

University of Melbourne Student Union Meeting of the Students' Council

Agenda

Wednesday 16 September, 11:00am

Meeting 17(20)

Location: Zoom

https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/96557452628?pwd=amlyZkNidEN3TUliQVZLMDhVL3dGUT09

Password: 919419

Meeting opened at 2:05 by Hannah Buchan

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Election of Chair

Motion 1: That Hannah Buchan be elected Chair

Mover: Hannah Buchan 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	Y	12
Students with Disabilities Representative on Students' Council	Max Dowell	Y	13
Queer Representative on Students' Council	Andie Moore	Y	9
International Student Representative on Students' Council	Tejas Gandhi	Y	11
Graduate Student Representative on Students' Council	Hayley Kebbell	Y	11
Students' Council (General Representative)	Evelyn Ranogajec	Y	12
Students' Council (General Representative)	Joshua Bruni	Y	10
Students' Council (General Representative)	Christopher Melenhorst	Y	13
Students' Council (General Representative)	Nick Reich	Y	9
Students' Council (General Representative)	Lachlan Hinds	Y	13
Students' Council (General Representative)	Raiyaan Mahbub	Y	11

Students' Council (General	Felix Sharkey	Υ	10
Representative)	,		
Students' Council (General	VACANT		
Representative)			
Students' Council (General	Varaidzo Chipunza	Y	13
Representative)	_		
Students' Council (General	Hannah Krasovec	Y	11
Representative)			
Students' Council (General	Matthew Harper-Gomm	Y	12
Representative)	_		
Students' Council (General	Emma Dynes	N	6
Representative)	·		
Students' Council (General	Rubina Smith	N	1
Representative)			
Students' Council (General	Thonya Deverall	N	12
Representative)			
Students' Council (General	Catriona Smith	Y	12
Representative)			
Indigenous Committee	Jess Ferrari-Thomas	N	8

Office Bearers

Department	Full name	Attended?	Number of councils attended
President	Hannah Buchan	Y	13
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	Y	14
Activities Officer	India Pinkney	Y	10
Activities Officer	Hayley Stanford	Y	6
Clubs & Societies Officer	Jordan Di Natale	Y	14
Creative Arts Officer	Emily White	Y	12
Creative Arts Officer	Olivia Bell	Y	11
Disabilities Officer	Hue Man Dang	Y	11
Disabilities Officer	Srishti Chatterjee	Y	8
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Joshua Munro	Y	13
Education (Academic Affairs) Officer	Georgia Walton Briggs	Y	12
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Charlie Joyce	Y	12
Education (Public Affairs) Officer	Noni Bridger	N	7
Environment Officer	Olivia Sullivan	Y	12
Environment Officer	Sophie Kerrigan	Y	9
Indigenous Officer	Hope Kuchel	Y	11
Indigenous Officer	Shanysa McConville	Y	10
Media Officer	Bethany Cherry	Y	10
Media Officer	Amber Meyer	Y	11
Media Officer	Sarah Peters	Y	12
Media Officer	Tharidi Walimunige	Y	12
People of Colour Officer	Nicole Nabbout	Y	12
People of Colour Officer	Gurpreet Singh	Y	13
Queer Officer	Ciara O'Sullivan	Y	9
Queer Officer	A'bidah Zaid	N	7
Welfare Officer	Natasha Guglielmino	N	10

Women's Officer	Aria Sunga	Y	10
Women's Officer	Naomi Smith	Y	10
Burnley Campus Coordinator	Kaitlyn Hammond	N	8
VCA Campus Coordinator	Hayden Williams	Y	10
VCA Campus Coordinator	Verity Crane	Y	10

2.1. Apologies

Office Bearers: A'bidah Zaid Shirbeeni, Kaitlyn Hammond

Councillors: Rubina Smith
Leave of Absence Requests:

Office Bearers:

- Natasha Guglielmino (14th September – 18th September)

- Kaitlyn Hammond – Council 17(20)

Councillors

- Jessie Ferrari – Council 17(20)

Motion 2: To accept all applications for a leave of absence

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

2.2. Proxies

Rubina Smith to Allen Xiao, Emma Dynes to Shirley Killen

2.3. Membership

Amal Wehbe has resigned as a General Representative on Students' Council

2.4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 3: To adopt the Agenda as presented

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes 16(20)

Motion 4: To approve the minutes of 16(20) as a true and accurate record

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

4. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

Nil

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

6. Correspondence

6.1. UMSU Submission to Australian Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee RE: Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020.

Chris Melenhorst asked for clarity around some of the wording in the Submission.

Motion 5: That Students' Council notes UMSUs submission to the Australian Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee *RE: Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020.*

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

7. Office Bearer Reports

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President	Hannah Buchan	Submitted
General Secretary	Jack Buksh	Submitted
A skir viking	India Pinkney	Submitted
Activities	Hayley Stanford	Submitted
Clubs and Societies	Jordan Di Natale	Submitted
Creative Arts	Emily White	Submitted
	Olivia Bell	Submitted
Disabilities	Hue Man Dang	Submitted
Disabilities	Srishti Chatterjee	Submitted
Education (Acadomic Affairs)	Georgia Walton Briggs	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs)	Joshua Munro	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Charlie Joyce	Submitted
Education (Public Arrairs)	Noni Bridger	Submitted
Environment	Sophie Kerrigan	Submitted
Environment	Olivia Sullivan	Submitted
	Hope Kuchel	Submitted
Indigenous	Shanysa McConville	Submitted, with
	Silariysa iviccoriville	recommendations
	Bethany Cherry	Submitted
Media	Amber Meyer	Submitted
	Sarah Peters	Submitted
	Tharidi Walimunige	Submitted
People of Colour	Gurpreet Singh	Submitted
reopie of Colodi	Nicole Nabbout	Submitted
Queer	Ciara O'Sullivan	Submitted
Queei	A'Bidah Zaid Shirbeeni	Not submitted
Welfare	Natasha Guglielmino	Submitted
vvenare		
Managa/a	Naomi Smith	Submitted
Women's	Aria Sunga	Submitted
Southbank	Verity Crane	Not submitted
Southbank	Hayden Williams	Submitted
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	Submitted

Bethany Cherry would like to comment that Council had previously discussed Print Graphics as being a non-unionised workshop. It's become clear to Farrago that they are unionised. Farrago are still

changing printers, as other printers are about half the cost, but it's disappointing that Council hadn't fact checked.

Georgia Walton Briggs told Council about the letter for over 200 academics to Academic Board, asking for more genuine consultation and a slow down to the Pandemic Reset Program.

Jack Buksh updated Council on the results of the meeting of the Media and Complaints Panel. Panel was Joshua Bruni, Catriona Smith and Evelyn Ranogajec.

Andie Moore asked Hannah if the Uni had communicated how the restructures would be affecting students and their communication plan to students about this.

Hannah and Georgia indicated that no specifics had gone out yet, but it is something that they'd brought up at every possibility.

Chris and Catriona both spoke in favour of Activities organising of Oktoberfest.

Josh Bruni asked about predictions for S1 2021 – what is next year looking like? India said that it all depends on restrictions so tbc

Andie Moore asked about the ideas for the Counter Course Handbook – Georgia said they were working with the students on questions to ask for the new Handbook, as well as new engagement tactics.

Evelyn asked the Queer Department why they'd only asked UMSU INTL and Disabilities about the CAPS campaign and meetings, and not the other autonomous departments.

Ciara O'Sullivan said that there was an existing working relationship and that if other departments wanted to get involved they could.

Motion 6: To move all OBs Reports en bloc including the Indigenous Department recommendations

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

Procedural Motion: That Council move in camera for the CEOs report

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

Council moved in camera at 1434

During this time Council approved the CEOs report.

8. CEO Report

Chris asked how long the Coordinator Position for Design would be advertised for.

Justin said 2 weeks.

Motion 7: That Council accepts the CEOs report

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

Council moved out of camera at 1437

9. Other Reports

9.1. Farrago: Election Info Night Report

Chris Melenhorst asked about the people attending – were they all the usual suspects?

Sarah said that it could've reached more people as most of the attendees appeared to be student politicians.

Andie Moore congratulated the Media Department on the running of the event.

Motion 8: That Council accepts the Election Info Night Report

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

10. Operational Business

10.1. SRN Policy

Motion 9: To endorse the SRN Policy

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

10.2. Ablaze Zine

Jack asked those present to note that Enviro had already given \$500 to this project.

Srishti asked if this would be published with Jack as the Publisher. Jack indicated it wouldn't be an UMSU Publication.

Motion 10: To approve the Ablaze Zine SIG Grant

Mover: Hannah Buchan (Chair)

CARRIED

11. Motions on Notice

11.1. UMSU CONDEMNS THE LGBTQIA+ Conversion Movement

CW: Homophobia, transphobia, religion, conversion practices.

Preamble:

Conversion practices, sometimes referred to as "reparative therapy," is any of several dangerous and discredited practices aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Conversion therapists use a variety of shaming, emotionally traumatic or physically painful stimuli to make their victims associate those stimuli with their LGBTQ identities.

Note that I avoid the term 'conversion therapy': this is not therapy of any sort, it is abuse. Despite recent attempts to ban conversion practices (notably in Queensland and Victoria), conversion practices are not receding, rather they are entering the mainstream in particular churches. At least 10 organisations in Australia and New Zealand currently advertise conversion therapy. Instead of stamping out conversion practices, criminalisation has only pushed it underground.

To actually tackle conversion practices, survivors' voices need to be platformed.

"The ex-gay/ex-trans movement is grounded in an ideology – it is not just a type of therapy that can be banned. While affirming faith leaders are needed to help drive change from within this movement, lawmakers and legal advocates who wish to curtail the movement must pursue

¹ All this info can be found in *Preventing Harm, Promoting Justice: Responding to LGBT conversion therapy in Australia*"

 $[\]frac{https://static1.squarespace.com/static/580025f66b8f5b2dabbe4291/t/5bd78764eef1a1ba57990efe/1540851637658/LGBT+conversion+therapy+in+Australia+v2.pdf$

strategies that seek to identify and counteract the influence of this ideology in the education and training, community, charity, non-profit and media spheres."²

Many queer students at the University of Melbourne are survivors of conversion practices, or are still subject to them. Not only should UMSU provide more support to these students, but UMSU also must publicly condemn a practice that causes years of lasting harm.

Multiple Councillors spoke in favour of the motion.

Ciara asked that the term "Conversion Therapy" not be used, as it implies that it's a legitimate therapy, when it's actually just abuse.

Motion 11:

ACTIONS:

- 1. UMSU condemns any sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts to queer students, and commits to offering material solidarity and support to any survivor who should request it.
- 2. Directs the UMSU President to affirm the SOGICE (sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts) survivor statement on behalf of UMSU. (http://socesurvivors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SOGICE-Survivor-Statement-v4-July-2020.pdf)
- 3. Directs the UMSU President to share this motion and the text of SOGICE survivor statement through the Presidents News.
- 4. Directs the Queer Officers to raise the issue of conversion practices with CAPS and form a plan for concrete, tangible support at the University for survivors.

Moved: Ciara O'Sullivan Seconded: Srishti Chatterjee

CARRIED

12. Motions Without Notice

12.1. Support for a campaign to restore the right to protest in New South Wales Preamble:

As of September 14, when this motion was submitted, demonstrations are effectively banned in New South Wales, by reason of not being exempted from the orders given under the Public Health Act. While 300 people are permitted in pubs and restaurants, up to ten thousand are permitted at NRL matches, and thousands can congregate on beaches, even small socially distanced protests are broken up by riot police, with participants and organisers fined and harassed. Among these are a Black Lives Matter demonstration on 28 July and a protest organised by the University of Sydney SRC against fee hikes and cuts to courses and staff. While stringent public health measures are required to suppress or eliminate the spread of COVID-19, the repressive measures currently directed at protests are anti-democratic and hypocritical. Contrary to the lies of both government MPs and the mainstream media, protests have not resulted in the spreading of COVID-19, unlike (in NSW) permitted activities such as sports events and dining in pubs and restaurants. The campaign "Democracy is essential: Restore the right to protest in NSW" has been established by a broad coalition of left-wing activists, trade and student unions, academics, MPs and individuals to defend the right to protest in the face of these attacks.

Raphael indicated that this was a fight that was relevant for us here.

Charlie said that we should be standing in solidarity with comrades in the Student Union community in NSW.

² From the SOGICE statement http://socesurvivors.com.au/

Josh indicated that he thought it was a disgrace that you had to apply for a permit to protest. He requested an amendment regarding the point requesting OBs sign the statement – amend to OBs are strongly encouraged to sign the statement. This is amenable to the mover.

Multiple Councillors spoke in favour of the motion.

Nicholas Reich asked that the amendment be removed – that Council should direct OBs to sign it. This was amenable to the mover.

Srishti asked that we all remember that migrants and non citizens have less rights to protest so it is more important to them.

Platform:

UMSU affirms that protest is a fundamental democratic right and opposes laws restricting the right to protest

UMSU endorses the campaign "Democracy is essential: Restore the right to protest in NSW" UMSU calls for socially distanced protest activity to be exempted from the restrictions imposed under the Public Health Act (NSW)

UMSU condemns the repressive measures used against protesters on the spurious grounds of controlling COVID-19.

Motion 12:

To direct UMSU Office Bearers to sign the statement supporting the campaign at

https://democracyisessential.wordpress.com/2020/08/31/statement/

UMSU will sign the statement as an institution (achieved by ticking "Yes, my organisation has decided to formally endorse this statement." when signing)

UMSU will publicise the campaign through all available channels (emails, Facebook pages, etc.)

Moved: Raphael Duffy Seconded: Charlie Joyce

CARRIED

Joshua Bruni voted against.

13. Other Business

Charlie Joyce invited those present to come to campaign training tonight for the Education Public Office.

Motion 13: To sing Happy Birthday to the superstar Hayley Stanford and wish her a Happy

Birthday.

Mover: Jordan Di Natale Seconder: Srishti Chatterjee

CARRIED

Nicholas Reich voted against.

Students Council then sung Happy Birthday. It was requested that this be minuted.

14. Next Meeting

Wednesday September 29, 11:00am

15. Close

Meeting closed at 1513

11.1 Support for a campaign to restore the right to protest in New South Wales Preamble:

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Action:

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Moved: Emma Dynes **Seconded:** Charlie Joyce