



**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Students' Council**

**Agenda**

**Monday, August 24, 1:00pm**

**Meeting 15(20)**

**Location: Zoom**

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/99902964207?pwd=Z3BmOVV0VU5nOHd3Rlp4TytJSVFmQT09>

**Password: 051625**

**Meeting opened at 1:22pm**

**1. Procedural Matters**

**1.1. Election of Chair**

Motion 1: That Hannah Buchan be elected Chair

Mover:

CARRIED

**1.2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians**

So acknowledged

**1.3. Attendance**

**1.4. Apologies**

*Office Bearers:*

*Councillors: Joshua Bruni, Tejas Gandhi*

Leave of Absence Requests:

*Office Bearers:*

- *Noni Bridger (12-18<sup>th</sup> September)*
- *Aria Sunga (Council 15(20))*
- *Georgia Walton Briggs (Council 15(20))*

*Councillors:*

- *Amal Whebe (Council 15(20))*

Motion 2: that a leave of absence be granted to Noni, Aria and Georgia

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

**1.5. Proxies**

*Joshua Bruni to David Collis*

**1.6. Membership**

Nurul Juria Binte Kamal is no longer a member of Students' Council due to graduation.

**1.7. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion 3: That the Agenda as presented be adopted  
 Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)  
 CARRIED

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**2.1 Minutes 14(20)**

Jack had issues with MailChimp attaching the file, and apologised if they weren't correctly distributed. He suggested deferral if everyone hasn't seen them

Motion 4: That the confirmation of the minutes of Meeting 14(20) be deferred until next meeting  
 Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)  
 CARRIED

**3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration**

No conflicts

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Nil matters arising

**5. Correspondence**

Nil correspondence

**6. Office Bearer Reports**

President	Hannah Buchan	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities	India Pinkney	<i>Submitted</i>
	Hayley Stanford	<i>Submitted</i>
Clubs and Societies	Jordan Di Natale	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts	Emily White	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Bell	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities	Hue Man Dang	<i>Submitted</i>
	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Not submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs)	Georgia Walton Briggs	<i>Submitted</i>
	Joshua Munro	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs)	Charlie Joyce	<i>Submitted</i>
	Noni Bridger	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Sophie Kerrigan	<i>Submitted</i>
	Olivia Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Hope Kuchel	<i>Submitted</i>
	Shanysa McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media	Bethany Cherry	<i>Not submitted</i>

	Amber Meyer	<i>Submitted</i>
	Sarah Peters	<i>Submitted</i>
	Tharidi Walimunige	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour	Gurpreet Singh	<i>Submitted</i>
	Nicole Nabbout	<i>Submitted</i>
Queer	Ciara O'Sullivan	<i>Submitted</i>
	A'Bidah Zaid Shirbeeni	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare	Natasha Guglielmino	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's	Naomi Smith	<i>Submitted</i>
	Aria Sunga	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank	Verity Crane	<i>Submitted</i>
	Hayden Williams	<i>Not submitted</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>

Amber Meyer: Edition 5 content list is now open – deadline is 11 September.

Hue Man still has not heard back re: CAPS and has not heard from Lee Papworth.

*Chris Melenhorst asked the Activities OBs if their confusion at the difference between Star Wars and Star Trek was sincere?*

The Activities OBs sadly said that it was.

Chris asked for more information.

The Activities OBs indicated that they didn't realise that Star Wars and Star Trek weren't the same thing.

Jordan Di Natale indicated his disbelief at this mistake, and will now attend the event to ensure everything is ok.

*Tree asked what Activities Event attendance is like?*

India said that the bands had been up and down, Trivia is about 20-30. This is obviously lower than they'd like, but the attendees have all been really excited and keen to attend.

*James Gallagher asked if the Education meeting acronyms could be explained, and also are the OBs intending on confronting the VC about staff cuts, and could a zoom be organised to confront the VC.*

Josh said that he's certainly not having meetings with the VC – academic board is the only time any OBs would have a lot of contact with the VC.

Hannah indicated that she'd sent an email to Duncan last week about the financial aid to students and still hadn't received a reply.

*Thonya asked Gurpreet about how they've made the department more welcoming to students from Blak backgrounds.*

Nicole indicated that they're having regular meetings with the Blak Collective to collaborate with them on all their collectives and budget.

Motion 5: to move the OBs' reports en block

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION: That Council move into camera for the CEO's report

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

**Council moved in camera**

## **7. CEO Report**

### **7.1. UMSU Service Agreement**

Council moved out of camera.

## **8. Other Reports**

No other reports

## **9. Operational Business**

No Operational Business

## **10. Motions on Notice**

### **10.1. Yet again, UMSU condemns Dan Tehan. Say NO to HECS changes!**

#### **Preamble**

*On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August, Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan announced another suite of changes to the HECS/HELP system, removing access to the HECS scheme for 'underperforming' students. Under this system, a student who fails 50% of 8 more of units will no longer be able to access a Commonwealth supported place. This announcement is an abhorrent attack on some of the most vulnerable students in the tertiary education system.*

*This is the latest in a series of attacks that directly impact the quality and accessibility of education. The latest legislative bill, that is due to enter parliament shortly, will cut funding to higher education by 15% per student. This will create a system that favours the involvement of wealthy and well-connected students and disadvantage students from low SES, minority, and rural and regional backgrounds.*

*Without entirely free and universal education our territory education system is structurally exclusionary to those who face class struggle and experience significant disadvantage and poverty. This latest addition however is a blatant reassertion and strengthening of the profit-centred and capitalistic function of higher education in this country and a blatant attack on students on Centrelink, the working class, the poor, and those who struggle with mental health concerns.*

*Indeed, this announcement contributes to the rank ableism and classism we can expect from this government. Students are not failing subjects by choice - they are failing subjects because of the youth mental health crisis in this country, which has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than providing adequate funding to help universities support students who are struggling, the government has decided to withdraw the safety net from underneath them. Students who repeatedly fail units need proper care and support, not to be cast out from their degrees. Threatening to rip all government education support from students as a punishment for failing subjects will only exacerbate this crisis and lead to real harm.*

*Dan Tehan claims his government cares about students getting into unpayable levels of debt. We share his concerns. But throwing students off HECS and demanding they pay unregulated university fees upfront is a bizarre method of ensuring students do not become indebted. If the government wants to incur less debt, they should make education free.*

Multiple councillors spoke in favour of this motion.

**Motion 7:**

**Platform:**

UMSU condemns Dan Tehan and the Coalition Government's proposed changes to the HECS/HELP system.

UMSU reaffirms its commitment to free and fully funded public higher education system.

UMSU commits to fighting these changes and any other attacks on students

**Actions:**

UMSU will participate in and lend its platform to support the NUS-led Student Fightback campaign against attacks on students, staff and higher education.

**Moved:** Hannah Krasovec

**Seconded:** Charlie Joyce

CARRIED

## 11. Motions Without Notice

### UMSU Elections Debate

Given the element of physical campaigning has been ruled out in the upcoming UMSU elections, it is of paramount importance that the student union make the process as much of an engaging and active process as possible for students. In the absence of physical voting booths and campaigners on campus we have to ensure that the elections are as democratic as possible.

Unfortunately, this year COVID has imposed extraordinary circumstances on our elections, so physical balloting and campaigning would be incredibly irresponsible, not to mention illegal. This is the most rational and reasonable decision given the health circumstances, but it must be seen as extraordinary since it does detract from how democratic these elections can be.

UMSU ought to do all it can to make this election as engaging and participatory as possible, not just students voting for a ticket largely on a friendship basis. One way to do this is for Farrago to host an online debate between a representative of each ticket running in the UMSU election.

Sarah Peters requested more info on behalf of Media and the deadline – 2 days is not a lot of notice for a successful event.

Amber Meyer indicated that Media have done a lot of election promotion – they're working on a guide, and they've promoted all deadlines. They said they were sceptical that this could be done in 2 days.

Bethany Cherry said that the idea had merit, but the 2 day limit is difficult. Additionally, the election guide will be out at the end of the week. Alternatively it could be a pre planned event with questions on notice? Also how would the event be adjudicated?

Nick Reich indicated that he appreciated Media's work on the elections, and that this motion wasn't a dig at them, but a way to get some campaigning going and awareness of the election and candidates.

Tree Smith said that this is a great motion in what it's attempting to achieve. They did want to suggest a few issues with the motion – an impartial adjudicator is not hugely possible if it's a student – could be RO's? Who would make the rules? Is it a Q&A? They suggested that running it through Farrago might not be the best way forward.

Jack Buksh said that the RO's should have oversight of this.

Justin Bare said that any activity of this type would need to be run with the ROs.

Hannah Buchan suggested an amendment that the Media OBs are directed to contact the Returning Officers to organise a ticket debate before the close of nominations.

This was amenable to the mover, Nick Reich. He indicated that it would be good to have this happen as soon as possible so that people can still register to vote.

Procedural Motion: to accept Chris Melenhorst's proxy to Tree Smith

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

Srishti asked how the safety of autonomous departments will be upheld.

**Motion 8:**

**Platform:**

- UMSU elections are facing extraordinary circumstances which make thoroughly democratic elections impossible to carry out in a way that is safe
- UMSU has a responsibility to ensure that these elections engage as many students as possible and provide whatever space it can for competing tickets to politically argue what they stand for

**Action:**

- Council directs Farrago to contact the Ros regarding having a livestreamed election debate
- This should happen as soon as possible - so students are still able to register to vote if possible
- A Facebook event should be created by Farrago and facilitated by a neutral party
- All UMSU departments will share and promote this event via a social media post and an email to their email lists

**Moved: Nick Reich**

**Seconded: James Galagher**

**CARRIED**

**12. Other Business**

No other business

**13. Next Meeting**

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 11am

**14. Close**

Meeting closed at 2:30 pm