

## University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Students' Council Minutes

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 1:00pm Meeting 13(21) Location: Zoom

https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/88572029711?pwd=ZjdOVUtQOWNVUklvaHhMUlRINjBzUT09

**Password**: 180836

Meeting opened at: 1:05pm

**Procedural Motion:** To suspend standing order for Allen Xiao to chair.

Mover: Allen Xiao Seconded: Lauren Scott

**CARRIED** 

### 1. Procedural Matters

#### 1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Allen Xiao be elected as Chair

Mover: Allen Xiao Seconder: Lauren Scott

**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	Kevin Mao	Yes
Students' Council (Indigenous Representative	Brittney Henderson	Yes
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Clea Porteous Borthwick	Yes
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Georgia McCourt	Yes
International Student Representative on	Janise Qian Yee Sam	Yes
Students' Council		
Graduate Student Representative on Students'	Shreya Bhutani	No
Council		
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raymond Wu	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Charlotte Macpherson	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Aashi Agarwal	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ethan Alex Georgeou	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Jeremy Cameron	No

Students' Council (General Representative)	Harry Black	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Tejasvi Madan	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Sophie Nguyen	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Jennifer Lui	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Lauren Scott	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Xavier Dupe	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Scarlett Padden	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Catriona Smith	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joanna Guelas	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Rubina Smith	No

## Office Bearers

Department	Full name		
		Attended?	
President	Jack Buksh	Yes	
General Secretary	Allen Xiao	Yes	
Activities Officer	Christos Preovolos	No	
Activities Officer	Phoebe Chen	No	
Clubs & Societies Officer	Muskaan Hakhu	No	
Clubs & Societies Officer	Kalyana Vania	Yes	
Creative Arts Officer	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	Yes	
Creative Arts Officer	Merryn Hughes	No	
Disabilities Officer	Brigit Doyle	Yes	
Disabilities Officer	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	Yes	
<b>Education (Academic Affairs) Officer</b>	Planning Jay Vyn Saw	Yes	
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Jennisha Arnanta	Yes	
<b>Education (Public Affairs) Officer</b>	Tejas Gandhi	Yes	
<b>Education (Public Affairs) Officer</b>	Hannah Krasovec	Yes	
<b>Environment Officer</b>	Lynne Bian	Yes	
<b>Environment Officer</b>	Disha Zutshi	Yes	
Indigenous Officer	Shanysa Jayde McConville	No	
Media Officer	Lauren Berry	Yes	
Media Officer	Pavani Ambagahawattha	Yes	
Media Officer	Ailish Hallinan	Yes	
People of Colour Officer	Emily AlRamadhan	No	
People of Colour Officer	Mohamed Hadi	Yes	
Queer Officer	Amy Bright	Yes	
Queer Officer	Laura Ehrensperger	No	
Welfare Officer	Hue Man Dang	No	
Women's Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	Yes	
Women's Officer	Mickhaella Ermita	Mickhaella Ermita Yes	
<b>Burnley Campus Coordinator</b>	Kaitlyn Hammond	No	
Southbank Campus Co-ordinator	Jamie Kim	Yes	
	Leyla Moxham	Yes	

Other: Justin Baré (CEO), Nancy Ciara Griffiths (minute-taker), Annalyce Wiebenga, Jess Alderton, Marcie Bartolomeo, Patrick Irwin, Archit Agarwal.

## 1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers:

Councillors: Shreya Bhutani

Leave Requests:

Mohamed Hadi, Tejas Gandhi, Hannah Krasovec, Muskaan Hakhu, Kalyana Vania, Jennisha Arnanta, Planning Saw, Lindsay Tupper-Creed, Amy Bright, Allen Xiao, from September 6-10

Srishti Chatterjee and Jack Buksh from September 6-13

Phoebe Chen & Christos Preovolos for Council 13(21)

Motion 2: To accept the leave requests en bloc

Mover: Chair

**CARRIED** 

#### 1.5. Proxies

Sophie Nguyen to Ethan Georgeou Jeremy Cameron to Clea Borthwick Jennifer Lui to Raymond Wu Shreya Bhutani to Kevin Mao

### 1.6. Membership

Lynne Bian and Disha Zutshi have been appointed as Environment Officers.

### 1.7. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented.

Mover: Chair

**CARRIED** 

#### 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

#### **2.1** Minutes 12(21)

Motion 4: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting 12(21), with corrects to capitalise Indigenous and include Hue Man Dang's attendance.

Mover: Chair Seconded: Lauren Scott

**CARRIED** 

## 3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

# 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

## 5. Correspondence

## 6. Office Bearer Reports

President	Jack Buksh	Submitted
General Secretary	Allen Xiao	Submitted
Activities	Christos Preovolos	Submitted
	Phoebe Chen	Not Submitted
Clubs and Societies	Kalyana Vania	Submitted
	Muskaan Hakhu	Submitted
Creative Arts	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	Submitted
	Merryn Hughes	Submitted
Disabilities	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	Submitted
	Brigit Doyle	Submitted
Education (Academic	Jennisha Arnanta	Submitted
Affairs)	Planning Jay Vyn Saw	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Hannah Krasovec	Submitted
	Tejas Gandhi	Submitted
Environment	Lynne Bian	Not Submitted
	Disha Zutshi	Not Submitted
Indigenous	Shanysa McConville	Submitted
Media	Lauren Berry	Submitted
	Ailish Hallinan	Submitted
	Pavani Ambagahawattha	Submitted
People of Colour	Mohamed Hadi	Submitted
	Emily AlRamadhan	Leave
Queer	Amy Bright	Late
	Laura Ehrensperger	Submitted
Welfare	Hue Man Dang	Submitted
Women's	Srishti Chatterjee	Submitted
	Mickhaella Ermita	Submitted
Southbank	Leyla Moxham	Submitted
	Jamie Kim	Submitted
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	Submitted

Welfare, Education Academic, and General Secretary were questioned as to why they haven't responded to the Media Department's email requests. Allen Xiao responded that there would be a good faith attempt to engage.

Srishti Chatterjee asked the Media Department for their plans regarding the upcoming presidential debate, with mental health and safety in mind. Ailish Hallinan responded that the Media Department has been in contact with the RO, acknowledging the issues in the past with the debates, particularly over Zoom. The format this year hasn't been formalised. Current concepts include filtering questions through Media, and formalising Debate rules with the RO/establishing a Code of Conduct.

Jack Buksh spoke to his report. Noted there will be an additional confidential element of his report, which he will give verbally in camera after the CEO's report.

Ethan Georgeou asked the General Secretary why the Southbank officers were not submitting separate reports. Allen Xiao responded that from his understanding, the reports are a true and accurate record of activities at Southbank but is happy to engage in conversation with the OBs.

Jack Buksh reminded that it is a required for OBs to submit separate reports even if they are in shared offices.

#### Jennisha Arnanta arrived: 1:24pm.

Ethan Georgeou asked Education Academic about a new Wamnesty campaign, if there a plan for a public campaign, and if students will receive communications about it soon. Jennisha Arnanta responded that there are plans, and the Department has requested a meeting with the University.

Ailish Hallinan asked Education Academic why they haven't responded to Media's emails. Jennisha Arnanta responded that they had missed the emails amongst the workload but will endeavour to respond.

Discussion ensued over the current activities of the Education Academic Department, and what tangible steps they have made towards student fee relief. Jennisha Arnanta spoke to the many meetings the department has had with the University over potential mechanisms to provide fee relief to international students. Nothing currently confirmed that can be spoken to at this Council, however, Student Council will be updated once they have a more solid answer.

Ailish Hallinan requested that Education Academic respond to Media's email by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 5pm.

Brittney Henderson followed up on Council's request from Council 12(21) for the General Secretary to ask after Phoebe Chen's wellbeing. Allen Xiao responded that he did reach out, and that Phoebe is dealing with some mental health concerns, hence the leave request for this Council meeting.

Srishti Chatterjee spoke to their report. Thanked all councillors and OBs who attended the working group and contributed to the submission. Congratulated Vaishnavi Ravikrishna and Merryn Hughes for completing MUDfest and its success.

Vaishnavi Ravikrishna thanked Student Council and all who helped with MUDfest.

Sophie Nguyen arrived at 1:33pm.

Srishti Chatterjee asked the new Environment Officers about the Climate Strike, summarising last Council's discussion. Asked if the new Officers would contribute a Unimelb contingent. Lynne Bian and Disha Zutshi responded that this has been in discussion, although likely to be a virtual campaign. Hoping to centre First Nation and Indigenous voices, and work with the POC & Indigenous Departments with this.

Planning Saw arrived at 1:39pm.

Motion 5: To accept the Office Bearer Reports en Bloc

Mover: Chair CARRIED

**Procedural Motion:** To move in camera at 1:45pm.

Mover: Chair

**CARRIED** 

### Council moved in camera 1:45pm.

- 7. CEO Report
- 8. Other Reports
  - 8.1. UMSU Submission Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy
  - 8.2. CME Report
  - 8.3. Wise Workplace Solutions Report
  - 8.4. Confidential Report from the President

Council moved out of camera at 2:37pm.

**Procedural Motion:** For Council for adjourn for five minutes and resume at 2:42pm.

Moved: Lauren Scott

**CARRIED** 

Council adjourned at 2:37pm.

#### Council readjourned at 2:42pm.

#### 9. Operational Business

#### 9.1. Southbank Honoraria

Chair spoke to this item. Read out submission from Leyla Moxham and Jamie Kim regarding this motion. Submission outlined that the current Southbank Officers carried out the duties of this role this past year prior to being recently recognised as Officers, so therefore are seeking fair renumeration for their work.

Chair invited Justin Baré to speak to this financial viability of this motion. The CEO advised Council that individual councillors are liable for ensuring they are considering the financial impacts of all their decisions. When Council is making its decision in relation to this matter, it does need to consider the impact on the organisation in engaging in any expenditure. This is part of all of Council's individual duties as directors of this organisation. When coming to a determination, Councillors need to be satisfied that they have been provided with sufficient information and understanding of the impact on the financial situation of the organisation. The CEO advised that he would provide any additional information as Council requests. The CEO advised that he wanted to ensure that Council is aware of this and Councillors of their personal liabilities as they consider this matter.

Chair recapped on the monetary amount in question. Invited Justin Baré to analyse these amounts in terms of financial liability, as he believed the advice received was that this is an ongoing discussion between Justin and the lawyers. To that end, recommended deferral of motion until a resolution could be achieved. Justin clarified this is not a manner of ongoing discussion between himself and the solicitors; that Allen has been solely responsible for managing that correspondence without consulting the CEO. The CEO reiterated that he was not expressing a view on the substantive question relating to back payment, and that he is only alerting Council to its obligations, both collectively and individually, when making decisions of this type.

Motion: To defer action on this until the next Council went payment amounts and financial advice has been provided.

Moved: Lauren Scott Seconded: Clea Borthwick

Chair noted that the advice provided was that there were tax implications of this honoraria, which is an ongoing manner. Believed Justin was CC'd into this correspondence.

Justin Baré clarified the subject of tax advice, that this was in reference to a separate issue in relation to which UMSU was also receiving legal advice but this was not to be confused with the Southbank honoraria.

Jack Buksh asked Justin Baré if the renumeration would have a significant financial impact on the organisational budget. Justin responded that as a one-off payment it would reduce the surplus for this year. Therefore, it would have an impact on the

funds available to cover costs in the context of expected reductions of income in 2022 and 2023. Council needs to be satisfied that this impact in expenditure is within the organisation's best interests and understand the implications of doing so. Justin highlighted concern that if there is a decision to defer, that Council considers what support it can provide to Leyla and Jamie in the meantime, to ensure the impacts of deferral are not harsh on them.

Motion 9: To defer action on this until the next Council went payment amounts and financial advice has been provided.

Moved: Lauren Scott Seconded: Clea Borthwick

**CARRIED** 

Justin Baré asked Allen Xiao that when communicating this action to Jamie Kim and Leyla Moxham, that they are advised that UMSU will be in touch with them to discuss how best to support them in the interim, should they require it. Would not wish for them to be put through any additional undue hardship as a result of the deferral of a decision.

#### 9.2. Student Media Panel

Motion: To open Expressions of Interests to this panel, opening 5pm Friday 8 August and closing 5pm Friday 27 August.

Moved: Chair

All councillors may submit an EOI to be in the selection pool. Where a panel needs to be convened for a Media dispute the General Secretary will select three panel members from this pool. However, if the General Secretary is subject to the dispute, the panel selection falls to the President.

It was requested that the EOIs are also sent to the President, as he will be convening the panel in this circumstance due to the General Secretary being subject to the dispute. Following this, councillors requested that Allen Xiao cede the chair for this discussion due to conflict of interest.

Motion 10: That Jack Buksh be elected as Chair for Item 9.2.

Moved: Srishti Chatterjee Seconded: Tree Smith

**CARRIED** 

Allen Xiao cedes chair to Jack Buksh.

Councillors raised concerns with the Media Panel process, asked how factional decisions are minimised within panel selection and what the decision-making powers of the panel were. Intention from Jack Buksh is to follow previous year's precedent and select a panel member from each faction. Summarised that the purpose of the panel is to look at the complaint and provide a recommendation to Council on how best mitigate this occurrence in the future. Council can then choose whether to accept and action this recommendation. Justin Baré elaborated on current policy;

that the panel is provided support in dispute resolution and handling by the CEO and will have access to advice regarding due process in handling any matters that come before it. Council would be aware that a lot of work went into updating the Media Policy at the start of the year, and any feedback and ideas for improvement are welcome.

Motion 11: To open Expressions of Interest to this panel, opening 5pm Friday 8 August and closing 5pm Friday 27 August.

Moved: Chair

**CARRIED** 

Motion 12: That chairing rights be handed back to Allen Xiao.

Moved: Allen Xiao Seconded: Archit Agarwal

**CARRIED** 

Jack Buksh cedes chair to Allen Xiao.

#### 9.3. UMSU Submission - Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy

Chair instigated discussion of this submission during '9. Operational Business', rather than agenda placement as item 8.1 of 'Other Reports' as it did not need to be considered in camera.

Srishti Chatterjee and Mickhaella Ermita spoke to this submission. Discussed sense of pride over the steps made. Is grateful for the opportunity, and for the support from everyone.

Councillors highly commended the Womyns Officers' work.

Motion 13: To accept the report and endorse its proposals.

Moved: Chair

**CARRIED** 

#### 10. Motions on Notice

### 10.1 Appointment to SA/SH Working Group

Srishti Chatterjee and Mickhaella Ermita spoke to their moving rights.

Motion 14: The Women's Department moves for Council to appoint Sophie Nguyen in place of Sian Tjia Hennessy, as a voting council representative on the UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group.

Moved: Srishti Chatterjee Seconded: Mickhaella Ermita

CARRIED

#### 10.2 MUDfest Awards Team Thank You Gifts

Vaishnavi Ravikrishna spoke to her moving rights.

Councillors expressed frustration that the motion was not actually included in the notice, as well as the misdistribution of many OB reports.

Motion 15: To approve the spending of \$325 from the 'Grants & Awards' MUDfest Budget line to cover the cost of 13 x \$25 gift-card prizes to be given to student volunteers in the MUDfest Award judging panel members as a 'Thank You' gift.

Moved: Vaishnavi Ravikrishna Seconded: Ailish Hallinan

**CARRIED** 

#### 11. Motions without Notice

### 11.1. Governance Audit & Climate Survey

Clea Borthwick raised this motion. Councillors noted this needs to be in camera.

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

Moved: Chair

**CARRIED** 

Council moved in camera at 3:39pm.

Council moved out of camera 3:43pm.

#### 12. Other Business

Allen Xiao spoke to an automated report-submission system for OB reporting he had been investigating. This will potentially be trialled for next Council. General response from Councillors was negative, raising concerns for unnecessary security risk with typeforms.

#### 13. Next Meeting

2:00pm Thursday 02/09

#### 14. Close

Meeting Closed at 3:47pm.

## 10.1 Appointment to SA/SH Working Group

**Preamble**: Sian Tjia Hennessy has resigned from council – and Sophie Nguyen was appointed in their place, as of Council 12(21). Sian, in their role as Student's Councillor, sat as a voting member on the Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group, which they can no longer do – since they are no longer a voting member on council. We need to fill the spot, for quorum and voting purposes, so we are moving for Sophie to be appointed in Sian's place, as a voting member of Student's Council.

**Motion**: The Women's Department moves for council to appoint Sophie Nguyen in place of Sian Tjia Hennessy, as a voting council representative on the UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group.

Mover: Srishti Chatterjee

Seconder: Mickhaella Ermita