University of Melbourne Student Union

Meeting of the UMSU Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group

Minutes

21st of August 12:45 PM

Meeting 2(20)

Location: Zoom

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1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Election of Chair

> **Motion 1:** *To elect Naomi Smith as the Chair*
>
> *Mover: Naomi Smith*   *Seconder: Aria Sunga*
>
> *CARRIED*

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

So acknowledged.

1.3 Attendance

Members: Srishti Chatterjee, Thonya Deverell, Hayley Kebbell, Hayley Stanford, Hope Kuchel, Hannah Krasovec, Nicole Nabbout, Aria Sunga

Guests: Noni Bridger, Sneha Challa

Non-voting members: Patrick Tidmarsh, Naomi Smith

1.4 Apologies

Jordan Di Natale, Kaitlyn Hammond, Ciara O'Sullivan

1.5 Proxies

Jordan Di Natale to Hannah Krasovec

1.6 Membership

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

> **Motion 2:** To adopt the agenda as presented
>
> Mover: Naomi Smith
>
> CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

> **Motion 3:** *To accept the previous minutes*
>
> **Mover:** *Naomi Smith*
>
> *CARRIED*

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1 Report Back on the Respect Taskforce

Naomi stated that the taskforce meeting was rescheduled for the coming Monday. Women's Department had worked with Patrick Tidmarsh to provide feedback to the University on the Elker System for anonymous reporting. Naomi planned to bring up concerns around lack of planning around sexual assault and harassment policy in the upcoming Taskforce meeting.

Patrick: We need to start considering using a method similar that of Our Turn, it is becoming clear that we are going to need to have various tactics ready to go to encourage actions.

7. Other Reports

7.1 Patrick Tidmarsh, UMSU Sexual Harm and Response Coordinator

Patrick gave an update on work with Clubs and Societies and new training and explained that they were updating the model to have both an online component and face-to face training element. In response to Ciara's question from the previous weeks about UMSU resources which were translated in other language, they said there were none. However, if the working group wished to pass money through Students Council, this should be done. They also noted that they are working on the UMSU VCESS program to implement a new child safe system. Additionally, they Patrick had finalised some changes to the report. Several people within the Union hierarchy were not happy with the suggested changes from the University and were not comfortable with changing the tone of the document.

Naomi highlighted that within accessibility of UMSU resources item of the agenda they intended to discuss about resources and getting materials translated.

Srishti: There is no way we know the maximum amount of languages spoken at the University; we could potentially do a survey to establish that.

Patrick: I'm sure getting that data from the university would not be that difficult, so it would be good if we could get them from them.

8. Operational Business

> **Motion 4:** *To move 8.3 to the top of operation business discussion and then move to 8.1 and 8.2*
>
> **Mover:** *Naomi Smith*
>
> *CARRIED*

8.1 The Role of the Working Group within University and Community of Practice model

Naomi: The University is creating a new group called the community for practice, which will action what the Respect Taskforce does. University has expressed they want their Community of Practice to work with the UMSU working group.

Patrick: They have recognised that the Taskforce doesn't do much, and they want to put practioners front and centre. Because the Taskforce is mainly bureaucratic. At least this means practioners will be establishing a plan for action.

Aria: We should not approach this too cynically, and it could be an opportunity to achieve things at an administration level.

Sneha Challa: In terms of practioners, do we know who that would be? For example, who would they be representing, in terms of accessibility.

Naomi: I have the documentation, so I can answer that question.

Sneha: When do you think the Community of Practice will be up and running?

Naomi: They haven't said, hopefully by the end of the month.

Sneha: Do you have any info on who they will have on the community of practice and who we can have in terms of representation.

Patrick: No, they have not specified who from UMSU we should have. UMSU staff have advised that we should send them a list of people we think would be appropriate.

Thonya: My point is, how do we ensure that it is not a bunch of white people?

Naomi: That is up to everyone here. On the Respect Taskforce we have a Women's Officer and the UMSU International representative. And my recommendation that we also include Patrick as an UMSU representative for this.

Patrick: We have no control over the process, but we can recommend members.

Naomi: I have the terms of reference on my computer now.

Naomi read out the members of the terms of reference to the working group.

Thonya: Can repeat the student representatives that they want on.

Naomi: The student representatives they have requested are one from UMSU and one from the GSA. However, Justin has suggested that we don't pay attention to their request for one UMSU representative and we recommend however many we think would be appropriate.

Srishti: It is very unsafe to assume that one representative can be intersectional enough to represent enough students. I think if there is one representative, there should be some level of transparency - where people who are not members of this working group can have access to this information.

Sneha: I'm thinking that we should have a representative from colleges. Or there should be some sort of communication between all of this and students with colleges. If worse case scenario it

only ends up being two representatives then they should have another set of meetings to discuss with relevant stakeholders.

Srishti: I think it would be a good like Sneha said, to openly have a policy discussion before these meetings, so that everyone can participate.

8.2 UMSU Communications accessibility

Naomi: I put this on the agenda to discuss interpretation of our resources, but it can be a broader discussion. I wanted to ask everyone about what they think about what resources we should investigate translating.

Srishti: If we could have policy forums with google meets, because they are the most accessible format of meeting I have seen with close captions.

Naomi: For me one of priorities would be our website resources.

Patrick: One of the hopes of the Community of Practice and the Working Group getting together would be us putting out the same materials. I guess we need to decide if there are any materials that we always want to put out and then we should go ahead translating them.

Sneha: Just thinking of the UMSU website, I was thinking about social media. How can we use our social media to support what is on the website? Because students might look at department socials more that websites.

Naomi: We can ask comms for a bit of an audit on what materials they currently have. Then we can investigate developing materials.

Noni Bridger: I am looking at developing an accessibility plan around rallies and protests, and including stuff around sexual violence would be good.

8.3 Our Turn Report

Patrick explained the what the Our Turn report was and explained that for the Report student unions and associations evaluated their campus and scored their Universities in America and Canada. When Patrick ran the scoring system for the University Melbourne, they got a D. Stated that the Union should look into doing something similar to the Our Turn Report.

Hannah Krasovec: Do you think it is worthwhile to teaming up with the National Union of Students and running it through there?

Patrick: Yes, I do. Part of the reason the University has an advantage is that you guys circle through all the time – and there is not much continuity. It is quite a lot of work to put this together, so it is going to need people who understand marketing and publicity.

Naomi: I was wondering how long it would take to adjust the score to Australian Universities, because it was conducted in America?

Patrick: It wouldn't take me very long. I think we need to put together a small working party to working party to work through it.

Naomi: Is it possible, for us to get started with that work by creating a sub-committee with expressions of interest from the working group?

Hannah K: I think it is worth starting it, if you want to wait for the Respect Taskforce, I highly doubt anything good will come out of it.

Patrick: You must read the template and you have to think about what is relevant here and what is not.

Thonya: I think this is really good idea and getting this started sooner rather than later would be good.

Motion 5: *To open expressions of interest for a sub-committee that will organise a campaign like Our Turn.*

Mover: Aria Sunga   *Seconder:* Srishti *Chatterjee*

CARRIED

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9. **Motions on Notice**

Motion 6: *To accept the following meeting schedule for Semester 2:*
   - 1st of September 10 AM
   - 19th of September 12:45 PM
   - 29th of September 10 AM
   - 16th of October 12:45 PM
   - 27th of October 10 AM

   Mover: Naomi Smith   Seconder: Aria Sunga

This motion was differed because quorum was lost.

Hayley highlighted that the October 16th date should change because of a clash with Students council.

10. **Motions Without Notice**

11. **Other Business**

12. **Next Meeting**

    TBD

13. Close

1:57 PM