



**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Constitution, Regulations and Policy
Working Group
Minutes
Thursday, 21st, April, 2022, 11am
Meeting 4(22)
Location: Zoom**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82528919140?pwd=SnB5R1ZWS0x6VzQ4bkxzRXpTb2RYdz09>

Password: 896351

Meeting opened at. 11.09

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Millie Macwhirter be elected as Chair

Mover: Millie Macwhirter

Seconded: Benjamin Cronshaw

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Millie Macwhirter (minute taker), Benjamin Cronshaw, Moira Negline, Phoebe Churces, Sophie Nguyen, Marcie Di Bartolomeo and Josh Davis

1.4. Apologies

1.5. Proxies

1.6. Membership

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Millie Macwhirter

Seconded: Benjamin Cronshaw

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 2(22)

Motion: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting.

Mover: Millie Macwhirter

Seconded: Joshua Davis

CARRIED

3. Correspondence

4. Changes under Consideration

4.1. CEO Oversight Committee

Millie invites Phoebe to talk through the CEO Oversight Committee, and highlights that in the last meeting people were looking for further context.

Phoebe asks how much context people were looking for and how much knowledge attendees hold around this issue.

Josh highlights that historical context is maybe less required, but he would like a bit more information on the proposed changes and why they are required.

Phoebe presents that the previous ex officio's failed to deliver the desired support to the past President and General Secretary when it was required. It was raised that the President and General Secretary cannot reasonably be expected to provide expert knowledge with reference to reviews and setting KPI's for the CEO of a large non-for-profit without support. The proposed changes seek to amend this, in hiring a qualified external person, in a paid role, who could better fulfil the role. This would allow student council to delegate the relevant responsibilities and powers relevant to CEO recruitment, remuneration, termination etc. All of these are duties of council, and such is not viable where there is no body to delegate this to, or support student representatives. Second, it is highlighted that the previous system is not constitutional. As such, the constitution needs to be amended so that student representatives can constitutionally and effectively delegate matters relating to the CEO and ensure they are supported. Additionally, it is presented as an urgent task given the upcoming AGM and the recruitment of a new CEO.

Josh seeks to clarify whether this change is included in section 17 of the constitution.

Phoebe clarifies that we would be looking to expressly change section 17, with reference to this proposal. Additionally, it is presented as something that should be set up similarly to the Operations Sub-Committee in terms of how it is provided for within the constitution, i.e. it has a standing delegation from council, something we would want from departments overseeing the CEO employment contract. Phoebe highlights that any amendments to the constitution to go to the AGM require 21 days. Which means that everything needs to be drafted and finalised by the 30th of April. Phoebe has approached Moore's, who drafted the previous constitution, setting out the proposal and seeing how this would look as a draft etc. Phoebe is waiting to hear back from Moore's.

Millie highlights that last meeting everyone seemed in favour of the proposed changes and it was the clarification of context and updates required. Felt that the context given was

beneficial and was in favour of endorsing the changes. Clarifies that the external nature of the body was found favourable by the last working group meeting.

Josh asks if the University will be seeking involvement with the proposed committee moving forward.

Phoebe presents that it is unlikely that there will be immense university involvement or pushback provided the committee is well governed and meets the regulations and requirements of a given funding agreement.

Agreement among everyone to endorse this and revisit the issue when Moore's get back to Phoebe.

4.2. Remuneration of UMSU International Office Bearers

Millie presents that this issue is appearing to be unfeasible before the upcoming AGM in May and asks Phoebe to speak on this a bit further.

Phoebe presents that for big issues such as this one, we need a few things which we don't currently have which will preclude this from going forward in the May AGM. This is an action which will have significant financial implications and without an indication of what future funding is, this makes it difficult to cost, ideally we would like to have these projections before moving forward. Additionally, there are a number of steps that need to be taken in order for this proposition to be ready before the AGM which have not been completed. That is not to say this issue will be parked forever or cannot be revisited rather that it is unfeasible for the upcoming AGM given limited time. A special resolution going to the AGM requires 21 days clear notice, and we're locked into the hard deadline of the 17th as this date has been set. In order to have something go forward to the AGM it essentially needs to be with Moore's and have its legal drafting in the works currently. With significant changes, which will have ongoing financial impacts on the organisation, we need really good consultation with members and ideally clear financial projections for costings, which we don't have. It is also noted that no-one from UMSU International is present at the moment. Phoebe is very happy to walk the working group through this issue at a later date for a future SGM or next years AGM. Additionally, it is noted to keep in mind that we will have a funding agreement in the second half of the year, which will allow us to understand UMSU's budget for the next 3 years. Doing the costing after this would make more sense as we can cost this and allocate funds reasonably, according to our funding. Additionally, Phoebe presents that with constitutional changes we often have one go at it, so our proposal needs to be airtight and we aren't there yet.

Josh highlights the benefit of keeping this on the working group agenda as a rolling item so that we can resolve this issue at a more suitable date.

Marcie agrees that the best course of action would be to keep this as a rolling item but ensure it is resolved at a later SGM or AGM and we should work towards providing the appropriate framework which draws on consultation.

Millie notes that this item will be kept on the agenda as a rolling item.

Phoebe agrees there is plenty of work to be done on this issue and should be discussed within the working group and make strides towards resolving this post AGM.

4.3. Student Email Campaigning

Millie presents that last week we discussed student email campaigning but that there was limited discussion and those present did not necessarily feel very strongly about this issue.

Phoebe highlights that this sounds like less of a constitutional issue and more an issue with electoral regulations, and for those that have an appetite for this issue that a written proposal for changes to electoral regulations would be the appropriate course of action. Additionally highlights that there are restrictions in place surrounding email lists, ie. tickets are unable to use UMSU Membership lists, having acquired this as an Office Bearer.

Josh clarifies that there is no insinuation that UMSU lists are being used, rather university lists are being used.

Sophie highlights that any content that is delivered, and its process, has to be approved by the RO, and that here there are already regulations in place. Questions what issue it is we're trying to solve here, is it simply student emails or equity in elections.

Josh feels that equity in elections is not necessarily an issue that could be addressed through the electoral regulations. Josh does not feel the idea of mandated equal email lists is something which could be addressed by this group. Josh feels the secondary issue, in whether students receive too many emails, could be addressed by this group, but that its not necessarily an issue.

Moira highlights that this would open discussion around regulations surrounding social media campaigning etc. which is already covered under regulations.

Marcie presents that the group is open to receiving this issue again in the future, but currently there is little left to say on the matter.

Agreement to leave this item off future agendas, as the last two working group meetings have found it to be a non-issue.

5. New Changes under Consideration

6. Actions from Previous Meeting

Millie was actioned to follow up on the issue of additional Office Bearers for Media, SouthBank and Clubs and Societies. Millie sought consultation from Phoebe and given the financial implications and gravity of big decisions such as additional honoraria OB's

compelling rationales and proposals need to be delivered. This issue is one that is not feasible for the upcoming AGM but will be revisited, if desired, by the working group for a potential SGM later in the year or next years AGM.

7. Other Business

Phoebe presents a constitutional amendment proposal. A loophole has been found within the constitution and we run the risk of this being exploited and having an abuse of processes which would have negative implications on UMSU's finances and governance. The proposed change is to clause 6.5(a). To change "Any office may be held by two or more persons jointly except the positions of President, General Secretary, Media Officer, UMSU International President and the Burnley Campus Co Coordinator" to "Any office may be held by two persons except the positions of President, General Secretary, Media Officer, UMSU International President and the Burnley Campus Co Coordinator".

This is endorsed by the working group.

Phoebe presents that there may be benefit to making the template for proposals available to allow for proposals to be more clear and have a rationale included. This would ensure that every proposal is rationalised and has a clear reasoning behind it.

Millie agrees that this would help streamline the process and enable the working group to understand proposals more clearly. Action to make this available, potentially on UMSU's website, so that people who would like to submit a proposal to the working group have access.

8. Next Meeting

11am, Thursday 28th April, via zoom.

9. Close

Meeting closed at 12.05