

University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Students' Council Agenda

Thursday June 25, 2:00pm

Meeting 12(20)

Location: Zoom

https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/99244609145?pwd=dIM4Z0tGMHI1WGdINjhXT3BHZmlxZz09

Password: 601998

Meeting opened at 1410h by Jack Buksh

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Jack Buksh be elected Chair

Mover: Jack Buksh Seconder: Chris Melenhorst

CARRIED

1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged

1.3. Attendance

| 2. Representatives on Students' Council | Full name | Attended? | Number of councils attended |
|---|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council | Allen Xiao | N | 7 |
| Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council | Max Dowell | Y | 8 |
| Queer Representative on Students' Council | Andie Moore | Y | 6 |
| International Student Representative on Students' Council | Tejas Gandhi | Y | 7 |
| Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council | Hayley Kebbell | Y | 7 |
| Students' Council (General Representative) | Evelyn Ranogajec | Y | 8 |
| Students' Council (General Representative) | Joshua Bruni | Y | 6 |
| Students' Council (General Representative) | Christopher Melenhorst | Y | 8 |
| Students' Council (General Representative) | Nick Reich | Y | 5 |
| Students' Council (General Representative) | Lachlan Hinds | Y | 8 |
| Students' Council (General Representative) | Raiyaan Mahbub | Y | Y |

| Students' Council (General | Felix Sharkey | Y | 6 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Representative) | - | | |
| Students' Council (General | Amal Whebe | Y | 2 |
| Representative) | | | |
| Students' Council (General | Varaidzo Chipunza | Y | 9 |
| Representative) | | | |
| Students' Council (General | Hannah Krasovec | Y | 6 |
| Representative) | | | |
| Students' Council (General | Matthew Harper-Gomm | Y | 8 |
| Representative) | _ | | |
| Students' Council (General | Emma Dynes | Y | 3 |
| Representative) | | | |
| Students' Council (General | Nurul Juhria Binte Kamal | Y | 5 |
| Representative) | | | |
| Students' Council (General | Thonya Deverall | Y | 8 |
| Representative) | | | |
| Students' Council (General | Catriona Smith | Y | 8 |
| Representative) | | | |
| Indigenous Committee | Jess Ferrari-Thomas | Y | 7 |

Office Bearers

| Department | Full name | Attended? | Number of councils attended |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| President | Hannah Buchan | N | 8 |
| General Secretary | Jack Buksh | Y | 9 |
| Activities Officer | India Pinkney | Y | 5 |
| Activities Officer | Hayley Stanford | Y | 6 |
| Clubs & Societies Officer | Jordan Di Natale | Y | 9 |
| Creative Arts Officer | Emily White | Y | 7 |
| Creative Arts Officer | Olivia Bell | Y | 7 |
| Disabilities Officer | Hue Man Dang | N | 7 |
| Disabilities Officer | Srishti Chatterjee | Y | 5 |
| Education (Academic Affairs) Officer | Joshua Munro | Y | 9 |
| Education (Academic Affairs) Officer | Georgia Walton | N | 8 |
| | Briggs | | |
| Education (Public Affairs) Officer | Charlie Joyce | Y | 7 |
| Education (Public Affairs) Officer | Noni Bridger | Y | 4 |
| Environment Officer | Olivia Sullivan | Y | 8 |
| Environment Officer | Sophie Kerrigan | Y | 6 |
| Indigenous Officer | Hope Kuchel | Y | 6 |
| Indigenous Officer | Shanysa McConville | Y | 5 |
| Media Officer | Bethany Cherry | Y | 7 |
| Media Officer | Amber Meyer | Y | 8 |
| Media Officer | Sarah Peters | Y | 8 |
| Media Officer | Tharidi Walimunige | Y | 8 |
| People of Colour Officer | Nicole Nabbout | N | 7 |
| People of Colour Officer | Gurpreet Singh | Y | 9 |
| Queer Officer | Ciara O'Sullivan | Y | 6 |
| Queer Officer | A'bidah Zaid | Y | 3 |
| Welfare Officer | Declan Kerger | N | 4 |

| Welfare Officer | Natasha | N | 7 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| | Guglielmino | | |
| Women's Officer | Aria Sunga | Y | 5 |
| Women's Officer | Naomi Smith | Y | 5 |
| Burnley Campus Coordinator | Kaitlyn Hammond | N | 5 |
| VCA Campus Coordinator | Hayden Williams | Y | 7 |
| VCA Campus Coordinator | Verity Crane | | 6 |

2.1. Apologies

Office Bearers: Hannah Buchan, Georgia Walton Briggs, Natasha Guglielmino,

Sophie Kerrigan, Amber Meyer

Councillors: Hayley Kebbell, Allen Xiao

Leave of Absence Requests:

Office Bearers:

- Hannah Buchan, Council 12(20) (Academic Board)
- Georgia Walton Briggs, Council 12(20) (Academic Board)
- Natasha Guglielmino, Council 12(20)
- Sophie Kerrigan, Council 12(20) (Exam)

Councillors:

- Hayley Kebbell 12(20) (Exam)

Motion 2: to approve the Leave of Absence Requests en bloc

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

2.2. Proxies

Allen Xiao to Raiyaan Mahub

2.3. Membership

No changes

2.4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: That the agenda as presented be adopted

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 11(20)

Motion 4: To confirm the previous minutes as a true and accurate record

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

4. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Nil

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

6. Correspondence

Nil

7. Office Bearer Reports

| President | Hannah Buchan | Submitted | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| General Secretary | Jack Buksh | Submitted | |
| | India Pinkney | Not submitted | |
| Activities | Hayley Stanford | Not submitted | |
| Clubs and Societies | Jordan Di Natale | Submitted | |
| | Emily White | Submitted | |
| Creative Arts | Olivia Bell | Submitted | |
| Disabilities | Hue Man Dang | Submitted | |
| | Srishti Chatterjee | Submitted | |
| Education (Academic Affairs) | Georgia Walton Briggs | Submitted | |
| | Joshua Munro | Submitted | |
| Education (Public Affairs) | Charlie Joyce | Submitted | |
| | Noni Bridger | Submitted | |
| - · · | Sophie Kerrigan | Submitted | |
| Environment | Olivia Sullivan | Not submitted | |
| la discono con | Hope Kuchel | Submitted | |
| Indigenous | Shanysa McConville | Submitted | |
| | Pothony Charmy | Submitted, with | |
| Media | Bethany Cherry | recommendations | |
| *Also see a report regarding | Amber Meyer | Submitted | |
| Radio Fodder | Sarah Peters | Submitted | |
| | Tharidi Walimunige | Submitted | |
| Doople of Colour | Gurpreet Singh | Submitted | |
| People of Colour | Nicole Nabbout | Not submitted | |
| Queer | Ciara O'Sullivan | Submitted | |
| Queer | A'Bidah Zaid Shirbeeni | Submitted | |
| Welfare | Natasha Guglielmino | Not submitted | |
| vvenare | Declan Kerger | Not submitted | |
| Women's | Naomi Smith | Submitted | |
| VVOITIGITS | Aria Sunga | Submitted | |
| Southbank | Verity Crane | Not submitted | |
| | Hayden Williams | Submitted | |
| Burnley | Kaitlyn Hammond | Submitted | |

Olivia Sullivan apologised for not getting her report in on time – Stress Less week had an online dinner party, we've started a divestment campaign and we've had a workshop discussing our goals and ideas. Aiming for an early July meeting to organise further.

Naomi would like to add to her report that they've made a form for students to report subject cuts

Questions for OBs:

Bree Symonds-Manne to the President – what is the administration saying about course cuts from a federal level?

Jack Buksh – haven't been any meetings, don't know when the next one is, as I'm not the President. Will put on notice to Hannah

Chris Melenhorst to Activities – is anything happening regarding planning for Semester 2?

India Pinkney indicated that they've been planning for Semester 2 – might be able to have a talent show, trivia will be slightly changed as well. Bands and streaming have gone well so looking forward to doing that again

Shrishti to Jordan Di Natale – wondering what is going on with Access – have we missed an email or has it not been sent?

Jordan Di Natale - will be next week or the week after

Chris Melenhorst to Jordan (Clubs) - have you met with Patrick Tidmarsh yet?

Jordan Di Natale - will be next week as well - waiting for a meeting

Chris Melenhorst to Environment – how did your meeting go with Clubs?

Sophie Kerrigan indicated that they were really happy with results from clubs – clubs do think a policy would be good, and they do want resources from us. Looking forward to working together

Evvie Ranogajec to Media – is there a way to lessen the money spent on printing? Important due to the financial issues that UMSU may face. Regarding Radio Fodder – worried about the levels of money vs student engagement with the station.

Sarah Peters indicated that the print run is already reduced to 400 – and only a few are getting mailed out (from the request list for the last run). Regarding Fodder – there's no more expenditure from that this year, it's just the expenditure that's keeping the station alive at this point. Suggested looking at other radio stations as well to see how they engage.

Evvie agreed with Sarah regarding building the engagement and the community. More upskilling is important. Regarding the pricing on Edition 3 – could we get the mailout only for the people that apply?

Bethany Cherry indicated that 400 included for 200 for contributors, 50 for archiving, and 150 for students at a later date. We can absolutely look at the 150 being printed later.

Andie Moore thanked Media for the report backs on Radio Fodder. We need to avoid rationalising funding for things like Media at this time – we're facing sector wide crackdowns on the Arts – Student Unions may be one of the only remaining outlets for students to train in media with.

Shristi asked regarding the list of printers – were they also sustainable? Shrishti also asked if our Radio Manager is paid?

Liv Bell thanked Andie for bringing up the arts – Radio Fodder should be focused on the levels of development and training for individuals in the arts. Regarding the ethics of the sustainability of the magazine you have to look at the whole magazine – the paper, the binding, the inks.

Max Dowell reminded everyone that no one is advocating for a defunding for the arts – student media is very valuable, as is training for student media. This is about making an outcome better for everyone – single digit listening figured for radio fodder isn't great for anyone.

Sarah Peters – thanked all for being so engaged in Radio Fodder and encourage everyone to email further feedback.

Shristi asked the PoC OBs about blak and indigenous specific mental health related resources that they received regarding COVID19

Gurpreet indicated that they've been working with the Blak collective – there is no Australian specific COVID resources – we've been going with PoC resources instead. Regarding

campus specific – we've been talking with CAPS about having a more representative CAPS team.

Hannah Krasovec asked why A'bidah's Queer Report was so short?

A'bidah indicated that they've taken a step back from UMSU as they've been busy with exams and personal issues

Tejas Gandhi asked for more information about what is happening in the Queer Department as the reporting was not sufficient. Could we get some more information on this?

Juria – calling someone out on a lack of reporting is not fair – PoC haven't been properly reporting either.

Hannah Krasovec indicated that she understood that it's a hard time but if you need to, you should be taking a Leave of Absence from UMSU. We should be asking more people why their reports aren't sufficient – this should set a precedent.

Andie Moore to the Welfare OBs – indicated that they're concerned that there's no report from either Welfare OB during a time that is so hard and so specific to welfare needs.

Jack indicated that neither of them were currently present in the meeting and that he's also concerned at the lack of reporting. Jack is looking at better guidelines on what is expected in a report as well. He will additionally request a written report from the Welfare OBs specifically.

Shristi indicted that Welfare haven't responded to emails as well regarding Stress Less week.

Evvie indicated that she can pass things on as there's a Welfare Committee meeting on Monday.

Motion 5: To approve all reports en block

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: That Council move in camera

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED)

Council moved in camera at 1457

During this time, Students Council approved the CEO report, and passed motions surrounding UMSU's License to Occupy and the Host Mentoring Operating Framework.

7.1. Opening of Nominations for UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group

Aria encouraged all Councillors to nominate – it will be a really good opportunity to work with Sexual Assault and Policy within UMSU and the campaign with the wider University.

Motion 11: to open nominations for a week from now

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: to move back to the UMSU Report to the Respect Taskforce

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

8. Other Reports

8.1. UMSU Report to the Respect Taskforce

Naomi spoke to the report. Patrick Tidmarsh has been working on this for a long time – he's been working with students, reps, the uni and colleges. He's analysed the Uni's response to Sexual Health and Harassment and has responded with a lot of recommendations within UMSU and the University. It's a brilliant report.

Chris Melenhorst commended the report, and thanked the OBs for their input to the plan.

Motion 12: To approve the UMSU Report to the Respect Taskforce

Mover: Aria Sunga Seconded: Naomi Smith

CARRIED

9. Motions on Notice

9.1. Fuck (and I cannot stress this enough) Dan Tehan and the Liberal Government Jack indicated that the motion would have to be ruled out of order due to the language not being allowed by the UMSU Standing Orders.

Procedural Motion: To amend the title of this motion to read "UMSU Condemns Dan

Tehan and the Liberal Government"

Mover: Hanna Krasovec. Seconder: Max Dowell

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To discuss this motion and motion "No fee hikes! No uni cuts!" en

bloc

Mover: Briana Symonds-Manne

CARRIED

UMSU Condemns Dan Tehan and the Liberal Government

The recently announced intervention into university fees from Dan Tehan and the Liberal government are unequivocally negative and must be urgently opposed by all current and future tertiary staff and students. They represent an attack on the most fundamental principles of our universities and society as a whole: that education be accessible, equal, and open to all, no matter their calling.

The fact that university degrees already see substantial price differences has been justified on the basis that they require a more or less intensive dedication of resources to teach. But this blatantly 'carrot-and-stick' neoliberal intervention into our education system has done away with even this flimsy excuse for a system that is already exorbitantly expensive and inaccessible. It is clear that this government sees our universities as nothing more than spawning pools for future generations of exploitable workers, workers whose basic rights and civic freedoms will be further under attack in a society lacking the critical and reflective thinking skills that form the cornerstone of an education in the humanities.

This is a student issue. This is a worker issue. This will affect everybody. The government refuses to commit to increasing university funding while encouraging vast increases in enrolment in certain fields, a move that will see more students per tutor, less resources per student, and a substantial decrease in our quality of education overall. This is an attack both on an already over-worked and casualised university workforce as well as an underfunded, unsupported student body.

We utterly condemn Dan Tehan and the Liberal government and this latest step in their continuing destruction of free and fair education in Australia.

UMSU condemns in the strongest possible terms this vile attack on equal and fair tertiary education.

UMSU recognises the immensely negative impact this will have on both current and future students across the entire country as well as academics and educators in all fields.

UMSU reaffirms its commitment to free education.

Actions:

UMSU will support as strongly as possible the campaign against the proposed reforms.

UMSU will use its public channels and resources to raise awareness of the proposed changes and mobilise mass resistance against them.

Moved: Hannah Krasovec Seconded: Max Dowell

No fee hikes! No uni cuts!

The changes to university fees and funding recently announced by Education Minister Dan Tehan represent some of the most devastating attacks on higher education in years. As has been widely reported, the cost of humanities degrees will increase by 113% to \$14,500 a year, while law and commerce degree fees will increase by 28%. Despite government rhetoric that these changes will benefit students in 'job-relevant' courses, funding in courses such as science, engineering and maths will be slashed. It's clear that this is an attack on not just the humanities, but all university students' education.

This is part of an ongoing project of the government and Vice-Chancellors to corporatise higher education. These reforms continue the trend towards an increasingly user-pays system - if implemented, students would be forced to pay for a majority of university funding for the first time since fees were reintroduced in 1989. It also seeks to create a two-tiered education system, where only wealthy students can afford to study what they choose while poorer students are funnelled into degrees that will make them 'job ready'.

Tehan's reforms also represent a major attack on staff. Dramatic funding cuts, coupled with the mass layoffs universities have enacted since the start of the crisis, threaten to create a sector with even heavier workloads, larger classes and worse pay and conditions for staff. UMSU continues to support the staff fightback against cuts to their conditions.

It is crucial that a mass student campaign that is willing to take the fight to the government and Vice-Chancellor is organised to defeat these attacks. In 2014, Tony Abbott's attempt to deregulate university fees was smashed after thousands of students were mobilized in protest. These attacks call for an equally serious campaign. The public forum on Friday June 26 and the on-campus rally called for Friday August 1 organised by the No Cuts at Unimelb collective are important first steps in building that campaign.

Platform:

- UMSU opposes Dan Tehan's proposed fee hikes and funding cuts.
- UMSU recognises that these reforms are an attack on all students.
- UMSU recognises these reforms are also an attack on staff conditions.
- UMSU supports the staff campaign being run against cuts to conditions.
- UMSU recognises the need to organise a student campaign to fight these reforms.
- UMSU endorses the No Cuts at Unimelb campaign.

Actions:

- UMSU will promote all No Cuts at Unimelb events, including through sharing events on social media.
- UMSU will promote all NUS Student Fightback campaign events, including through sharing events on social media.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne Seconded: Shirley XXXXXXX

Many OBs and Councillors spoke of their support for the campaign – stating that this was a systematic attack on students, and tertiary access.

All agreed that the campaign really needs to mobilise students and high school students – as it will directly effect them

Evvie requested a change to the wording of the last motion to "UMSU will promote all NUS endorsed Fee Hike campaign events, including through sharing events on social media." This is amenable to the mover.

Motion 13: To pass both "No fee hikes! No Uni Cuts!" and UMSU Condemns Dan Tehan and the Liberal Government motions

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

10. Motions Without Notice

10.1. No Cuts Campaign

Preamble:

Last Friday, the federal government announced its plan to reform federal funding of higher education. This included reductions in fees for select courses such as nursing, engineering, and mathematics, while increasing fees for courses like history, communications, and commerce. These hikes actually constitute an overall 10% cut to tertiary education funding while allocating 39,000 more university places. These changes are another part of an onslaught against higher education funding over the past decade from multiple governments that inevitably undercut the stability and efficacy of the higher education sector. This type of cut is not new but the crisis in funding surrounding COVID 19 is going to have a disastrous effect on universities, and when coupled with this cut, brings into question the ability of universities to survive.

This campaign aims to bring together as many activist forces together to fight both national level cuts as well as local ones. We need staff and students to come together, through both UMSU and the NTEU, to oppose and fight cuts. Alongside this, there needs to be an articulation about what the post-COVID 19 university system should look and operate like. Each department has a specific stake in this crisis, with funding cuts likely to divert money away from critical studies and research, and support services. Therefore, a campaign based around collective principles, struggle, and mobilisation of students and staff on mass is required.

Platform:

- 1. UMSU reaffirms its commitment to oppose cuts to the tertiary education sector.
- 2. UMSU reaffirms its commitment to fighting for free education in the tertiary education sector.
- 3. UMSU recognises the importance of cross- union solidarity and action.

- 4. UMSU accepts the need for a broad, grassroots campaign to challenge ongoing and future cuts from the University, beyond its traditional activist arsenals bringing together students from across the union and the University's faculties.
- 5. UMSU acknowledges and commits itself to fighting fee cuts on both a national and local level and that effective mobilisation of student and staff forces are required to fight back against the government and university management.

Actions

All Office Bearers and Departments will meet with the Education Public Officers to discuss how each department can get involved to activate their constituents and ensure there is a plurality of voices represented on the campaign.

- Individual departments will hence be responsible for reframing the campaign to their own communities, and showing how cuts to staff and services on campus, and fee hikes, impact their area of responsibility (e.g. Welfare, Queer, People of Colour, etc)
- b. However, the Education Public Office Bearers will be primarily responsible for the campaign, acting in the spirit of collective decision making.
 - i. The campaign will have regular meetings made up of University of Melbourne staff and students, as well as other office-bearers, and regularly consult with them on the direction of the campaign.
- 2. UMSU Student's Council adopts the No Cuts at Unimelb Campaign as a Whole of Union campaign.
- 3. Students' Council directs all Office Bearers to share information about the No Cuts campaign including campaign events, posts, and actions (except for where accessibility concerns and COVID 19 restrictions may restrict attendance).
- 4. That the Education Public Office bearers present a proposed campaign structure at the next meeting of Students' Council.
- 5. Student's Council defines the No Cuts at Unimelb campaign as following:
 - Consisting of University of Melbourne staff and students, and to be facilitated through the University of Melbourne Student Union, and coordinated by the Education (Public Affairs) Department;
 - Combatting the casualisation, neoliberalisation and corporatisation of higher education as it applies to the University of Melbourne and its current and future staff and students.
 - c. Bringing together staff and students in recognition that:
 - i. Their interests are intrinsically linked;
 - ii. Cuts and austerity from both our University and our governments are attacks on both staff and students;
 - iii. Only through solidarity, mobilisation and mutual struggle can these be defeated;
 - iv. Democratic trade and student unionism are the most effective ways to facilitate this and that deeper bonds between our respective organisations, the NTEU and the UMSU, must be built.
 - D. Building up long-term organising and fighting capacity to:

- I. Defend the hard-won jobs, rights, conditions and services of staff and students from government and management cuts and;
- li. Fight for a fully funded and democratic University with secure jobs, fair working conditions and free tuition.

Moved: Noni Bridger Seconded: Charlie Joyce

Both Noni and Charlie spoke to their moving and seconding rights

Procedural motion: To suspend standing orders to allow Juriyah XXXX's proxy to

Andie Moore

Mover: Jack Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move to a vote

Mover: Thonya Deverall

CARRIED

Motion 14: That the No Cuts Campaign motion be passed Mover: Noni Bridger Seconder: Charlie Joyce

CARRIED

Procedural motion: To suspend standing Orders to allow Josh Bruni to proxy to Evvie

Ranogajec

Mover: Jac Buksh (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To discuss both Black Lives Matter motions en bloc

Mover: Briana Symonds-Manne

FAILED

Thonya and Jessie asked that the motions be kept separate

10.2. Solidarity for the Black Lives Matter Protesters in the US and Stop Deaths in Custody Protests in Australia.

Content Warning: Racism and White Supremacy, Police Brutality, First Nations Deaths in Custody

Preamble

On the 25th of May this year George Floyde died from positional asphyxiation when an officer of the Minneapolis police department knelt on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. This murder of an unarmed black man was committed in broad daylight in front of a crowd of people who repeatedly pleaded with the officer to let him breath and involved several other officers. Resulting uprisings and protests that began in Minneapolis have spread nationally to all fifty states in the US. These protests demand justice for George Floyde, and other victims of violence by the criminal justice system, an end to police brutality and increasingly for governments to defund or abolish the police. They also call out other forms of white supremacy in society. The protests are a continuation of almost a decade of work by the Black Lives Matter Movement and centuries of work by Black, First Nations and other people of colour activists in the United States.

Reaction to the protests have been mixed. While the protests have inspired both a swell of support from millions of people all over the United States and the world, and some limited reform of some police departments. Local, State and Federal governments within the US have used militarised police tactics to disperse and suppress the largely peaceful protests and have even attacked journalists. However, media coverage, especially in the beginning.

has chosen to focus on condemning instances of looting and other acts of civil disobedience as a way of dismissing these legitimate uprisings as "riots" started by "opportunists." In Australia, coverage of US Black Lives Matter protests has inspired similar discussion and resistance around the systemic white supremacy that exists within our own society. Particularly the violence and oppression faced by First Nations people. First Nations people make up less than 3% of the Australian population but account for 27% of our prison population, making them one of the most incarcerated groups of people per capita in the world. Since the 1991 Royal Commission into Indigenous Deaths in Custody, whose recommendations have been ignored by successive Liberal and Labour governments, over 434 First Nations People have died in custody. In solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protests in the US and as a resistance against the Australian issues of Blak Deaths in Custody and white supremacy, First Nations people, the Black community and their allies have organised and attended protests across Australia.

Platform:

- UMSU stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protestors in America and internationally.
- UMSU condemns the US state and its police forces for their violence against protestors and the media as actions indicative of an authoritarian regime not a democracy.
- UMSU recognizes the protests as a justified and necessary response to the centuries of ongoing systematic oppression of African American people and people of colour in America.
- UMSU recognizes that we belong to an institution (The University of Melbourne) and state (Australia) built on colonialism, imperialism and white supremacy and as such have no right to criticize the ways in which oppressed people choose to protest their oppression.
- UMSU stands in solidarity with the No Deaths in Custody Protesters in Australia
- UMSU condemns Scott Morison and all others who seek to erase the suffering and oppression experienced by First Nations people within Australia, particularly at the hands of the Australian Criminal "Justice" System.
- USMU demands that the Victorian and Federal Government immediately put in place the recommendations of the Royal Commission 1991 into Indigenous Deaths in Custody.

Actions

• All UMSU departments will post this motion on their social media platforms.

Moved: Thonya Deverall Seconded: Jessie Ferrari-Thomas

Thonya issued a Cultural warning and asked that everyone be aware that this motion contains the names of people who have died

She welcomed those present from Murrup Barak and Mohammad from the Blak Collective and PoC Committe.

She asked to amend the motion to add "UMSU commits to the philosophy of nothing about us without us when discussing or acting on issues regarding first nations people including those of lands outside the so-called Australian state"

The reason this is requested is that at an Education Collective a few weeks ago, a group decided to show up and discuss the No Cuts campaign. They then decided that it would be appropriate to post a photo in solidarity of No Cuts – after cutting off the BLM meeting. She also raised that there has been repeat behaviour from some Councillors ignoring or disregarding the UMSU indigenous OBs on First Nations people issues. She indicated The time for accepting allyship is over, and that allyship and solidarity is about listening, and if

you don't listen then you're not being an ally, you're co-opting issues, pain and history for your own benefit.

They indicated that their support for the following motion was not forthcoming as it mentions the deceased relatives of a First Nations member of Council.

Jessie spoke to their seconding rights. They spoke to the importance of the motion. They reiterated that First Nations people need to be consulted for motions like this. The motion after this one has the relative of Jessie's and seeing their relatives name on there brought them to tears. They affirmed that anyone who wants to make a motion with First Nations people, anyone who wants to show their solidarity with First Nations people, they have to consult First Nations people or your activism is hollow and a performatively woke gesture.

Briana ascertained her understanding of the genocidal history and the reason for the motion is that this is a movement in the states calling into question the most racist institutions in the world. This is huge, a mass multi-racial movement. She said that it's ok for white people to put up motions regarding racism in Australia and that she didn't think it was wrong to stand up for injustice in Australia as a white person. She disagreed with notions put forward by Thonya and Jessie.

Regarding the Education Action Meeting, we were told there was no agenda, so that's why we talked about the No Cuts Campaign

Emma Dynes noted that they asked numerous times for an agenda for the Education Meeting but none were given. They reiterated the amazing protests in the US. They said that it was unproductive to attack white people for saying that they want to support a rally to fight racism. They said should have democratic debate and discussion on Council – we shouldn't get into a situation where we're attacking white people who want to come out in solidarity to fight these things. We need more multi racial protests and we want to work with anyone who wants to fight these issues and we shouldn't come to a point where we're unable to discuss these things on campus.

Varaidzo Chipunza said that it was very aggravating that we keep having to had these conversations and that people keep co-opting these movements and silencing BIPOC and Indigenous voices. Allyship is powerful, but co-option isn't.

Xavier said that he sees that the US movement is a really good way of showing allyship and solidarity – it also means having serious discussion about removing racism forever – he thinks that the way to get rid of racism is to get rid of capitalism. He spoke of the need to have this debate and discussion and that this shouldn't be stifled. He spoke of the work done by unionists in the land rights struggle and indicted that this was a good example of how to win protests.

Jay Rimmer said that the reason that they didn't want people not consulting about these things is because a lot of the things that people do when they turn up at a protest and sell their magazine, and talk about themselves, and do everything there, they are taking our voice, they are hurting us not helping us, and that is racist.

Jessie reiterated their frustration that this conversation has had to happen again and again and that they are tired of white Marxists telling them what is best. They reiterated their strong bloodline of activism and their continual efforts to communicate these things.

Procedural motion: That the vote be put

Mover: Xavier Dupé MOTION FAILED Mohamed Hadi spoke of his dismay at the actions at the EAC and the shallow attempts to stand in solidarity with the BLM movement.

Max Dowell indicated indicated that it's bad enough that the room was hijacked the first time, and PoC voices silenced in in the EAC but even worse that they tried to stop discussion on this matter again, just now, with the attempt at putting the motion.

Thonya reiterated that First Nations issues need to be defined by First Nations people and that not allowing them to do that is white supremacy. She indicated that there have been past times where members of Council have made First Nations Representatives of the Council cry and leave the meeting. She asked that those that have done that in the past sit down and shut up.

Srishti indicated that the movement occurring in the US is not amazing – people are dying, these are actual human beings, not just a movement.

Noni apologised that Thonya and Jessie had to even bring this up, and highlighted that the meeting was a EAC meeting, it never had an agenda.

Multiple councillors expressed their thanks to Thonya and Jessie for bringing this up, and apologised for the need to bring this up. They also expressed incredulousness at the previous Procedural motion which appeared to try stifle the conversation.

Thonya indicated that she was in shock at the response from certain members of council. She reiterated that their mistakes and continual lack of consultation with the PoC and First Nations people was racist. She indicated that First Nations and PoC people do not need to be told how to run their own campaigns.

Jack indicated that quite a few Council members and observers (who had spoken to this motion) appear to have left at this point. This included Emma Dynes, Briana Symonds-Maree, and Xzavier Dupé.

Multiple Councillors stated that they had called this group out in the past to no effect and reiterated their support for the motion. They indicated disbelief at the lack of apology from the Councillors who have left.

Aria apologised on behalf of Council to all the BIPOC/First Nations people who have had to listen to this.

Jack reminded that if anyone feels discriminated against, or harassed, that they can report this within the realms of the UMSU Policies.

Motion 15: To pass the motion "Solidarity for the Black Lives Matter Protesters in the US and Stop Deaths in Custody Protests in Australia.

Moved: Thonya Deverall Seconded: Jessie Ferrari-Thomas

CARRIED

Solidarity with the US uprising! Black Lives Matter! Stop black deaths in custody from America to Australia!

Preamble

The mass street protests in the U.S. since African-American man George Floyd was murdered by racist police officer Derek Chauvin has reactivated the Black Lives Matter movement from 2014-2016.

In the U.S. an unarmed black person is murdered by the police every day and only 1.7% of these murders result in a criminal charge.

The ongoing street demonstrations encompass millions of people all across the country who are calling for an end to systematic police violence, racism, and economic inequality.

The movement is entering its fourth week and has already won many progressive demands including: the charging of George Floyd's killer with 2nd degree murder, many schools and universities have cut ties with police and removed them from their campuses, major cities like Los Angeles and Chicago have committed to cutting police budgets by hundreds of millions of dollars and to redirect this funding into social programs.

The movement which started in Minneapolis in the U.S. has spread and inspired solidarity actions all around the world from Melbourne to Berlin. The amazing displays of solidarity show that the issue of police violence and racism are international issues which require a radical fight back in the streets in order to win similar demands.

Australia is a thoroughly racist state too. Indigenous people, refugees and immigrants all face systematic racism from various institutions particularly the police and "justice" system. Indigenous people in particular are subjected to intense vile racist policing. Just the other day Sydney police repeatedly tasered an Indigenous man at close range even though he was not resisting. This policing has led to over 430 Indigenous people dying in custody since 1991 including Tanya Day and David Dungay Jr. Not a *single* police officer has been convicted for these murders. Indigenous people are also overrepresented in prisons. Indigenous youth make up 100% of the prison population in the Northern Territory and in adult prisons Indigenous people make up over 30% of the prison population while only being around 3% of the Australian population - something which continues to grow. Everything about the police and prison system is racist to the core and actively defends those that carry it out daily.

The Black Lives Matter rally called on June 9 was an absolutely amazing inspiring response to the murder of George Floyd and an incredible show of solidarity with the ongoing uprising in America. It was huge and multiracial and is exactly the kind of antiracist movement needed to fight all the racism from the Australian state and fight for justice.

Platform

- UMSU stands in solidarity with the uprising taking place right across America
- UMSU recognises that the police in Australia and worldwide are fundamentally racist institutions
- UMSU will support and promote any future protests called in solidarity with America and against black deaths in custody in Australia and anti-racist demostrations in general
- UMSU opposes the attempts by the Supreme Court and VicPol to prevent these protests

Action

 Students council will take a Solidarity photo for Black Lives Matter and it will be posted on the UMSU page

Moved: Emma Dynes

MOTION LAPSES AS NO MOVER OR SECONDER

11. Other Business

Nil

12. Next Meeting

TBD

13. Close

Meeting closed at 1700h