

La Trobe Student Union Council Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting:

The *third* meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Wednesday 29th April 2020 at 12pm via Zoom link online.

Meeting opened by the chair at: 12:07

Meeting Agenda:

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Procedural Matters
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Office Bearer's Reports
6. Other Standing Committee Reports
7. Other Reports
8. LTSU Policy
9. Other Business
10. Next Meeting

Acknowledgement of Country

On behalf of the LTSU Student Council members present, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today. We pay our respects to the Wurundjeri people, the Elders past and present.

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Attendance: Annabelle Romano (President), Abhishek Madan (General Secretary), Olga Novak (SSA President), Sumiyyah Aziz (Women's Officer), Akshat Bodele (ISA President), Ahsanul Karim Fayaz (General member), Areesha Nazeer (General Member), Ashraf Imam (Ed. Vice-President), Chloe Andrews (General Member), Christopher Graham (Rabelaise Editor), Jake McGuinness (Environment Officer), Kate Benesovsky (Queer Office), Kylie D'Aloia (SSA), Rosina (City Campus Staff), Stephanie Briese (Education Public Affairs Officer), Warsan Tubea (Executive general Member), Jasmine Kinderis (Welfare Officer), Lewis Kimpton Drake (Environment Officer), Anushi Goyal (City Campus), Robert Campbell (Education Public Affairs Officer), Pooja Ganesh (City Campus), Hang Yu (Diasabilities Officer), Arun Parvathyraj (General Member), Shehbaz Singh

Sandhu (Ethno-cultural Officer), Thomas Balakas (General Member), Roja Mudundi (Women's Officer)

Students Present: David Amnavo, Eric Seychell, Takara, Georgie Beatty, Will Devine

1.2 Apologies: Olivia White (Disabilities Officer), Angus Turner (Activities Officer), Jasmine Kinderis (Welfare officer), Cooper Dickson (Welfare Officer), Prajuli R. Maharjan (General Member), Musa Qamar (Postgraduate Officer)

1.3 Not in Attendance without Apology: Sayed Durraiz Ahmed (Ethno-cultural Officer), Steven Frampton (Activities Officer), Clodie Veyrac (Rabelaise Editor), Kate De Witte (MASO)

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

Moved: Ashraf Imam

Seconded: Abhishek Madan

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes:

Nil.

4. Correspondence:

Nil.

5. Office Bearer's Reports

5.1 Position: President – Annabelle Romano

This month has been equally busy for myself as last month. This month I:

- Set up the LTSU COVID-19 Financial Fund with the ops and finance team.
- Attended listening posts held by Jessica Vanderlelie – it's a great way to hear and learn about the problems of every day students.
- Attended Jessica Vanderlelie's OB and Presidents COVID-19 update meetings.
- Met up with the GRS and Heidi Ellemor, our LTSU Postgraduate/Masters/PhD advocate to get their input for the new amalgamated association and to see how we can help them in any way – passed along concerns regarding axed funding and scholarships, study plans etc.
- Accepted as the student representative on Academic Board executive.
- Attended All-staff meeting hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and Senior Executive Group.
- Continued Project Team Meetings regarding amalgamation and SGMs
- Asked to sit on Student Leadership Group (SLG) hosted by Jessica Vanderlelie – I asked Musa Qamar and Jayde Hopkins to be the two other student reps from Bundoora to attend along with myself. Pooja Ganesh and Anushi Goyal as the City Campus representatives were also in attendance.

- Meeting up with the Vice-Chancellor for our regular meetings to update him on the LTSU.
- Weekly executive meetings – we’ve decided to bring back OB meetings for the time being and see how they go.
- Finalised the Student Impact survey to be released in the next week.
- Releasing petition to change WAM in the next week or so.
- Daily meetings with Elissa.
- Attend Coords with the staff
- Following up with Jess Vanderlelie about SSAF refunds for all students (Domestic and International) and Car permits refund process.
- Potentially making a #saveourstudents video or an LTSU video – drafting script.
- Setting up a time to meet up with the NTEU.
- Made video introduction for Financial Counselling video for Robyn
- Increased posts on the LTSU facebook page and other social media platforms
- Promoting the #saveourstudenscampaign online
- Saw a change to rent relief for students – promoting online
- Helping students regarding their Parking Permit and SSAF refunds
- Staying in contact with MyLatrobe team for university updates
- “Check In With Your Mates” week hosted online with a range of activities happening – videos, live music, trivia night.
- Received feedback from our online forum for the potential amalgamated student association – going over all of the raw data and going over the feedback with the Project Team
- Was interviewed by the South East Asian times on the attack on two Chinese International Students and condemned the attack

5.2 Position: General Secretary – Abhishek Madan

- Set up New Grants system for the clubs
- Got in contact with representatives from different university unions to discuss on issues and ideas
- Attended club AGM’s and Assisted them in holding the AGM’s online.
- Regular executive meetings to discuss about everyday changes in the policies
- Discussions about OB meetings.
- Assisted other OB’s in their activities

5.3 Position: Education/Vice President – Ashraf Imam

In the following month of covid-19 outbreak, the executive and I have been working closely to ensure everything is working smoothly, guidelines are being following, deadlines and issues are

acted upon promptly. We have been having consistent zoom calls to chat and see where we can work better. Nonetheless, we are still limited in what we can do in such times, as we are often out of the loop and have to work spontaneously and urgently. We are in the midst's of confirming and promoting a couple ideas.

Regardless of the uncertainty, we have been successful in April in a lot of projects, such as the survey for students that came out on Monday the 27th and the campaigns that have been going out on social media. We truly aim to do more as we become more knowledgeable, comfortable and confident in the situation.

Unfortunately, I did not have an education committee again this month, so there is no update on that behalf. However, I have been speaking with April Vocale to guarantee everything is running smoothly, and we are on the same page.

Also, this month I have been working alongside the ed-pub/public offers officers, we have a group chat and we have been organising and planning. We have had a zoom call to finalise all concerns, we have drafted and been in the communication process with Kat Norden and April Vocale to fully grasp what is going on, our concerns and our capabilities in our positions in this given time. Steph, Robert and I have also been added into a group chat of various education officers all around the country, where we are aiming to learn, get better and find new ways to better the situation for the students at LaTrobe.

5.4 Position: Postgraduate Officer – Musa Qamar

In the month of April, I have assisted the Post Graduate students with their queries and concerns regarding shifting to online studies and information revolving around the recent Covid-19 outbreak. I have also assisted my fellow Office Bearers to come up with new ideas and policies that we have laid down to accommodate for recent events. To find out whether students are happy with the shift to online studies by the university, I helped the executive team to design a survey that will gather data regarding students and their satisfaction with online study and how the university is accommodating them in these times.

For the month of May, I am planning on setting on an online LTSU student hub platform where students and staff can join in and have discussion regarding different things and have a platform to get updated with recent announcement by the university. For this, I'll need to set up an online platform like Discord and have relevant channels inside to accommodate all students with their needs and queries. More ideas will be generated after discussion is done with the Executive team and other Office Bearers.

5.5 Position: Education & Public Affairs Officers – Stephanie Briese & Robert Campbell

April was a productive month for the EdPub department.

Here's what we did:

1. Contributed to Demand Six of the NUS' #SaveOurStudents Education campaign. Earlier this month, the NUS launched their education campaign with seven demands. Demand six called for fair assessment and grading this semester. Several OB's wanted change in this area, so EdPub wrote a report asking the University to commit to not lowering the WAM of any student in Semester 1, pass

or fail. This report was submitted to Annabelle, who presented it to Jess Vanderleile last Monday. We are waiting for a response. If the University say no, we will launch a petition immediately.

2. Wrote a statement for the LTSU website detailing our plans for Demand 6.
3. Updated our LTSU Blog twice, reflecting the work we have done and will continue to do.
4. Aided the NUS in a Q&A campaign: earlier this week, the NUS called on Union's to submit questions to Q&A for their Education panel. Stephanie submitted a number of important questions regarding the exclusion of Universities from the Job Keeper payments, and the effect this will have on students. The NTEU President spoke on this issue during the episode.
5. Held a meeting with the VP and President to discuss the future of our department. In it, we decided to do the following:
 - a. Create short videos explaining new academic policy. We've since contacted Kat Norden for her assistance in doing so
 - b. Create study tips videos
 - c. Plan a virtual exam stall, providing resources and comedic relief for students during the exam period
6. Been added to a national education officer Facebook group. This will allow us to directly communicate with National Education Officer, Lincoln Aspinall.

Response to last report:

In our last OB report, we stated our desire to still do an Education Day. However, we're in a tricky spot with this. The Executive has decided that anything COVID-specific within education will be the domain of all OB's, and not our department. Thus, we are limited in our scope for holding a meaningful and relevant Education Day. The plan is still to hold one in Semester 2.

Plans for May:

1. In March, we prepared a report wishing to launch an Education campaign calling for a 20% fee reduction for Semester 1. This was in line with the education campaign launched by the NUS. It was decided by the executive that it was not appropriate for the EdPub department to run this education campaign. We are open to any involvement in the #SaveOurStudents campaign that the executive allows.
2. In March, Stephanie came up with a number of ideas for online activities. These included an online book club, recipe videos, lists of our favourite's things, q&a videos, and interactive videos. Due to OB meetings being indefinitely cancelled, these have not been completed. Stephanie is open to working with the executive to complete these ideas in May.
3. Continue to campaign for adjustments to WAM and grading procedure for the duration of the COVID-19 Crisis.
4. Campaign for the University to openly commit to the rest of Semester 1 remaining ONLINE. At present, there are talks of bringing students back Mid may. However, significant travel and financial restrictions remain in place for many students, who would not be able to get back for classes.

5. Campaign for the University to openly confirm that EVERY class that transitioned to online WILL return to F2F after the COVID-19 Crisis. Jess Vanderleile stated in our first meeting in March that this would happen. However, there have since been conflicting reports from the University.
6. Campaign for quality of education, in line with La Trobe potentially standing down hundreds of staff in the next three years.
7. Aid the Executive/President with the #SaveOurStudents education Campaign in whatever way we're allowed.
8. Begin compiling resources for the Exam Stall
9. Begin making short videos as needed
10. Open expressions of interest for the Education Network.

5.6 Position: Welfare Officers – Cooper Dickson & Jasmine Kinderis

Cooper and Jasmine have been very hard at work over the last month. Stress Less week has been thoroughly planned and prepared to go ahead with scavenger hunt activities, an online web series, the launch of an online mental health resource list with daily breakdowns of the list for the week, Spotify playlists accompanying each day, coordination with the operations staff for trivia night and acoustic afternoon. We have also researched use of online museum tours or other methods of engagement. Our department is working to coordinate with the University mental health day and the university wellbeing staff to prepare and assist in their event during stress less week, as well as assisting in whichever way we can for the successful launch of their parents group in coordination with MASO President Kate De Witte. Our main priority at this time is the success of our upcoming stress less week. Following stress less week, we will continue to support our students in any way we can to the best of our ability.

5.7 Position: Environment Officers – Lewis Kimpton-Drake & Jake McGuiness

The environment team

- o Met with sustainability to discuss plans for the year

§ Sustainability seemed excited about the idea of an Environment week in semester 2, which they mentioned they would be willing to help support. Talked about the need to transition to a green economy and focusing the environment week around the concept.

- o Started planning a series of online activities

- o Lewis has taken an active role in a renewable jobs guarantee working group, and is looking to bring that knowledge back the LTSU environment team for future projects

- o I have worked with energy stakeholders across the industry to put together a pair of resources, published nationally, for helping student's manage their energy consumption

- The LTSU

- o Difficulties with communication

- o Removal of OB meetings has made it very difficult to plan
- o Consistency suggested ideas that are completely ignored.
- o I have worked to keep students up to date on what is happening, by providing meeting summaries as well as talking to students online and helping to answer their questions

5.8 Position: Women's Officers – Sumiyyah Aziz & Roja Mudundi

No report submitted to General Secretary

5.9 Position: Queer Officers – Kate Benesovsky & Hannah Lockwood

This month we have been winding down after online Pride which was a massive week for the department.

However we have still continued to promote community events in our private Facebook group such as pride at Footscray coming bar drag night, which is Livestream every Saturday. Additionally we have also had trans day of visibility which involved giving this and tricks to students on how to stay quarantine when they may not be able to come out. Kate also attend a workshop by minus 18 regarding gender identity and pronouns in the community and education sectors, and how we can support student and young people through making asking for pronouns a normality.

Outside we have also been working on the be a better human campaign, which hopefully will be finished soon. Currently we are looking at a social media campaign, along with changes to University policy. If any departments would like to assist we would love their story and contribution as this is a union wide campaign. Thanks to Annabelle as well for helping us with ideas and supporting us.

For May we are planning IDAHOBIT day, current looking at doing a Netflix party but plans are still in the works. Currently we haven't spent any budget since last month. Of course we will also sorry and assist the union in the face or students campaign in any way we can add well.

Unfortunately Kate has been very unwell last three weeks so there isn't heaps to report but we hope that everyone is staying stay in isolation and looking after themselves

5.10 Position: Indigenous Officer – Jayde Hopkins

No report submitted to the general secretary

5.11 Position: (Dis)abilities Officers – Olivia White & Hang (Edison) Yu

No report submitted to the general secretary

5.12 Position: Ethnocultural Officers -Sayed Durraiz Ahmed & Shehbaz Singh Sandhu

In this month I posted to wish everyone happy vaisakhi which was on 27th April and also Asked for videos and photos from them that how they celebrate vaisakhi at home and back in their country so we can share this festival with everyone. I will be uploading that pictures and videos in next two days. For next month, we haven't decided yet but I and Durraiz will be discussing about next step and will let you know soon.

5.13 Position: Activities Officers – Steve Frampton & Angus Turner

No report submitted to the general secretary

5.14 Position: Rabelais Editors – Chris Graham & Clodie Veyrac

No report submitted to the general secretary

5.15 Position: City Campus Officers - Pooja Ganesh & Anushi Goyal

April 27th: Invited by Rosina to be in the Student Leadership Group.

April

24th March

2020 11am to 12noon La Trobe Pride Day Online

28th March

2020 6pm to late NGV International student night Cancelled due to Co-Vid

9th April 2020 all day Easter egg Hunt Online Activities

Pride Activities

Current Ongoing Activities

Advocacy Rosina is still conducting them online Ongoing

Clubs Will still function through online zoom meetings · One club has been setup Ongoing

Group Poll Poll and FAQ to collect what students would like? Ongoing

Careers &

Unitemps Will schedule future employment seminars online for May May 2020

Community

Checkin Add to whatsapp group and do a community check-in Ongoing

Sharing

Student

Stories Articles to engage, uplift, socially engaging ideas to follow. Such as what to watch on Netflix, things to do from home, how to work on a LinkedIn course etc. · Student stories and share updated Ongoing

Student Zoom Weekly Catchups Weekly Zoom Meetings Ongoing

Motion to accept office bearers' reports

Moved: Ashraf

Seconded: Warson

6. Other Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Mildura Students Association (MSA):

No report submitted to the general secretary

6.2 Mature Age Students Organisation (MASO):

No report submitted to the general secretary

6.3 Shepparton Students Association (SSA):

Current (today):

29/04: We are posting today an information about Buddha: Buddha's Birthday tomorrow

29/04: Shepparton Students Association - Drop in Chat - what's going on with your studies? What's on your mind? DROP IN CHAT: About Uni life, Home life, Social Life. Let's Chat about any questions or concerns you have about student life.... THIS IS A SOCIAL get together via zoom

Ø 28/04: Attended the Student Leadership Group with prof. Jessica Vanderlelie

Ø On our last SSA meeting (21/04) we have also voted 'yes' for the 50/50 honorarium fees among SSA team.

Ø We have finalized the lucky 2 winners in the Shepparton Survey Competition and both were contacted and the gift card (\$100 each provided; with 1 being sent this week by Mitch T. As we couldn't reach the second student for a while)

Ø We had trivia afternoon via zoom with surprises

Ø We have wished Greg Wighton's from Bundoora and our SSA member, Mel: both officially a happy birthday via our social media SSA page

Ø We have acknowledge the Easter period this month via a post on our social media

Ø We have acknowledged the Anzac Day this month via a post on our social media

Ø We have acknowledged the Ramadan starting this month via a post on our social media: Ramadan Mubarak

Ø We are passing on all relevant information on our social media, when we get extra information for students, including the application for finance and technology bursary

Ø We are posting various additional post to cheer up and make others laugh on our social media J

Ø We have posted/reminded our female students about the possibility to apply for this year: Women in Leadership bursary 2020 via a social media post

Ø We are in constant touch with our academic and head of campus, Mrs Elizabeth Capp in relation to any changes and to support, when needed as SSA

Ø Planning to start our SSA in the near future: Shep newsletter with current information related just to our regional area (still in process)

Planning for May:

Ø We are planning a Talent Show. Application will be submitted online via FB, under the post and then we will chose candidate to go into the finals and live performances via ZOOM in May/June 2020. With surprises at the end for winners

Ø Trivia afternoon with surprises (each month)

Ø And more to come along, in progress planning....

6. 4 International Students Association (ISA):

ISA report for week 7:

Currently working on the following activities:

- Recruited new committee member (week 6) Uthara Narayan (via official committee votes) in place of Lance Cheng, because he had to change his university.
- Every Thursday basic dance teaching class, taken by Nahima and Uthara.
- Every week we have one upload of cooking video.
- Getting in touch with CISA for more information on International Student's rights and updates.

Future planned events:

- Also, coming up with new activity called "House Olympics".
- Best picture a day activity will be starting soon as well.
- Coming up with new activity called "Dramatized", vaguely based on household quarantine vlog drama.

Motion to accept other standing committee reports

Moved: Warson

Seconded: Abhishek Madan

7. Other Reports

7.1 Education Council (SRN)

7.2 Clubs and Societies Council

Several Clubs were affiliated and there were a few which were provisionally affiliated. So far have gotten more than 40 clubs affiliated. Explained the clubs about the new grants system and took their feedback on how they were going with moving their activities online. Held a Q & A session at the end to answer questions whichever could be answered and help clubs in matters they needed any assistance or clarification.

7.3 Post-Graduate Committee

7.4 Activities Committee

Motion to accept other reports

Moved: Warson

Seconded: Ashraf Imam

8. LTSU Policy

Nil

9. Other Business

9.1 Report by the General Manager

10. Next Meeting

The schedule for next meeting will be notified soon by the General Secretary.

Meeting adjourned by the Chairperson at 1:29pm under section 2.4 of LTSU Council standing orders.