for Week 3.

Action 2: To approve \$350 from the ‘Special Projects and Events’ budget line for speaker payment.

Lauren outlines reasonings for increased payment from baseline as stated in motion and that this can be justified from the significantly reduced expenditure from Orientation.

Jaslyn asks what baseline level of payment was.

Lauren says this was set to \$250, but that correspondence with workshop hosts clearly outlines opportunity to raise and negotiate if there is particular professional expertise, expended emotional labor, etc.

Mover: Arshia Arora

Secunder: Jemilla Lister

Passes without dissent.

Lauren explains the process for organising and scheduling these workshops and that more workshops will be presented in the coming committee meetings.

## 8. Motions without Notice

Ngairé Bogemann enters meeting at 3:12pm.

## 9. Other Business

CW/s; sexual misconduct (no specific detail).

Lauren talks about National Student Safety Survey, with a report release date being 23 March. Lauren and Kraanti met with Women's representatives in the NUS and in student unions across the nation to discuss and coordinate campaign strategy - particularly OurTurn (scoring card for university response to sexual misconduct). Notes that there will be no recommendations in this year's report made in contrast to past reports. Feminist Action Collectives will be used for campaign organising on our campus.

Important discussion on the best coffee place for a committee catch-up ensues.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

#### **11. Close**

**Meeting closed at 3:18pm.**

**University of Melbourne Student Union**  
**Lauren Scott**  
**To Women's Committee 5(22)**  
**14 March 2022**

**Key Activities**

**International Women's Day Events**

On Thursday 3 March, a banner-making workshop was held with Creative Arts. Turnout was smaller than expected but those who did come were absolutely lovely, and some sick banners were made.

I was unable to help run the IWD BBQ on Tuesday 8 March because I was a close contact and at the time, potentially symptomatic. I heard that it went well though - thank you to Kraanti and all the committee members that helped this get off the ground!

We did get approval from Operations Subcommittee to spend \$400 on staffing, but this didn't end up necessary and no expense was made re. this, so don't mind that.

**Feminist Workshops**

We received an export of responses on Friday last week, and I could not be more excited to get these up and running in Week 3. All workshops and payment need to get committee approval before they can run, hence the motion in this week's committee agenda.

**Sexual Harm Response Coordinators (cw/s; sexual misconduct (no specific detail)).**

For those who are less familiar with this area of UMSU, Women's works closely with Sexual Harm Response Coordinator/s in much that we do in the sexual misconduct space. Patrick Tidmarsh has recently left the role, and the new people in this are Naomi Smith and Lauren Kingsley. Naomi is a former Women's Officer and Lauren has had much experience in the residential college space. They are incredible people, and would encourage you all to go say hi! I personally could not be more excited to be working with them through the rest of this year.

A note to be made - the report and findings of the National Student Safety Survey is due for release on 23 March. We'll be doing lots of work in preparation, and action will be discussed in both the SA/SH Working Group and in our Feminist Action Collective (fortnightly, Friday 4pm).

### **VCA (cw/s; sexual misconduct, institutional neglect)**

Where to begin with this? I send all of my love and solidarity to survivors at VCA, survivors at the University of Melbourne and those of us in UMSU. This has been an incredibly difficult situation for UMSU representatives to navigate, so I urge kindness to be extended to Southbank, Women's, to Sophie, and all others who may have been affected.

We have been prioritising centring and platforming survivors at VCA, however this is an ever changing situation, and we have been adapting as it shifts. We have been contacted by several media outlets, and I personally have been speaking to Honi Soit (University of Sydney) and Tharunka (University of New South Wales) with approval from the President. Furthermore, a joint statement from the President, UMSU Women's and UMSU Southbank has recently been published and circulated on social media.

I am furious and disgusted. To say that this situation is fucked does not fully encapsulate my anger. We all know that this is far from an isolated incident, that this kind of shit has been happening across all campuses for a very long time. This truly demonstrates that university negligence is endemic and symptomatic of a broader issue. Policy is not enough without tangible outcomes, and we must continue to demand that the university takes action. Platitudes and insistence on long-term objectives are meaningless to students being harmed on campus now, and we will be fighting for these students to receive present justice. Love and solidarity to all who have been harmed by bureaucracy and negligence.

Please refer to resources and services provided here -

<https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/news/article/7852/Presidents-News-7-March-2022/?fbclid=IwAR0Op20X-N5zwwq69hlZJQiqJVms7G24ZQQ6rZjAVmRLJjxVB87eMDzvgyX4>

### **Progress on assigned actions from last report**

1. International Women's Day events - Banner Making Workshop and Picnic. ✓
2. Facilitate collectives (Women's and Enbies, Women and Enbies of Colour, Feminist Action Collective (Week 2)). ✓
3. Convene fortnightly SA/SH working group meeting. ✓
4. Participate in second session of UET - Sexual Misconduct Reporting Program.

I never ended up receiving any details on this - concerning.

**Action points to be completed by next report**

1. Prepare for NSSS report.

**Expenditure**

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description of Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Special Projects and Events</b>	<b>Banner Making Workshop Supplies</b>	<b>\$357.40</b>
<b>Special Projects and Events</b>	<b>IWD BBQ - Catering</b>	<b>\$328.65</b>