

University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Students' Council Minutes Friday, 11 March 2022, 2pm Meeting 4(22)

https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/87069345360?pwd=RTRLWTM3K1BDYUpYdkszOHJJclRt Zz09

Location: Zoom

Password: 691867

Meeting opened at 2.05pm

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Amelia Bright be elected as Chair

Mover: Amelia Bright Seconded: Sophie Nguyen

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3. Attendance

Councillors

Representatives on Students' Council	Full name	Attended?
Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council	Mohamed Hadi	Yes
Students' Council Indigenous Representative	Jessica Alderton	Yes
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Jaryd Clifford	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi	Yes
International Student Representative on	Aakash Chandak	Yes
Students' Council		
Graduate Student Representative on Students'	Haotian (Allen) Xiao	Yes
Council		
Southbank Student Representative on Students'	Zodie Bolic	Yes
Council		
Students' Council (General Representative)	Imogen Senior	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nishank Ji-Sung Jain	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ishita Ganeriwala	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rebekah Kelly	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Scarlett Padden	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Terry Zhu-Xin Wang	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Yong Wen Hao	Yes

Students' Council (General Representative)	Annalyce Wiebenga	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joshua Davis	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Shirley Killen	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Georgia Burke	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Mietta Stephens	Leave
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nate Hollis	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ngaire Bogemann	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Zachary Kaplan	Yes

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?
President	Sophie Nguyen	Yes
General Secretary	Amelia Bright	Yes
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	Yes
Activities Officer	Sami Zehir	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	Yes
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Yes
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Prachi Uppal	Yes
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	Yes
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	Leave
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Benjamin Jarick	Yes
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	Yes
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	Yes
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	Yes
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Yes
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	Yes
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	Yes
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	Yes
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	Yes
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	No
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	Yes
Queer Officer	Rose Power	Yes
Welfare Officer	VACANT	NA
Welfare Officer		NA
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	Late (2:37pm)
Women's Officer	Lauren Scott	In apology
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Yes
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Alex Birch	Yes
	Nina Mountford	Yes
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	Yes
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	Yes

Other: Phoebe Churches (Interim CEO), Nancy Ciara Griffiths (minute-taker), Benjamin Cronshaw, Jesse Gardner-Russell, Patrick Bunney, Seahying Jeong, Jan Sam, Emma Dynes,

Julien Macandili, Liza (surname NA), Oskar (surname NA), Raph (surname NA), Jordan Di Natali

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Lauren Scott

Councillors: Mietta Stephens

Leave Requests:

Ethan Georgeou, Mietta Stephens, Kaitlyn Hammond for Council 4(22)

Procedural Motion: to accept the leave of absence requests

Moved: Chair

Carried

1.5. Proxies

Scarlett Padden to Patrick Bunney

1.6. Membership

1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. Minutes 3(22)

The following errors were noted:

- Nishank Ji-Sung Jain's name was spelled wrong in item 9.2
- Annalyce Wiebenga's surname was misspelled in some sections (noted that surname follows the rule 'I before E except after C')
- Questions of the Education Academic reports were incorrectly attributed to the Disabilities Office
- Error in wording noted in discussion between the Creative Arts and Southbank OBs
- Minor spelling and grammatical errors noted

Motion 3: To accept the minutes with corrections.

Moved: Chair

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

Department	Full name	Submission Status?
President	Sophie Nguyen	Submitted
General Secretary	Amelia Bright	Submitted
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	Submitted
Activities Officer	Sami Zehir	Late
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	Submitted
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	Submitted
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	Submitted
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	Submitted
Disabilities Officer	Prachi Uppal	Submitted
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Benjamin Jarick	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	Submitted
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	Submitted
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	Submitted
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	Submitted
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	Submitted
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	Submitted
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	Submitted
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	Submitted
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	Submitted
People of Colour Officer	Hibatallah Adam	Submitted
People of Colour Officer	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	Submitted
Queer Officer	Rook Davis	Submitted
Queer Officer	Rose Power	Submitted
Welfare Officer	VACANT	NA
Welfare Officer		
Women's Officer	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	Submitted
Women's Officer	Lauren Scott	Submitted
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	Submitted
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Alex Birch	Submitted
	Nina Mountford	Submitted
Southbank Activities Officer	Jack Doughty	Submitted
Southbank Education Officer	Xiaole Zhan	Submitted

Councillor Annalyce Wiebenga requested clarification of Benito Di Battista's Clubs & Societies report. Benito implied in his reporting that he had attended the Fine Arts & Music Commencement Ceremony, however, he was not noted in attendance on the day. Benito responded that this was an error in reporting; himself and co-OB, Eleanor Cooney-Hunt were able to attend all MCCs held at the Parkville campus, however, not Southbank. Eleanor followed up this was not for trying; C&S was not provided information on the MCCs being

held at Southbank despite requests for details. OBs attended all MCCs they were invited and allowed to attend.

Multiple Councillors and Office Bearers questioned the Activities Office Bearers about their budget process this year to date. The main issue raised was whether the commencement of the BT3 program had been undertaken without approval of the departmental budget or expenditure being passed at a quorate Activities committee. Key points:

- The Department Budget had not yet passed due to a lack of quorate committee meetings.
- The Committee attempted to pass expenditure on an event that had already occurred (Summerfest band), and concern was raised that passing funds after an event is a breach of regulation.
- Phoebe Churches (Interim CEO) provided clarification that the Activities Department is unique in its event preparation that at the start of the year, commonly, bands and large-scale events may need to be paid from the CME events budget (staff division) to fulfill contractual obligations where department budgets will have not yet been passed. Typically, this will occur out of reasonable expectation that the committee would not be rejecting the expenditure after deciding to book the band.
- Ciara Griffiths (Coordinator, Student Representation) confirmed that no payments for the program had been made yet, so there have been no breaches in the Financial Regulations.
- Multiple Office Bearers expressed frustrations that the Activities Department was treated differently than the rest of departments in events-proceedings. Other departments are held in strict regard to have committee approval before event planning proceeds.
- In response to queries about meeting requirements, Activities OBs noted difficulty in hosting a quorate committee, barring the one meeting where Bella Henry and Sami Zehir were appointed to the casual vacancy. General Secretary advised the Officers to still provide all evidence of attempts to convene their committee and reminded that the Operations Sub-Committee is available to be used when needed.
- Activities Office Bearer, Sami Zehir, was asked if he had convened the committee prior to Bella Henry's appointment. Response was unclear.

Chair closed the speaking list to discussion of the Activities reports

Motion 4: To accept the OB Reports

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move in camera.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 2.52PM

During this time, Council moved the following actions:

- Deferred item 8.3
- Accepted the CEO's report
- Elected the CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee with Phoebe Churches as RO
- Appointed Mohamed Hadi, Jaryd Clifford, and Scarlett Padden to the CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee
- Accepted a proxy from Georgia Burke to Ngaire Bogemann
- Noted the CME Monthly Report
- Accepted the 2021 Financial Statements

7. CEO Report

- 7.1. CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee Ballot
- 8. Other Reports
 - 8.1. CME Monthly Report
 - 8.2. Financial Statements 2021
 - 8.3. UMSU Audit Outcomes Report 2021

Council moved out of camera at 3.16PM

Procedural Motion: To adjourn Council for a five-minute accessibility break.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Council adjourned at 3.17PM Council re-adjourned at 3.22PM

9. Operational Business

9.1. Operations Sub-Committee Appointment

Preamble:

There is currently one vacant position on the Operations Sub-Committee. Following the opening of nominations at Council 3(22), the General Secretary has received one nomination from Ishita Ganeriwala.

Motion:

To appoint Ishita Ganeriwala to the Operations Sub-Committee.

Mover: Jaryd Clifford Seconder: Mohamed Hadi

Motion 9: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Jaryd Clifford Seconded: Mohamed Hadi

9.2. Student Initiative Grants Form

Motion:

That Students' Council endorse the use of the Student Initiative Grants form presented and direct the General Secretary to open applications.

Mover: Annalyce Wiebenga Seconder: Ishita Ganeriwala

Motion 10: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Annalyce Wiebenga Seconded: Ishita Ganeriwala

CARRIED

9.3. Semester 1 Council Schedule

Motion:

That Students' Council accept the Semester 1 schedule as presented.

Mover: Ishita Ganeriwala

Seconder: Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal

Councillor Annalyce Wiebenga asked, what is the rationale of having three Councils at very similar times? Could be difficulty for Councillors with class at that time. General Secretary Amelia Bright responded, this was draft 6 of the Council schedule, assured this schedule was the best schedule for the most people.

Motion 11: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Ishita Ganeriwala Seconded: Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal

CARRIED

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. CRPWG Forum AV Equipment

Preamble:

The Constitution, Regulations and Policy Working Group will be holding an open forum in Union House on Thursday 17th March. To enable a mixed mode forum, AV equipment hire is necessary. A quote from AV Melbourne is attached.

Motion:

To approve \$60 from the Whole of Union fund for AV equipment hire from AV Melbourne.

Mover: Joshua Davis

Seconder: Annalyce Wiebenga

Motion 12: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Joshua Davis Seconded: Annalyce Wiebenga

CARRIED

10.2. Student Representative Network Motion

<u>Preamble:</u>

The Education (Academic) Office has been working to fulfil the obligations of the Student Representative Network (SRN) Policy. This was after formal confirmation was received from the previous Office-Bearers about their inability to meet the obligations of the policy in mid-December 2021.

Requirements to launch applications within the guidelines of the policy whilst balancing requests by various University Committees are described in the Policy under Section 3, Procedure for Appointment of Students to Relevant Committees.

While this has been a challenging process that has detracted from our other goals and plans for the first half of 2022, it has been deemed a necessary task due to the importance of the SRN in maintaining student advocacy across the University.

After launching the first round of applications, several Faculties informed us of new committees that they were seeking student representation for. We were also unable to find enough applicants for Faculty-specific Committees.

Due to the urgency of filling these Committees before the year progresses further, it is imperative that we are able to open and close the second round of nominations in a timely manner. This would mean suspending Section 3.2.2(4), which requires applications to remain open for one month after the announcement date. As many committees have already held their first meetings for the year, it is crucial that we are able to attract and nominate appropriate candidates to represent UMSU and the broader student body.

Motion:

To suspend Section 3.2.2(4) of the Student Representative Network Policy to close nominations 2 weeks after the nominations have been opened.

Mover: Moira Negline Seconder: Ruby Craven

Moira Negline spoke to her moving rights.

Motion 13: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Moira Negline Seconded: Ruby Craven

10.3. UMSU endorses protest on 17 March against new exhibition to Robert Menzies

Preamble:

On 17 March, the Robert Menzies Institute will open an exhibition (https://www.robertmenziesinstitute.org.au/events/exhibitionopening) dedicated to Menzies' political career and influences. Despite its appearance as an unremarkable or innocuous event, this exhibition opening marks a deepening of the Menzies Institute's core project of sanitising the legacy of the Liberal Party's posterboy, for the pleasure and gain of the contemporary Liberal Party. The exhibition opening also turns another page in Melbourne University's long history of venerating ruling-class racists.

Like every other event run by the Menzies Institute, the exhibition opening will attract not only high-profile Liberal Party figures, but a swathe of ultra conservative shock jocks, fossil fuel magnates, and business leaders. This includes proud bigots like Peta Credlin, Georgina Downer and Nick Cater - the latter of whom has co-curated the exhibition to Menzies. The event will thus bring to our campus a concentration of the most reactionary layer in our society. These are people who oppose action on climate change, workers' rights, and any reform that advances the rights and dignity of oppressed communities.

Students have a long and proud history of taking a stand against the top end of town and their symbols of domination and exploitation. Melbourne Uni students have an important opportunity to continue this tradition by protesting the exhibition opening on 17 March.

The rally will be conducted in a COVID safe manner, with attendees required to wear masks, practise social distancing, and check-in with designated marshals before the event. It will take place entirely outdoors. Students who are unable to attend the in-person rally can and will be encouraged to play an invaluable role in building this campaign and protest in a number of ways - for example, through phone-banking, online social media promotion and content development, research, campaign stalls, and postering. There is a range of important work to do to help build this campaign and this rally, and every student is welcome to contribute in whatever capacity they can.

Platform:

- 1. UMSU endorses the rally on Thursday 17 March, 5pm, against the new shrine to Robert Menzies at the Menzies Institute.
- 2. UMSU unequivocally opposes any attempt to sanitise the legacy of a warmongering, fascist-sympathising, anti-worker racist like Menzies.
- 3. UMSU recognises that Liberal Party figures are not welcome on our campus.

Action:

1. UMSU will use its promotional resources to inform students via email and social media about this rally on 17 March.

2. UMSU representatives will mobilise their peers and networks to build the rally and encourage them to attend.

Mover: Julien Macandili Seconder: Ruby Craven

Julien Macandili spoke to their moving rights.

This rally is being held next Thursday 17th for when the Menzies Institute opens its new exhibition on Menzies' history. Important to keep this rally ongoing and take these opportunities even though the institute is now established.

Ruby Craven spoke to seconding rights, very bravely considering she currently has COVID and is losing her voice.

Campaign is being run collaboratively with the Education Office and the GSA Education Officers. Spoke to the COVID safety measures in place. Would be keen to see anyone there who is keen to attend.

Councillor Annalyce Wiebenga asked the organisers if they could speak to the accessibility measures (if any) for those who need it? Education Public Officer Ben Jarick responded; measures currently are as follows:

- Protest will be on south lawn, so there will be seating available for those who need it.
- Want to ensure the protest is accessible, so speeches will be kept short and minimum so not to run too long.
- Reached out to the Disabilities OBs regarding further steps that can be taken, have not heard back yet, but sure they will hear back soon. Important aspect of the protest.
- All Education Officers have completed Mental Health First Aid, will be present in that capacity.
- Officers will request Monica and Brendan to attend as nominated Police Liaison Officers to be present in case of a police presence.
- For future protests, hoping to work with multiple departments on a universal protest safety plan.
- Education Officers open to any recommendations to increase protest safety and accessibility

Past issues of BIPOC safety and protection measures were raised. The mover and others present believed this protest to be a safe protesting space, noted Australia as one of the safety countries to protest in. Others raised that it is still worthwhile to discuss and address such concerns with protest safety now, rather than at the protest and waste time that could be spent kicking the Menzies Institute off campus. However, overall was general positive sentiment towards this protest taking place.

Councillor Joshua Davis asked regarding platform three, agreed with the sentiment, however, wished to confirm that the phrasing won't get us in trouble constitutionally. Phoebe Churches responded, did not believe with wording of the platform to be in conflict with the constitution – fortunately, Robert Menzies is dead and therefore can't sue UMSU for defamation. "Unless Menzies comes back, in which case you know, Doomsday."

Indigenous Officer Harley Lewis asked about action point 2 if all Officers are unconditionally supposed to follow this direction, does not personally feel comfortable mobilising Indigenous students to attend protests. Ruby Craven clarified that in practice, the phrasing 'UMSU representatives' more so applies to the Education Officers leading the rally.

Motion 14: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Julien Macandili Seconded: Ruby Craven

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: to suspend standing orders to accept a proxy from Nishank Ji-Sung Jain to Jaryd Clifford.

Moved: Chair CARRIED

Nishank Ji-Sung Jain proxies to Jaryd Clifford.

Procedural Motion: to cede the chair to Joshua Davis

Moved: Amelia Bright

CARRIED

Amelia Bright ceded the chair to Joshua Davis

Procedural Motion: to adjourn Council for a five-minute break.

Moved: Chair CARRIED

Council adjourned at 3.59PM Council readjourned at 4.04PM

Procedural Motion: Proxy from Terry Wang to Mohamed Hadi

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Terry Wang proxies to Mohamed Hadi.

10.4. UMSU opposes right-wing attack on student union democracy at Adelaide University

Preamble:

The Adelaide University SRC is currently subject to an anti-democratic attack from a rightwing student bloc who control the Adelaide University Union (AUU) board.

In the last student elections, the Adelaide uni student body voted overwhelmingly to reject the coalition of the LNP and the right wing ticket Progress, and elected students from Socialist Alternative, the Greens, and Labor. In response, the right implemented an undemocratic 'funding agreement', which prohibits the SRC from using its funding for anything disagreeable to the AUU. This agreement has been invoked to block spending on O'week materials, specifically a counter-guide to highlight the cuts being made by the Adelaide Uni administration, NUS material, and anti-fascist stickers printed to counter farright propaganda stickers which have been appearing on the campus.

This is a way for the right, which has lost the student elections, to use bureaucracy to try and prevent more left-wing student representatives from carrying out the activities they were elected to do, to undermine opposition to uni cuts, and to undermine the left-wing president Ana Obradovic. Additionally, student media on campus have been subject to pressure to not publish content disagreeable to the AUU board.

These events are the culmination of a trend away from activism, and toward service-based unionism, opening a door for more right-wing arguments about the role of student unions, and for right-wing, anti-union tickets like Progress to have electoral success.

Motion:

- 1. UMSU condemns the right-wing, anti-democratic attacks on the Adelaide Uni SRC.
- 2. UMSU recognizes the importance of campus activism and opposes all efforts to stifle campus activism and unionism.
- 3. UMSU will sign on to the Adelaide Uni SRC statement to defend student union democracy: https://www.facebook.com/adelaidesrc/posts/255109323461311 and share this statement on social media.

Mover: Shirley Killen Seconder: Emma Dynes

Shirley Killen spoke to moving rights. Emma Dynes spoke to seconding rights.

Councillor Jaryd Clifford noted that while this bicameral model was recommended for UMSU in the governance audit, it was critiqued in Council paper so Council should emphatically vote in favour.

Motion 15: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Shirley Killen Seconded: Emma Dynes

10.5. Indigenous Motion

Motion:

That council approves expenditure from the Indigenous Department's Special Events and Projects budget line of up to \$500 for prizes for the longstanding 'Wear it Blak Wednesdays' that the department runs on its socials.

Mover: Brittney Henderson Seconder: Harley Lewis

Motion 16: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Brittney Henderson Seconded: Harley Lewis

CARRIED

10.6. Burnley Motion

Motion:

To pass up to \$2000 from the Activities and Events budget line for the Botanical Drawing Workshop collaboration with Creative Arts.

Mover: Annalyce Wiebenga Seconder: Jordan Di Natali

Motion 17: To accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Annalyce Wiebenga Seconded: Jordan Di Natali

CARRIED

10.7. UMSU Supports the Global Climate Strike 25/3

Preamble:

In recent weeks, the Fridays for Future International Climate Movement has called the first global climate strike for 2022, to be held 25 March. These strikes will mobilise youth in thousands of cities across the world. In Melbourne, two events are being run on Friday 25 March: one by Uni Students for Climate Justice, and another by School Strike for Climate. Ideally, an UMSU contingent will be able to attend both rallies, or the organisers will merge their events. Given the magnitude of these strikes, especially within youth activist groups, it is imperative that UMSU provide a union-wide endorsement of the strike.

Platform:

- 1. UMSU endorses the Global Climate Strike on 25th March, including: a. Both the School Strike for Climate "Four Days for Future" organised climate actions, and the Uni Students for Climate Justice protest; and b. Any concurrent strikes in other cities where University of Melbourne students may be present.
- 2. UMSU recognises that the impacts of climate change are predominantly felt by marginalised groups, especially First Nations People and People of Colour. a.

UMSU also recognises that the voices of these marginalised groups have historically been silenced by privileged persons and institutionalised oppression.

Actions:

- UMSU Environment, UMSU Indigenous and UMSU People of Colour Departments will organise an UMSU-wide contingent to the Global Climate Strike events on March 25.
- 2. UMSU will prioritise accessibility for students participating in the strike, in the context of ability and public health measures.

Mover: Chelsea Daniel

Seconder: Brittney Henderson

Chelsea Daniel spoke to moving rights.

Brittney Henderson spoke to seconding rights, thinks it's very cool that the Enviro Dept is working collaboratively with the Indigenous and POC Depts, very cute and wholesome (climate change; not so cute and wholesome).

Councillor Jaryd Clifford asked if organisers could also ensure that people with disabilities are also included as a marginalised group – mother nature does not prioritise accessibility, and unfortunately, neither does our government. Proposed a minor amendment to the motion:

2. UMSU recognises that the impacts of climate change are predominantly felt by marginalised groups, especially First Nations People, People of Colour, and People with Disabilities.

This was amenable to the mover.

Motion 18: To accept the motion as presented, with amendments.

Moved: Chelsea Daniel Seconded: Brittney Henderson

CARRIED

- 11. Motions without Notice
- 12. Other Business
- 13. Next Meeting

Tuesday 22nd March at 4pm

14. Close

Meeting closed at 4:22PM