

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Translation Working Group**

Agenda

12:00pm, Tuesday the 9th of March 2021

Meeting 1(21)

Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/81981193602?pwd=WC8vYmJpNkI5RXBTcnpmdy9RaWlyQT09>

Password: 086927

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

MOTION 1: To elect Ciara O’Sullivan as chair

Moved: Ciara O’Sullivan Sec: Jack Buksh

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

So, Acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance

Mohamed Hadi, Rachel Aw, Justin Bare, Phoebe Churches, Ciara O’Sullivan, Jack Buksh.

1.4 Membership

1.5 Adoption of Agenda

MOTION 2: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Ciara O’Sullivan (Chair)

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

None.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Correspondence

Ciara has reached out to Professor Joe Lo Bianco and is awaiting a response.

5. Business on Notice

5.1. Reviewing the Terms of Reference

Ciara gave a brief overview of the Terms of Reference.

Justin noted that the working group should address whether the need for translation exists in the first place (although there is obviously broad agreement that there is). He also noted that we do not need to follow University policy on this.

5.2. UMSU and Translation currently

Ciara: What does UMSU translate currently?

Justin: There has been some ad Hoc instances, particularly in legal and advocacy showing there is need for a policy. UMSU INTL has also translated content in the past. Additionally, Comms have been working on adding a web client to the UMSU Website to machine translate things.

Ciara: there are problems with using a web client.

Justin: agreed- events are fine, but specific technical info should be translated.

Phoebe: When there is info of a precise nature and when the English terms are important for the reader understand and be familiar with, there is quite a lot of complexity with how you translate and what we translate.

Phoebe added that there is a difference between translation which is static and interpreting for information that is dynamic, and noted that in text info may change rapidly, which would create a massive overhead for translation.

Ciara: we should find guidelines to test whether something is to be machine translated or translated by a person.

Phoebe: we need to do broader research on what has already been done- Alan and I are happy to conduct a lit review for the next working group

ACTION: Phoebe and Alan to conduct a literature review of translation policy procedure and guidelines/ anything else that might be relevant.

Ciara- People of Colour and International Departments, is there demand for translation, what has been the experience of your constituencies.

Rachel: We have not been directly contacted, but students need support for very technical information. Day to day activities are easy, but in school and legal contexts, the language becomes a barrier.

Mohamed agreed.

Ciara suggested that the PoC department and INTL department start work on a survey to collect data and demand from their constituents.

ACTION: Mohamed and Rachel to begin work on a survey to assess demand for translation among international students.

ACTION: Ciara to contact Clubs OBs (Office Bearers) to discuss language barriers in the clubs department.

Justin: would we see more students participate in UMSU activities if more material were translated? For example, we know in advocacy that international students make up a significant amount of the case load- are students not finding their way to these services because of a lack of translation?

Ciara noted that representation of international students in Arts and Culture could be higher. There is also likely data on international student participation and whether it links to translation, as well as its impact on students accessing sexual harm services.

Phoebe: the university's position (that it is an English language university and requires no translation services) is inadequate- culture and language are clearly intertwined. Should research on the burden of having to translate documents at a separate time independently.

Ciara asked about the university's English requirements for International students.

Phoebe: to get a student visa, you need to have a certain language proficiency, and some courses specify an IL score. Even if you come to Melbourne with a high IL score, someone who lives in student accommodation and gravitates to the familiar and spends a lot of time speaking in their own language and not speaking English socially, their IL will decrease. It is not true that IL is static. That said some students will want to deal in English.

Rachel: While IL is suitable for understanding most English, when it comes to legal documents that are confusing to even native English speakers, the IL does not prepare students to understand this information, much less to express it themselves.

Ciara: student submissions are an important thing to talk about- submissions in languages other than English are not possible right now and we should discuss whether we could make that possible.

Phoebe: it is important that students have culturally sensitive info. We need to **keep eyes on distinction between translation and interpreting- look at what interpreting means in relation to the policy- an issue we might need to discuss.**

5.3. University Language Policy

Phoebe will scan by next meeting.

It is Exactly an overlap of what the working groups terms are, but the paper addresses high level stuff. It is not a policy per say but a proposal for the university to engage with the idea of a language policy. It was shelved due to COVID.

6. Other Business

7. Next Meeting

3 weeks from now

8. Close