

**University of Melbourne Student Union**  
**Meeting of the Umsu Sexual Assault and Harassment Working Group**  
**Minutes**  
**15<sup>th</sup> of September 10 AM**  
**Meeting 4(20)**  
**Location:** Zoom, link will be sent out prior to the meeting

**1. Procedural Matters**

1.1 Election of Chair

**Motion 1:** To Elect Naomi Smith as the Chair

**Moved:** Naomi

**Seconded:** Nicole

**CARRIED**

1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Custodians

*So acknowledged.*

1.3 Attendance

*Voting: Thonya Deverall, Aria Sunga, Hannah Krasovec, Hope Kuchel, Srithi Chatterjee, Ciara O'Sullivan, Nicole Nabbout, Putri Shafira*

*Non-voting: Patrick Tidmarsh, Naomi Smith*

1.4 Apologies

*Jordan Di Natale, Kaitlyn Hammond, Natasha, Hayley Standford*

1.5 Proxies

1.6 Membership

*Putri Shafira, the Umsu International Education Vice President, would now be the Umsu International Representative as Siobhan Lim had finished her term.*

1.7 Adoption of Agenda

**Motion 2:** *To adopt the agenda as presented.*

**Moved:** Naomi Smith

**CARRIED**

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**Motion 3:** *To confirm minutes from meetings 2(20) and 3(20).*

**Moved:** 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 she had brought up concerns about publicised cases around sexual assault in the previous taskforce meeting, however there was little response to the questions she raised in that meeting.*

**Motion 4:** To move a procedural to vote on item 10 on the agenda.

**Moved:** Aria Sunga

**CARRIED**

#### 7. Other Reports

##### 7.1 Patrick Tidmarsh, UMSU Sexual Harm and Response Coordinator

*Patrick Tidmarsh gave his report verbally.*

*He highlighted that changes to the training for clubs and societies was still underway. He was still working on the compliance for VCESS, which would all be done online. The UMSU Report to the RESPECT Taskforce had been redone and was all ready to be submitted to the taskforce. UMSU Women's with Patrick Tidmarsh had created a draft open letter to send to the University regarding their failures to act on sexual assault and harassment. He stated that he and the UMSU Women's Department had a meeting with their Respect contact: Evan Kritakos the following week, and that they would be raising concerns then over the Community of Practice (CoP) still not being established. Patrick stated that they were really focusing on trying to get the University to commit to an action plan, that will be publicly publish. Patrick stated that Naomi and Aria would talk to more on Our turn later in the meeting, but Patrick briefly stated that he was working on the scoring system and they were looking at working with NUS on the campaign.*

#### 8. Operational Business

##### 8.1 Our Turn Report

*Aria Sunga spoke verbally about the Our Turn Subcommittees actions on the campaign. Aria stated that the Our Turn Report was a grading system established by Student Associations in Canadian to grade their Universities responses to sexual assault and violence. She stated that the subcommittee was looking into running a similar campaign in Australia. When the subcommittee met, they established a rough timeline of events. The subcommittee will be looking into getting other student unions involved through the NUS.*

*Naomi noted that once the drafted criteria had been created it would be circulated to the working group.*

*Naomi noted that Nicole Nabbout, Hannah Krasovec, Patrick Tidmarsh, and Thonya Deverall were all members of the Our Turn Subcommittee. She also noted that anyone was interested in joining the subcommittee that they should email her an expression of interest, as previous all the other members had.*

#### 8.2 C&S Initiatives - Jordan D Natale to Submit a Report

**Motion 5:** *To discuss this at the next meeting.*

**Moved:** Naomi Smith

**CARRIED**

#### 8.3 UMSU response to The University of Melbourne failing to disclose the misconduct of Professor Peter Rathjen

*Naomi explained the background of the Peter Rathjen case and its relation to the University of Melbourne. Crucially, she highlighted that an ABC investigation had found that the University had known since 2018 that Peter Rathjen had sexually harassed someone while working at the University of Melbourne between 2005-2011, and they had failed to form the University of Adelaide. Naomi raised a concern that the University of Melbourne had a number of cases of sexual harassment publicised this year, and they all demonstrated institutional failings.*

*Naomi stated that in response to this case, and the University's consistent stonewalling and delay tactics, the Women's Department would be launching a campaign to push the University into action. They had drafted an open letter addressed to Duncan Maskell that they would be publishing for students to sign.*

#### 8.4 UMSU Report to Respect Taskforce

*Patrick updated the Working Group on the Report during his report*

### 9. Motions on Notice

### 10. Motions Without Notice

**Motion:** To accept the following meeting schedule for Semester 2:

- 29<sup>th</sup> of September 10 AM
- 13<sup>th</sup> of October 10 AM
- 27<sup>th</sup> of October 10 AM

**Mover:** Naomi Smith

**Seconder:** Aria Sunga

**CARRIED**

**11. Other Business**

**12. Next Meeting**

*The next meeting would be held 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.*

**13. Close**

*10:52 AM*