



University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Students' Council
Minutes
Friday 2nd September 2021 2:00pm
Meeting 14(21)
Location: Zoom

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/88572029711?pwd=ZjdOVUtQOWNVUklvaHhMUlRlNjBzUT09>

Password: 180836

Meeting opened at 2:06pm.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Allen Xiao be elected as Chair

Mover: Allen Xiao

Seconded: Jan Sam

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	No
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Janise Qian Yee Sam	Yes
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Shreya Bhutani	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raymond Wu	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Charlotte Macpherson	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Aashi Agarwal	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Ethan Alex Georgeou	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Jeremy Cameron	On Leave
Students' Council (General Representative)	Harry Black	No
Students' Council (General Representative)	Tejasvi Madan	Terminated
Students' Council (General Representative)	Sophie Nguyen	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Jennifer Lui	On Leave

Students' Council (General Representative)	Lauren Scott	Yes
Students' Council (General Representative)	Xavier Dupe	<i>On Leave</i>
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	<i>Terminated</i>

Office Bearers

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

Other: Nancy Ciara Griffiths (minute-taker), Justin Baré (CEO), Marcie Di Bartolomeo, Max Dowell, Nishank Ji-Sung Jain, Rachel Anya Aw (UMSU International President), Putri Shafira (UMSU International Vice President), Kezia Rebecca Pranata (UMSU International Vice President), Annalyce Wiebenga, Archit Agarwal.

1.4. Apologies

Office Bearers: Lindsay Tupper-Creed, Brigit Doyle, Jamie Kim

Councillors: Georgia McCourt

Leave Requests:

Office Bearers:

Jack Buksh and Planning Saw for Council 14(21).

Leyla Moxham, Jamie Kim, and Laura Ehrensperger from September 6-10.

Phoebe Chen from September 2-20.

Councillors:

Jennifer Lui, Jeremy Cameron, and Xavier Dupe for Council 14(21).

Kevin Mao, Aashi Agarwal, and Lauren Scott from September 6-10.

Clea Borthwick for September 4-9.

Motion 2: To accept the leave requests en bloc

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

1.5. Proxies

Georgia McCourt to Clea Borthwick

Jennifer Lui to Nishank Jain

Jeremy Cameron to Lauren Scott

1.6. Membership

Rubina Smith and Tejasvi Madan have been terminated from Council.

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)

2.2. Minutes 13(21)

Motion 4: To accept the previous minutes as a true and accurate record of meetings 12(21) and 13(21) en bloc.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Office Bearer Reports

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

Hue Man Dang gave a verbal report for the Welfare Department, in lieu of no physical submission. The Welfare Department has been active; looking to launch a Clothing for Work program, contingent on advice from Advocacy. Looking into a program for mailing household products for students in need. Working with POC Department on a giveaway that will launch next week.

Srishti Chatterjee enquired with the Welfare and Disabilities Offices regarding communications. Had sent both departments an email on August 23rd regarding the

SA/SH meeting, as the officers had volunteered to assist with enabling quiet spaces at rallies. Despite rallies now not going ahead, the surveys are, Srishti asked if the departments were still planning on providing some form of assistance or responding to their communications. Hue Man Dang responded she would be in touch with Disabilities and respond to Srishti tomorrow (September 3rd).

Lauren Scott enquired further with Welfare about their Clothing for Work program and what this would entail. Hue Man Dang responded that she would provide Council with more details once things were finalised with Advocacy.

Tree Smith asked Activities if there were any further plans for the department's event beyond Bands & Bevs, considering this program is mainly run by Julian Wu and the Events team and currently impacted by lockdown. Christos Prevolos responded that the workload of the Activities was split so that he managed Bands & Bevs, whilst Phoebe Chen managed other activities. Bands & Bevs is still shifting to an online format, and with Phoebe's ongoing absence Christos is aware that not much is going on currently. Has tried to be in touch with Phoebe regarding her plans but has not heard from her.

Tree Smith followed up to ask Christos that if Phoebe is on leave, is he going to take over her workload and arrange events apart from Bands & Bevs. Christos Prevolos responded that he only found out his Co-OB had taken leave from this Council Agenda. Will pick up on this and find out if Phoebe had any events planned. Tree encouraged the department to include more details in their reporting and expressed that it would be good to see more events run.

Procedural Motion: To suspend standing orders.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Motion 5: To accept the proxy from Aashi Agarwal to Jan Sam.

Moved: Chair

CARRIED

Aashi Agarwal proxies to Jan Sam.

Councillors asked if anyone from Phoebe Chen's ticket had been in touch with her. Archit Agarwal responded that the ticket is doing everything possible to support Phoebe, hopefully she will be back soon.

Jo Guelas arrived at 2:11pm.

Justin Baré arrived at 2:15pm.

Hannah Krasovec suggested that a welfare check be requested. Asked Justin Baré and Allen Xiao if this could be arranged. Both responded yes.

Motion 6: To accept the Office Bearer Reports en Bloc

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: To move in camera.

Mover: Chair

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 2:20pm.

7. CEO Report

8. Other Reports

8.1. Wise Workplace Solutions Report

Council moved out of camera at 3:47pm.

9. Operational Business

9.1. Southbank Honoraria

Motion 10: To approve the honoraria payments for the Southbank Officers as discussed at Council 13(21).

Moved: Clea Borthwick

Seconded: Raymond Wu

CARRIED

9.2. SIG Applications

9.2.1. MBSI Bioinformatics Workshop Series and BioDesign Competition (revised application).

9.2.2. Social Prescribing Student Collective Case Night

Motion 11: To accept the SIG applications en bloc.

Moved: Raymond Wu

Seconded: Clea Borthwick

CARRIED

10. Motions on Notice

10.1. Gender Affirmation

Amy Bright spoke to her moving rights.

Motion 12: To accept this motion as presented.

Moved: Amy Bright

Seconded: Lauren Scott

CARRIED

11. Motions without Notice

11.1. Motion to seek honoraria for UMSU INTL Central Committee

Rachel Aw spoke to her moving rights.

Putri Shafira spoke to her seconding rights.

Srishti Chatterjee spoke to the point that international students cannot underload, so it is important that they can be compensated for their labour. Asked if constitutional working groups have taken place previously, or if financial conversations have occurred between UMSU INTL and the past/present General Secretaries, Presidents, or the CEO.

Sophie Nguyen raised that Council has taken action, which was to seek legal advice. Asked the General Secretary what the progress was on this. Allen Xiao responded that there are some restrictions faced due to the migration act. Currently engaging with lawyers (Moore's) in how we can engage with paying and back paying the UMSU INTL Central Committee. Said the CEO would be well placed to elaborate on the legal advice for this matter.

Justin Baré encouraged the General Secretary to share this legal advice, as Allen had been the one engaging with the lawyers; could not personally speak to the matter definitively as he has not been included in all correspondence with Moore's. The CEO also advised Council that the General Secretary had provided documents to, and had conversations with, Moore's that had been developed without the CEO's involvement.

Chair advised that he is happy to circulate these documents with Council. Noted that there are restrictions in terms of the Migration Act and visa requirements that UMSU INTL Officer Bearers and committee members may incur if payments are made. Currently is engaging with Moore's to determine how these payments, and back-payments, could be made, without violating these potential requirements. Advised this may impact the way UMSU INTL Office Bearers are remunerated.

Archit Agarwal wished it noted in the minutes that the conversations around UMSU INTL honoraria have been ongoing for three years, meanwhile Allen Xiao has been General Secretary for only four months. Expressed that there are people present at Council that could have been taking actions in this time.

Srishti Chatterjee requested that the motion is amended to include that UMSU INTL Central Committee receive access to the same mental health and workplace safety benefits that UMSU Officer Bearers receive.

Archit Agarwal proposed that if amenable to the Movers and Chair, that next Council they propose a plan as to how honoraria for the incoming INTL Central Committee and backpay for the outgoing Committee can be achieved within the year. The Movers were amenable.

Motion 13: To accept this motion, with the proposed amendment that UMSU INTL Central Committee also receive access to the same mental health and workplace safety benefits that UMSU Officer Bearers receive.

Moved: Rachel Aw

Seconded: Putri Shafira

FOR: Brittney Henderson, Sophie Nguyen, Jan Sam (with proxy), Ethan Georgeou, Lauren Scott (with proxy), Kevin Mao, Raymond Wu, Nishank Jain, Clea Borthwick (with proxy), Shreya Bhutani, Jo Guelas, Tree Smith.

AGAINST: None.

CARRIED

12. Other Business

12.1. National Student Safety Survey

Raised by Srishti Chatterjee. Explained what the survey is and its significance. Requested that since most Office Bearers are on leave next week, that any correspondence regarding the survey is sent to Srishti before end of tomorrow (Friday 3 September). Highly encouraged Councillors share and participate in the survey.

Mickhaella Ermita echoed Srishti's sentiments, asked Councillors to please engage in the content.

13. Next Meeting

Friday 17 September, 1pm.

14. Close

Meeting closed at 4:30pm.

10.1 Gender Affirmation

Preamble:

We welcome the University's decision to implement the forthcoming Gender Affirmation Policy. Our trans and gender diverse colleagues and students deserve respect, support and solidarity when they come to work and to learn. Transphobia has no place on our campus.

We are disappointed however, that the University's latest draft of the gender affirmation policy retreats from the earlier position which stated:

4.7: To maintain a respectful and safe learning and working environment, the University will assess the potential harm to TGD members of the University community in decision-making regarding public events and public discourse conducted by or associated with the University. The University is committed to freedom of speech, as expressed in the Freedom of Speech Policy (MPF1342), but does not support the exercise of freedom of speech when the exercise undermines the capacity of individuals to participate fully in the University.

The most recent draft of the policy has removed this commitment to ensuring our workplace is not used to promote hateful, transphobic ideas. Instead, it has shoe-horned the existing Freedom of Speech Policy into the Gender Affirmation Policy. The result is this clause:

4.7: Consistent with the University's Academic Freedom of Expression Policy (MPF1224) and Freedom of Speech Policy (MPF1342), the University recognises the right of members of the University community to hold and express views on matters related to gender identity. The University does not support the exercise of freedom of speech when it:

- (a) Undermines the capacity of individuals to participate fully in the University;*
- (b) Is unlawful;*
- (c) Prejudices the fulfilment by the University of its duty to foster the safety and wellbeing of staff and students; or*
- (d) Unreasonably disrupts activities or operations of the University.*

We are disappointed that this clause has been added to the Gender Affirmation Policy. This clause does explicitly oppose transphobia, however it could also be applied to the last two protests that have been held on campus *against* transphobia. This potentially renders the students and staff who are standing against transphobia in their place of learning and work in breach of the policy.

We also recognise that there is an appropriate way to criticise this policy. Gender affirmation is absolutely a matter relevant to the occupational health and safety of staff and students, and should not be considered purely on a political basis. Trans people are more than that.

UMSU recognises the need for more rigorous and accountable grievance procedures at the University of Melbourne, and the need to avoid centralising power to the corporate chancellery. Notwithstanding, the pursuit of a complete framework for ensuring the safety of trans and gender diverse people at the University remains paramount in importance.

Motion:

That UMSU:

- Re-affirms its support for Transgender and Gender Diverse rights and its absolute opposition to transphobia.
- Calls upon the University to remove this clause, and further consult with the UMSU Queer Office Bearers, the National Tertiary Education Union, the GSA LGBTI+ Officer, and the Pride in Action Committee on appropriate implementation planning.
- Strongly believes that a Gender Affirmation Policy is necessary, and condemns criticism of the policy that is predicated on implications to the contrary.

Moved by Amelia Bright

Seconded by Laura Ehrensperger.

11.1 Motion to seek honoraria for UMSU INTL Central Committee

Preamble

Another UMSU INTL Committee ends their term in office tomorrow. For three years now, UMSU has promised remuneration to UMSU INTL Committee members for their work for this organisation.

Most UMSU INTL Committee members are international students, who have to undertake full-time studies while they serve the international student community through UMSU INTL. In the past two years alone, we have seen international students face unimagined hardships. UMSU INTL is made up of students who face similar circumstances while they manage their personal and university lives. I know of multiple Committee members who have lost friends and family to this pandemic. And yet their dedication to the international student community has not diminished.

As UMSU Students' Council reads this, they should be ashamed of themselves. They have failed the international student community yet again. However, we do not have an option other than coming to you and asking you once again to engage with us in good faith. We are asking you to recognise our contributions, the same way you recognise the contributions of UMSU Office Bearers. International students are not vulnerable labour that UMSU can exploit. If you claim to represent all students, pay us for our labour. If you don't know how, figure it out.

I am writing this motion today because I do not want the incoming UMSU INTL Committee to be having the same conversation at the end of their term.

Motion:

1. UMSU Students' Council apologises to UMSU INTL Central Committee for UMSU's inaction and inability to resolve this issue in a timely manner.
2. UMSU Students' Council recognises that the 2020-2021 UMSU INTL Central Committee have a right to be remunerated for their work in UMSU.
3. UMSU Students' Council commits to exploring all avenues to ensure that they retrospectively remunerate the 2020-2021 UMSU INTL Central Committee.
4. UMSU Students' Council commits to taking all actions, including but not limited to setting up relevant Regulations, to ensure that the 2021-2022 UMSU INTL Central Committee is remunerated for their work in a timely manner.

Mover: Rachel Aw

Secunder: Putri Shafira