



**University of Melbourne Student Union  
Meeting of the Students' Council  
Minutes  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 2pm  
Meeting 6(22)  
Location: Zoom**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/86058077687?pwd=RWhJOWJ2NHEvSHNJRUVrV3U2VHZ5Zz09>

**Password: 316814**

**Meeting opened at 2:07PM**

**1. Procedural Matters**

**1.1. Election of Chair**

Motion 1: That Sophie Nguyen be elected as Chair  
 Mover: SN Seconded: Marcie  
 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	<i>In apology</i>
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Jaryd Clifford	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi	Yes
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Aakash Chandak	Yes
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Haotian (Allen) Xiao	Yes
Southbank Student Representative on Students' Council	Zodie Bolic	Yes
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	No

<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Annalyce Wiebenga	<i>Leave Requested</i>
<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Joshua Davis	<i>Yes</i>
<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Shirley Killen	<i>Yes</i>
<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Georgia Burke	<i>No</i>
<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Mietta Stephens	<i>No</i>
<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Nate Hollis	<i>No</i>
<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Ngaire Bogemann	<i>Yes</i>
<b>Students' Council (General Representative)</b>	Zachary Kaplan	<i>Yes</i>

*Office Bearers*

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

Other: Dee Jarrett (acting CEO), Ciara Griffiths (minute-taker), Millie Macwhirter (incumbent General Secretary), Jordan Di Natali (observer), Jesse Gardner Russell (observer), Benjamin Cronshaw (observer).

#### 1.4. Apologies

Operations Sub-Committee has approved Leave of Absence requests for Zach Matthews, Ethan Georgeou, Bella Henry, Sami Zehir, Lynne Bian for the 4th-8th of April.

Operations Sub-Committee has approved a Leave of Absence request for Amelia Bright for the 29th of March-10th of April.

Disha Zutshi and Hiba Adam requested a Leave of Absence from the 4th-8th of April to be approved retroactively.

Annalyce Wiebenga, Ruby Craven, and Mietta Stephens requested a Leave of Absence for Council 6(22).

Jessica Alderton, Kraanti Agarwal, and Jasmine Pierce are apologies.

Chelsea Daniels is an apology until 12:15.

Motion 1: to accept the leave requests.

Moved: Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Rook Davis

CARRIED

#### 1.5. Proxies

Annalyce Wiebenga to Joshua Davis.

Georgia Burke to Ngaire Bogemann.

Wen Hao Yong to Jaryd Clifford.

Motion 2: to accept the proxies.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

#### 1.6. Membership

Millie Macwhirter has been elected as General Secretary.

Disha Zutshi and Lynne Bian have been elected as Welfare Officers

Sami Zehir and Bella Henry have been elected as Activities Officer.

### 1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### 2.1. Minutes 4(22)

### 2.2. Minutes for Operations Sub-Committee 4(22)

Motion 4: To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Moira Negline

Seconded: Jordan Di Natali

CARRIED

## 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	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Amelia Bright	<i>Leave</i>
Activities Officer	Bella Henry	<i>Leave but submitted</i>
Activities Officer	Sami Zehir	<i>Leave</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Benito Di Battista	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs & Societies Officer	Eleanor Cooney-Hunt	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Marcie Di Bartolomeo	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts Officer	Prerna Aggarwal	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Prachi Uppal	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities Officer	Shuyan (Betty) Zhang	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Ethan Georgeou	<i>Leave</i>
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Moira Negline	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Benjamin Jarick	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Ruby Craven	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Chelsea Daniel	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment Officer	Zachary Matthews	<i>Leave</i>
Indigenous Officer	Brittney Henderson	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous Officer	Harley Lewis	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Charlotte Waters	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Jasmine Pierce	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Joanna Guelas	<i>Submitted</i>
Media Officer	Nishtha Banavalikar	<i>Submitted</i>

<b>People of Colour Officer</b>	Hibatallah Adam	<i>Retroactive Leave</i>
<b>People of Colour Officer</b>	Kyi Phyu Moe Htet	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Queer Officer</b>	Rook Davis	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Queer Officer</b>	Rose Power	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Shuyan (Lynne) Bian	<i>Leave</i>
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Disha Zutshi	<i>Retroactive Leave</i>
<b>Women's Officer</b>	Aashi (Kraanti) Agarwal	<i>Not Submitted</i>
<b>Women's Officer</b>	Lauren Scott	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Burnley Campus Coordinator</b>	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Not Submitted</i>
<b>Southbank Campus Co-ordinator</b>	Alex Birch	<i>Submitted</i>
	Nina Mountford	<i>Not Submitted</i>
<b>Southbank Activities Officer</b>	Jack Doughty	<i>Submitted</i>
<b>Southbank Education Officer</b>	Xiaole Zhan	<i>Submitted</i>

On behalf of the Media Office, Nishtha Banavalikar read out a statement regarding Lynne Bian's criticism of the department at Council 5(22). Statement appended.

Regarding Media's statement, Lauren Scott asked who has access to the Media Department socials? Is of the understanding that Officers are the people with access to department socials, is this different for Media? Charlotte Waters responded, the four Media Officers all have access, however, as a group do not screen every post made – was the case for the post in question.

Chaitanya Rhaguvanshi asked the C&S Officers if their department plans to Eleanor, make a statement about the harassment that students have experienced in clubs and societies, based off the NSSS results. Eleanor Cooney Hunt responded, yes, C&S will be meeting with the President and Sexual Harm Response Coordinators about the issue and drafting a statement.

Moira Negline asked regarding the creative arts reports. There were expenses related to Uber trips for the Officers, is this allowed under the financial regs? Marcie Di Bartolomeo responded, needed a cab to get to Summerfest, otherwise was not possible to get there. Was advised by staff to get an Uber and be reimbursed.

Motion 5: To accept the OB Reports

Moved: Josh Davis

Seconded: Jordan Di Natali

CARRIED

**Procedural Motion 1:** To move in camera.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

**Council moved in camera at 12:33PM**

*During this time, Students' Council moved the following actions:*

- *Accepted the CEO's report*
- *Deferred endorsement for the credit card policy to Council 7(22) to allow for a revision of the policy to cater for more frequent expenditure by Officers.*
- *Endorsed the UMSU Financial Audit 2021 Outcomes Report*
- *Renewed the delegation of power to the CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee pursuant to its Terms of Reference.*
- *Accepted Mohamed Hadi's report on the CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee*

## **7. CEO Report**

### **7.1. UMSU Credit Card Policy**

### **7.2. UMSU Financial Audit 2021 Outcomes Report**

## **8. Other Reports**

## **9. Operational Business**

### **9.1. CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee Delegation Renewal**

**Council moved out of camera at 12.55PM**

## **10. Motions on Notice**

### **10.1. Ramadan Iftar Funding**

#### **Preamble:**

As the holy Month of Ramadan approaches, Muslim students will be fasting for 30 days from 2nd of April to 1st of May, from sunrise to sunset.

This year the People of Colour Department alongside Welfare has decided to collaborate with the University of Melbourne Islamic Society to provide Iftars to fasting students. The iftars will run 3 times a week between 5:30-6:30PM, and will cater to approximately 50+ students.

We have spoken with a few restaurants and the best quote we got for meal deals has been \$12. \$6000 will cover meals, delivery charges, water and dates.

#### **Action:**

That the Students' Council approve \$6000 of expenditure from the Whole of Union Fund for Ramadan Iftar events to be run by the People of Colour and Welfare Departments.

Mover: Mohamed Hadi

Secunder: Betty Zhang

Mohamed Hadi spoke to the motion. Was extremely well attended to the point that they need more funds to feed everyone.

Moira Negline asked if the POC and Welfare budgets accommodated for this. Officers responded to an extent both departmental budgets accommodated funds, but not the quantity they are requesting from Whole of Union. Had not anticipated the high turnouts and do not wish to turn students away, hence requesting higher funding.

Motion 10: to accept the motion as presented.

Moved Mohamed Hadi

Seconded: Betty Zhang

CARRIED

## 10.2. Budget Reallocation – UMSU International to Affiliations Budget

**Procedural Motion 3:** to cede the chair to Josh Davis

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

*Sophie Nguyen ceded the chair to Josh Davis*

### **Preamble:**

UMSU International would like to reallocate \$8000 from the UMSU International Budget to the Students' Council Affiliations budget line to support UMSU's affiliation to Australian International Students Association (AISA). This has received the approval of the UMSU International Committee.

### **Action:**

That the Students' Council approve the reallocation of \$8000 from the UMSU International Budget to the Students' Council Affiliations budget line.

Mover: Sophie Nguyen

Seconder: Ngaire Bogemann

Sophie spoke to the motion.

Lauren Scott asked if this is to help AISA become an alternative organisation to CISA? Sophie confirmed.

Motion 11: to accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Sophie Nguyen

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann

CARRIED

### 10.3. UMSU Endorses the NUS National Day of Action 13/4

#### **Preamble:**

In the lead-up to crucial federal and state elections, it is more important than ever that students take up the fight for free higher education. Higher education policy from both major parties is woefully inadequate, so it's up to us as students to fight for a fairer, more equitable and more accessible education. In coordination with the National Union of Students (NUS), alongside other Student Union Education departments from across the state, the UMSU Education department will be staging a National Day of Action on Wednesday 13 April. Meeting at the State Library, we will hear from staff and student speakers from across the state and demand action from the federal and state governments to achieve free education for all.

#### **Platform:**

1. UMSU supports the National Day of Action called for by the National Union of Students and the Naarm contingent co-organised by the UMSU Education Department.
2. UMSU endorses the five key demands of the NUS National Day of Action:
  - a. Oppose the corporate university- Stop course and staff cuts, stop the commercialisation of research funding.
  - b. Free Education- No fees for students, abolish all HECS debt and provide a liveable income to students.
  - c. Secure Jobs for All University Staff- offer all casual staff conversion to permanent contracts, increase per-student time allocated for marking and lesson prep, and offer all academic staff the opportunity to work within the 40/40/20 model.
  - d. Leave our unions alone!- full, autonomous, democratic student control over student affairs and funding - no corporatisation or management moonlighting as student advocates/service providers.
  - e. Support staff industrial action- Support staff demands and abolish anti-strike laws which prevent university staff from taking industrial action.

#### **Actions:**

1. The UMSU Education Department will coordinate with other student union Education departments across Victoria to organise and hold an action in Naarm on 13 April. a. Organisation of the action is to be carried out with accessibility for, and the health and safety of, attendees prioritised.
2. All UMSU departments are encouraged to promote the National Day of Action through their respective channels and to attend the Naarm action on 13 April.

Ben spoke to the motion, encouraged Students' Council to reach out if they have any questions or would like to be involved.

Motion 12: to accept the motion as presented.

Moved: Benjamin Jarick

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann

CARRIED



**11. Motions without Notice**

**12. Other Business**

**13. Next Meeting**

29<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm.

**14. Close**

**Meeting closed at 3:08PM**

## Appendix 1: Media Statement from OB Reports:

I want to firstly address Lynne's comments from the previous council. Lynne directly called out the Media Department for our Facebook post reporting on her resignation of the Welfare Office and vocalised her disappointment in our treatment of the situation due to our "false reporting" that should have been corroborated by more thorough "fact-checking". Lynne also mentioned she was planning on getting HR involved. To these criticisms of the department, a department with 4 OBs, only Joanna Guelas (Media OB, News Editor) was able to speak as the speaking list was cut off. We were further criticised by other members for the disparity in tone of our posts.

We want to firstly apologise for any harm or distress caused to Lynne. It is never the intention of journalists to cause harm to the subjects of their reporting; It is never endorsed that harm and distress should occur to the subjects of our reporting. We state plainly here that we are not happy with the treatment that Lynne received after our posting. Though, we ask that OBs and Councillors consider our function as a department: Reporting on UMSU has always been central to *Farrago* - one that we as an editorial team have pinpointed as a key goal in our term; we have prioritised a council livetweet, created the Council RoundUp, and engaged with student representatives to write articles about what is happening with their departments. Sometimes, as we are all aware, student representatives fail (this should certainly not be misconstrued as a suggestion from the Media Department that the Welfare Department failed, this is a generalisation as drawn upon UMSU's history). We do not control the nature of what occurs at UMSU - we report what occurs. It is not within our control should students express grievances when a department has disappointed them - of course, this is not equal to any harassment that occurs and we do not condone egregious behaviour. We simply ask that you consider our interests as a department and as a publication. Our interests lie with student interests - *Farrago*, unless we are mistaken, is the only publication that reports on UMSU..

I want to further apologise for our posting of the chalkboard sign of "Shame" outside the Welfare office. We were not all aware of the sign as we were all coordinating our event at the time, nor were we all aware of its posting on our Instagram stories but we all share the blame. It fueled unnecessary hatred toward Lynne's, and UMSU Welfare's way. It was intended as a Breaking News story as we believed this was of high interest to students. We should have taken more care to contextualise the post more appropriately or seek comment.

For a more coherent timeline of the overall situation, we were informed that Lynne had resigned from Welfare on the day of our posting on Facebook. We then spoke to some individuals involved with the Welfare Department to learn more about the situation. We believed posting about it would be in student interest as the Welfare Department has many responsibilities and activities that are expected to run daily during the semester, services that vulnerable students rely on. To understand our capacity to report on the situation we sought advice from Advocacy to confirm whether we could make such an announcement in the first place. We received confirmation that we could and a recommendation to advise students that UMSU, as an organisation rather than the Welfare Department itself, would ensure whatever Welfare related activities could still take place. However, we were also informed that there were certain aspects of Welfare's project deliverables that needed OB authorisation/presence (e.g. payments, food handling etc) - which, due to the resignation, might be impacted. We thought it would be wise to mention this as "temporary delays". Whether it be behind the scenes at physical events, not having an OB in office logically would be a delay in Welfare duties - I am not sure why this particular statement has been so controversial. We made our post with all of this information and we had verified it was true (Lynne had indeed resigned) and there would be a delay in certain activities (OB authorisation is needed for certain events) and UMSU staff were working to ensure the department's student-facing activities would run smoothly.

Where we could have done better would have been to emphasise this was a developing story. In the news cycle, this is assumed but we haven't really had a news cycle presence in the media department for a while. The previous publishing regulations also made this difficult. We are chartering new territory as an editorial team (our predecessors did not have the regulations that allow social media reporting of this nature) and appreciate the advice on how to operate better.

Other individuals were disappointed by the "18-hour-window" between our initial Facebook post and subsequent edits to clarify the reason behind Lynne's resignation. As Joanna mentioned, we were at our Launch event. This was the first launch of our editorial term - the event that we had been building up to for the past 3 months. The four of us were responsible for coordinating two live performances, maintaining an active correspondence with AVM who were there to support us, setting up the stage and performers for the hour prior to the event, COVID marshalling, coordinating readings of pieces, restocking our magazines, checking on the food + drinks tab (the media collective runs a tab out FAST) and much more. Not to even mention the fact that during the entirety of the event we were speaking to our 200+ volunteers and new students that attended, promoting Media and UMSU as a whole, checking in on our volunteers - the people who we had been training and working with for weeks, meeting their friends and families and thanking them all for their kindness and support. We were at WORK. I know our launches look fun and breezy - we do our best to make sure they look that way. But as many OBs know and can confirm, every event requires work and coordination and our full attention. It's really upsetting to see the quick dismissal of our event as a reasonable reason for our unavailability that night when we were working from early evening well into the night that whole day. We have never diminished the work of other departments and the importance of their events and it's really disheartening to see that coming our way.

We were also criticised for not deleting the comments under our posts. This is something we as a team can recognise that we do not have sufficient knowledge and experience to navigate this perfectly. We wanted to keep up comments to maintain a right of reply for all criticised parties, and didn't want to censor genuine student dissatisfaction. It felt antithetical to everything we stand for. Whoever the post was about, we did not want to be the ones to just delete criticism. We will be working closely with Dee and the Comms department to learn how to better navigate situations like this. We exist at an understandably tricky medium between UMSU and students. We know we have to do right by each side but even trained social media teams struggle to maintain balance in these situations. There were a fair few comments that were well-researched responses to genuine student queries as well - paragraphs long, well-meaning responses that we did not want to delete. I don't think we were wrong to leave them up in the situation however, I am amicable to discuss this further and to learn from the experience of UMSU staff.

Nishank pointed out the "differences in tone" between our reporting of Activities' resignation and Lynne's. I don't believe there are any egregious discrepancies. The Activities' resignation post referred to the email notice of casual vacancy that had been sent out - we only found out about the matter and reported after UMSU had sent out they're notice. The post was accurate to our initial knowledge but inaccurate to UMSU Constitution as only one OB had resigned at the time and no casual vacancy had actually been created (hence, the correction emails from UMSU). This was a bit of a messy situation but our initial post was corrected when we received more information, and is why it is as factual as it currently is. This is how news cycles work - we do our best to report accurately and fact-check what we know at the time, we make the decision to report, and then we continue to follow up on the story as it evolves. We are not writing static news analyses in our breaking news posts, nor are we taking days and weeks to construct a PR statement for UMSU. The post itself reads,

“BREAKING: Lynne Bian has resigned as Welfare Office Bearer; Bian’s elected Co-OB Yuvha Sugunan Pillai resigned earlier this year.

“As such, there will be a temporary delay with Welfare Activities, such as Union Mart and Welfare Breakfast; UMSU is working to provide these services.”

Our tone was curt and the phrasing was succinct. To imply we had an agenda with our tone here is to blatantly mislead else there is something I am not understanding. We ended the post with,

“Farrago eagerly anticipates a ‘Notice of Casual Vacancy’ in our inboxes.”

This was a reference to the series of emails students received about casual vacancies from UMSU. This was joked about on forums like the UniMelb subreddit and on UniMelb Love Letters, and we too, as a student media publication, believed we were allowed to partake in this lighthearted jest of a clerical error on the part of UMSU staff. If this is the tone difference in question I can guarantee that had the order been reversed and it was the Activities department now resigning, we would have made the same joke. If for some reason we are no longer allowed to add humour to our news posts, please let us know.

It’s sad that I need to clarify this but we are a team of students. We all have intensive course-loads, external jobs, and editorial responsibilities that exist on top of our OB responsibilities. We are not full time reporters and newsroom managers, nor were we ever trained to be. I would think our fellow OBs criticising us would be sympathetic to our inability to edit posts in less than “18 hours” when they too should be understanding of other work commitments. I for one had an 8 hour retail shift the next day and I know I wasn’t alone in this. We still did our best to edit the post which, as we established, was accurate to our knowledge at the time. The vitriol sent towards Lynne was absolutely unwarranted and we apologise profusely for our part in that but the solution isn’t to shame us for not being quick with editing a breaking news statement of resignation.

All in all, I want to emphasise my commitment as an OB and our commitment as a team to being part of a larger organisation with student interest at the heart of what we do. We are not UMSU’s PR, nor are we a hit team with malicious intent. We’re the home of this organisation’s radio station, a student publication (the oldest in Aus!), a video department, photography team, and so much more. We *want* to coexist and work in tandem with everyone here because that’s what our resources lend us to do and what we believe our duties as a Media Department are. It’s really upsetting to see us framed in this way and dismissed for what was a very neutral post in the first place. It was mentioned that it would have been better for there to be a stronger communication channel between us and Lynne as we were reporting on the evolving situation. We completely agree and I would personally like to add that this goes both ways. It would have been helpful to hear the council’s criticisms of our operations directly, not solely through a collaborative takedown on a public forum. How are we supposed to effectively and productively respond? Especially as after being publicly criticised, the speaking list was cut short before we could fully explain ourselves. I understand there are more constructive places to discuss issues like this but the fact stands that the matter was brought to council, we were harshly criticised in council, and then council cut off our ability to fully address concerns raised.

I hope that for future matters OBs will approach us directly. We cannot support you all to our fullest extent if you save all your criticisms for a council takedown. Everyone makes mistakes - I fully acknowledge we made many in this situation but we can’t do better by you all and by all students without consistent and active discussions throughout our term.