

UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group

Terms of Reference

1. Background/Context

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) is committed to working with external organisations to achieve shared objectives. This is usually seen as a mutual relationship of sponsorship during large-scale events like Summerfest and O-week equivalents. These events garner a lot of attention and are sometimes the first thing students see in the University career. That is why UMSU must commit to a policy that adheres to the organisational values of unionism, respect and ethics.

This working group is the initial step in creating policy around this crucial issue. Policies developed in this working group will be devised to ensure clarity and openness to all stakeholders and staff members.

It is acknowledged that in 2016, the working group was established in response to the major banks and their inability to divest from fossil fuels. However, in 2017, it is aimed to tackle that issue as well as formulating a broad-spectrum policy around ethics in sponsorship as a whole, not just focusing on the environment.

UMSU's history with Ethical Sponsorship has always been challenging. Not having a specific policy to refer to has left staff and student Office Bearers unsure on what organisations are acceptable to receive sponsorship from.

2. Roles and functions of the UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group

The UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group will:

- Provide discussion and strategies into creating policy on ethical sponsorship
- Create policy on ethical sponsorship
- Initially identify organisations that should be boycotted under the proposed policy, and send these recommendations to Students' Council
- Assist in the promotion of a ethical sponsorship to students
- Monitor identified and emerging risk organisations and advise on their management

3. Role of individual group members

The role of the individual members of UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group includes:

- Adhering to UMSU's code of conduct
- To attend regular meetings as required (every odd week in semester 1) and actively participating in the group's work
- Representing the interests of all students
- Being an advocate for the program's outcomes

4. General

4.1. Membership

The UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group shall be comprised of:

- The UMSU Environment Office Bearers, and;
- At least two other Office Bearers, OR;
- At least two members of Students' Council, and;
- The Sponsorship and Advertising Officer of UMSU Communications

Although Students' Council has some defined memberships, meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

4.2. Chair/Convenor

The UMSU General Secretary will chair the group, unless otherwise specified by the rest of the working group. The chair will adhere to the UMSU code of conduct and the rest of these Terms of Reference. The Chair's role is to go through the agenda effectively.

4.3. Minutes and meeting papers

The minutes of each UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group meeting will be prepared by the UMSU General Secretary.

Full copies of the minutes, including attachments, will be provided to all UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group members via email and/or on the UMSU website.

4.4. Frequency of meetings

The frequency of meetings is decided by the UMSU Environment Office Bearers. Generally speaking, meetings should be held every two weeks in working hours of the semester.

4.5. Voting

If decision is required to continue with the meeting, a consensus of all those present must be achieved.