

**University of Melbourne Student Union**

**Meeting of the Students’ Council**

**Minutes**

**11:00AM, 14th of February 2019**

**Meeting 4(19)**

**Location: Room 263, Old Arts**

**Meeting declared inquorate at 11:30AM**

1. **Procedural Matters**
   1. Election of Chair
   2. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians
   3. Attendance

Councillors

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** | **Attended?** | **Councils attended this year (including this one)** |
| Graduate Student Representative on Students’ Council | Ari Sandler | Attended | 2 |
| Indigenous Representative on Students’ Council | Indiah Money | Did not attend | 0 |
| International Student Representative on Students’ Council | *Vacant* |  |  |
| Queer Representative on Students’ Council | Amelia Reeves | Attended | 4 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Georgia Walton Briggs | Did not attend | 2 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Lucy Turton | Attended | 1 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Conor Day | Did not attend | 0 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Eva Addinsall | Did not attend | 0 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Tim Lilley | Attended | 4 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Gurpreet Singh | Did not attend | 3 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Catriona Smith | Attended | 3 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Jessica Miller | Did not attend | 2 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Anneke d’Emanuele | Did not attend | 2 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Terence Taylor | Attended | 3 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Worapitcha Laichant | Did not attend | 0 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Emma Parkinson | Attended | 3 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Melinda Suter | Attended | 2 |
| Students' Council General Representative | Nick Reich | Did not attend | 2 |
| Students of Colour Representative on Students’ Council | Lalatuai Grogan | Did not attend | 1 |
| Students with Disabilities Representative on Students’ Council | Jacinta Dowe | Did not attend | 2 |
| Students’ Council General Representative | Kaimon Wong | Attended | 1 |

Office Bearers

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** | **Attended?** | **Councils attended this year (including this one)** |
| President | Molly Willmott | Attended | 3 |
| General Secretary | Reece Moir | Attended | 3 |
| Education (Academic Affairs) Officer | Elizabeth Tembo | Attended | 3 |
| Education (Public Affairs) Officer | Cameron Doig | Did not attend | 1 |
| Education (Public Affairs) Officer | Charlotte Fouhy | Attended | 2 |
| Welfare Officer | Ashwin Chhaperia | Attended | 2 |
| Welfare Officer | Natasha Guglielmino | Attended | 4 |
| Women’s Officer | Criselda (Aria) Sunga | Did not attend | 1 |
| Women’s Officer | Hannah Buchan | Did not attend | 2 |
| Media Officer | Katherine Doherty | Attended | 2 |
| Media Officer | Stephanie Zhang | Attended | 3 |
| Media Officer | Carolyn Huane | Attended | 2 |
| Media Officer | Ruby Perryman | Attended | 1 |
| Environment Officer | Will Ross | Did not attend | 1 |
| Queer Officer | Andie Moore | Attended | 4 |
| Queer Officer | Will Parker | Did not attend | 2 |
| Creative Arts Officer | Eloise Hammill | Attended | 4 |
| Creative Arts Officer | Lucy Holz | Did not attend | 2 |
| Activities Officer | Liam O'Brien | Attended | 3 |
| Activities Officer | Olivia Panjkov | Did not attend | 1 |
| People of Colour Officer | Farah Khairat | Did not attend | 1 |
| People of Colour Officer | Mark Yin | Did not attend | 3 |
| Disabilities Officer | Jocelyn Deane | Attended | 4 |
| Disabilities Officer | Lucy Birch | Attended | 2 |
| Clubs & Societies Officer | Christopher Melenhorst | Attended | 4 |
| Clubs & Societies Officer | Jordan Tochner | Did not attend | 1 |
| Burnley campus coordinator | James Barclay | Attended | 1 |
| VCA Campus Coordinator | Hilary Ekins | Did not attend | 3 |

Other: *Dani Madanayake, Sophie Kerrigan, Sarah Peters, Sarah Black*

* 1. Apologies

*Councillors: Eva Addinsall, Georgia Walton Briggs, Gurpreet Singh, Jacinta Dowe, Conor Day, Anneke d’Emanuele, Nick Reich, Jessica Miller, Worapitcha Laichant*

*Office Bearers: Hannah Buchan (on leave), Farah Khairat (on leave)*

* 1. Proxies  
     *Conor Day to Sarah Peters, Gurpreet Singh to Ari Sandler, Eva Addinsall to Sophie Kerrigan, Jacinta Dowe to Amelia Reeves, Anneke d’Emanuele to Melinda Suter, Georgia Walton Briggs to Emma Parkinson, Worapitcha Laichant to Beau Sansuda Annoptham*
  2. Membership

*No changes to membership*

* 1. Adoption of Agenda

1. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

2.1. Minutes of Students’ Council, Meeting 2(19)

2.2. Minutes of Students’ Council, Meeting 3(19)

1. **Conflicts of Interest Declaration**
2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
3. **Correspondence**

5.1. Disaffiliation Appeal, MU Pool

1. **Office Bearer Reports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| President | Submitted |
| General Secretary | Submitted |
| Activities | Submitted |
| Clubs & Societies | Submitted |
| Creative Arts | Submitted |
| Disabilities | Submitted |
| Education (Academic Affairs) | Submitted |
| Education (Public Affairs) | Not submitted |
| Environment | Submitted |
| Indigenous | Submitted |
| Media | Submitted, *with recommendations* |
| People of Colour | Submitted |
| Queer | Submitted |
| Welfare | Submitted |
| Women’s | Submitted |
| Burnley | Not submitted |
| Victorian College of the Arts | Not submitted |

1. **Chief Executive Officer’s Report**
2. **Other Reports**

8.1. UHT End of Year Report

1. **Operational Business**

9.4. Student Initiative Grant Report, UMMS

9.5. Student Initiative Grant Report, St. Vincent’s Clinical School

9.6. Travel & Conference Grant Reports, NUS NatCon

1. **Motions on Notice**

10.1. Country Roads, Take Me Home

10.2. Be Heard, Not Harmed (SSDP Campaign)

1. **Motions Without Notice**

11.1. Safer Partying Initiative

11.2. March 15 Climate Strike

1. **Other Business**
2. **Next Meeting**

13.1. Students’ Council 5(19), Monday February 25th, 1:00PM

1. **Close**

**10.1. Country Roads, Take Me Home**

**C**urrently, the University recognises the disadvantage faced by students who have studied in areas

**O**utside of metropolitan capitals through the Access Melbourne scheme, but what support is there

**U**pon entry to the University for these students? Anecdotally and from personal experience, there is

**N**othing. The disadvantages faced by those from regional and isolated areas doesn’t stop upon entry

**T**o University. We still have to travel great distances to Uni limiting time on campus to engage in

**R**ecreational activities or get extra support from staff, or have to leave home to study. This creates

**Y**et further barriers, as students have to spend an unreasonable amount of time working to support

**R**ent and other costs of living in such an expensive city. There is no special consideration or any

**O**ther support for those from regional areas despite the obvious barriers to success at university that

**A** life outside of the city offers. For those who continue to travel into the city to attend uni on a

**D**aily basis, there is much that can be done to improve their quality of transit and, in turn, their

**S**uccess at university and in life.

**Motion:**

1. UMSU believes that country roads should take all students home to the place where they belong. Young people are systematically disadvantaged by the education department of the Victorian state government. For this to stop, major work programs need to be completed across the state to improve the quality of the roads and improve travel times for students who need to be taken home, down country roads. Because driving down the roads I got a feeling that I should have been home yesterday, yesterday, but I could not be due to the poor quality country roads.
2. Students’ Council directs the Education Public Department to include upgrades to Victorian highways and regional roads as part of their student transport campaign for 2019.

Moved: Alice Smith

Seconded: Joshua Bruni

**10.2 Be Heard, Not Harmed (SSDP Campaign)**

The debate around pill testing is reignited each summer in Australia. Thousands attend night-life events, multi-day festivals and other social spaces, and since August 2018, 5 young people have died as a result of Illicit drug use.

Successful programs in the US, UK, Portugal and Netherlands use GCMS machines to test for toxic adulterants, purity and to provide pathways to counselling and rehabilitation.

This is a medical treatment issue. The Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Royal Melbourne College of General Practitioners and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians have all supported on-site testing. But amidst growing pressure, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has urged young people to abstain from using drugs. “It’s the only safe way.”

Despite young people being at the centre of this push-and-pull between conservativism and harm reduction, our voices have not been heard. In 2019 Students For Sensible Drug Policy Australia (SSDPAUS) have launched the first, and last, campaign to implement effective drug policy.

Student Unions are and have been a critical platform for young people to organise and reflect issues that effect them. The Safer Partying Initiative of UMSU Welfare has begun a commitment from the Union to publicly support this movement.

It’s about saving lives, not condoning drug use. It’s about being heard, not harmed. UMSU won’t be on the wrong side of history.

**Motion:**

1. That the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) endorses the ‘Be Heard Not Harmed’ campaign.
2. That the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) encourages Officer Bearers to share materials to encourage the campaign on campus.

**Moved:** Molly Willmott

**Seconded:**

**11.1. Safer Partying Initiative  
  
Motion:** To pass $2000 from Whole of Union for the procurement of pill testing kits for continuation of the Safer Partying Initiative in Semester 1.

**Moved:** Ashwin Chhaperia  
**Seconded:**

**11.2. March 15 Climate Strike**

1. We are in a climate crisis. According to the landmark Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report issued last year, we have 12 years to limit temperatures rising to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. At this threshold, we are heading toward a mass extinction of coral, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, destruction of whole ecosystems and the collapse of vital crops. At the current trends there is little hoping of even reaching the more conservative 2 degree target. According to the IPCC, a 2 degree temperature rise would be far worse than 1.5 degrees, with all the effects mentioned earlier greatly magnified/
2. It is incumbent upon UMSU, as the democratic organisation of Unimelb students, to take a position on this question. Not only do a majority of Australians consider climate change a serious and pressing problem (59 percent according to the latest Roy Morgan poll), but we represent university students – among whom there is even greater concern regarding the climate crisis (see Wachholz et. al. 2014). What the members of the unimelb community say and do regarding climate change matters, and can help strike a chord in the rest of society, particularly with a federal election in the pipeline.
3. On November 30 last year, 15,000 high school students protested on the streets as part of a national school strike. It was enthusiastically received by the media and almost all quarters of society, save for a few curmudgeons down in Canberra. The effect has been that discussion of the climate crisis has increased and there is mounting pressure on politicians to commit to a real response in the lead up to the federal election. This highlights an important reality – the way forward to prevent environmental destruction on apocalyptic levels is mass action.

Platform

* 1. The University of Melbourne Student Union endorses the March 15 national school student strike for the climate, believing it to be an important initiative to help put serious action on climate change on the agenda in the lead up to the federal election.
  2. The University of Melbourne Student Union encourages all UniMelb students and staff to attend or support the demonstration in solidarity with the school strikers.

**Motion:**

1. The UMSU President will advertise the passing of this motion with a press release.
2. UMSU will co-host the Facebook event and share the event on its social media platforms.
3. The UMSU President and Office Bearers will promote the Unimelb student contingent to the School strike on campus from O-Week with a combination of posters, information at Summerfest stalls, orientation announcements, leaflets distributed in Oweek Show bags and through the student newspaper/ online media
4. There will be an UMSU contingent to the demonstration.
5. The council will provide $1000 from the whole of union budget for professional advertising of the student strike.

**Moved:** Mindi Suter

**Seconded:** Will Ross