



STUDENT UNION LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

latrobesu.org.au

La Trobe Student Union Council Meeting Agenda

Council Meeting:

The *fifth* meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Tuesday 30th June 2020 at 3:15pm via Zoom link online.

Meeting opened by the chair at: 3:20pm

Elissa would like to make some brief comments regarding behaviour and the conduct of council before formal proceedings begin.

The Chair noted in the minutes: Due to the hostile behaviour of persons during these meetings and for the health and safety of staff, students representatives, council members and students in attendance, the June LTSU council meeting will be recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded or object to the recording of council, you may leave. Everyone has been put on notice.

The Chair noted in the minutes: OBs are not required to answer questions. There is nothing in the LTSU Standing Orders which requires anyone to answer any questions. Everyone has been put on notice.

The Chair noted in the minutes: Under Section 4.4 of the LTSU Standing Orders members (meaning student members) shall address remarks to the chairperson in a restrained and courteous language, relevant to the matter under discussion, not use offensive or objectional language, not behave in a disorderly manner and respect the authority of the chairperson. Annabelle (the Chairperson) has asked everyone be respectful of others during this meeting whether or not you agree with their opinion. Everyone here, including staff are held responsible for their actions. Everyone has been put on notice.

The Chair noted in the minutes: Under Section 2.4 of the Standing Orders the chairperson shall maintain order at any time; adjourn a meeting which in their opinion has become disorderly for such period as they think fit. Annabelle (the Chairperson) will adjourn council if it becomes disorderly and Abhishek (General Secretary) will call it for a later date. Everyone has been put on notice..

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.

The Chair noted in the minutes: Due to the amount of people present we will go in an order to mark attendance with OBs first, LTSU staff second then LTU students. The Chair asked if students could please put their student number in their tag line in Zoom to make it easier to note down in the minutes.

The Chair noted in the minutes: The chat function of this zoom meeting will not be used except for voting matters.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Attendance: Annabelle Romano (President), Abhishek Madan (General Secretary), Musa Qamar (Post-Graduate officer), Warsan Tubea (Executive General Member), Kate Benesovsky (Queer Office), Brody Tanner (MSA President), Lewis Kimpton Drake (Environment Officer), Christopher Graham (Rabelais Editor), Jasmine Kinderis (Welfare officer), Cooper Dickson (Welfare Officer), Hang Yu (Edison) (Disabilities officer), Shehbaz Singh (Ethno-cultural Officer), Jake McGuinness (Environment officer), Thomas Balakas (General Member), Chloe Andrew (General Member), Arun Parvathyraj (General Member), Ahsan Karim Fayaz (General Member), Prajuli Maharjan (General Member), William Griffin (BSA President), Clodie Veyrac (Rabelais Editor), Areesha Nazeer (General Member) Elissa Khoury (General Manager), Michelle Knights (MSA Staff)

General Students in attendance: Amy King (19946883), Azizah Bagci (20357543), Lani Dumas (20387780), Isabella Currie (18077767), Harry Ryan (20730568), Andrea Sutton (19946760), **Bella (20390026, Student ID could not be found)**, Benjamin Murphy (18115784), **Dennis Rashford (20338574, Student ID could not be found)**, Destiny-Rose Butler-Cook (20423961), Eric Seychell (20708008), Georgina Beatty (20770777), Imogen (**20377362, Student ID same as Chloe Andrews, General Member**), Jesse Felsing (19948919), Constantinos Melanitis (19951910), Joshu Hicks (19295759), Lukas Jameison (20363822), Micheal Ikononou (20696185), John Morgan (**20169212, Student ID could not be found**), Matthew Sheppard (18951380), Vicky Wood (**16513724, Student ID could not be found**), Leah Holden (20349839), Andy Tuano (20363977), **16721893 (Student ID could not be found, nor was any Name provided even after repetitive requests)**, Beth Singh (No student Id Provided. Requests made, no response), Guy Incognito (Fake name, provided wrong student ID same as of the attendee named Jonah

Allen, Jonah Allen (20762551), Finn Byrne (19917586), Sanjith Konda House (20169913), **Kosta Giaprakis (no student Id provided, even after repetitive requests)**, Samara El-Youssef (19368760), Rebecca Bolger (19975075), Taksh Veer Singh Nanda (20185852), Tran Minh Thy Nguyen (20336535), **Mike Rotch (19933754, Student ID could not be found)**, **John Day (19976435, Student Id Could not be found)**, Nahui Jimenez Ludekens (**No student ID provided**), Skye Griffiths (20713009), David Cannavo (19929081), **Daineil O Crabhain (19800830, Student ID could not be found)**, **Xi (20346751, Student ID could not be found)**, Dana Nuske (20355811)

Jake McGuinness asked for a procedural motion to have the chat in use.
The Chair denied this procedural motion.

Jake McGuinness asked for a second procedural motion to have the chat in use.
The Chair denied this procedural motion.

Jake McGuinness asked for a procedural motion for dissent in the chair.
Moved by Themistoklis Balakas (General Member)
Second by Chloe Andrew (General Member)

Jake McGuinness (Environment Officer) spoke for the procedural motion.
Arun Kumar (General Member) spoke against the procedural motion.
The procedural motion failed.

1.2 Apologies: Olga Novak(SSA President), Angus Turner (Activities Officer), Ashraf Imam (Ed-Vice President), Roja Modundi (Women's Officer).

1.3 Not in Attendance without Apology: Summiyah Adnan (Women's Officer), Sayed Durraiz Ahmed (Ethno-cultural Officer), Olivia White (Disabilities officer), Steven Frampton (Activities Officer), Jayde Hopkins (Indigenous Officer), Robert Campbell (Education Public Affairs Officer), Hannah Lockwood (Queer Officer), Kate De Witte (MASO President), Akshat Bodele (ISA President)

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

Amendment to April minutes by Themistoklis Balakas to remove final sentence of April council minutes:

Moved by Themistoklis Balakos (General Member)
Seconded by Chloe Andrew (General Member)
Amendment passed

The Chair noted in the minutes: The amended April minutes will be redistributed to council.

Motion to confirm the amended April minutes:
Moved by Themistoklis Balakos (General Member)
Seconded by Chloe Andrew (General Member)
Motion passed

Motion to confirm the May minutes:
Moved by Prajuli Maharjan (General Member)
Seconded: Musa Qamar (Postgraduate Officer)
Themistoklis Balakos abstained

Motion passed

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes:

Nil

4. Correspondence:

Nil

5. Office Bearer's Reports

5.1 Position: President – Annabelle Romano

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 2020

- OB meetings regarding campaign 'fighting the cuts' campaign and fighting WAM changes – continuing into sem 2.
- Coordinated the meetings between the LTSU staff and OBs to work on the 'fighting the cuts' campaign.
- Bi-weekly meetings with Jessica Vanderlelie and the BSA, WSA, MSA and SSA Presidents and General Managers.
- Monthly meeting with Deputy Vice Chancellor Jessica Vanderlelie.
- Monthly meeting with Vice Chancellor John Dewar.
- Attended the Vice-Chancellor's Information Session of Academic Board.
- Attended Academic Board as an executive member.
- Attended the all-staff forum with the Vice-Chancellor and Senior Executive Group re Australian Jobs Protection Framework & Federal Government fee hikes.
- Meeting with NUS Presidents re Federal Government fee hikes and ways to come together to fight the cuts.
- Frequent meetings with the General Manager and Executive together.
- Continuing with the Project Team and SGM information.
- Weekly comms meeting with comms team, General Manager and Executive.
- Launched the LTSU Survey report.
- Catching up with some OBs regarding their workloads.
- Worked with LTSU Finance team and Elissa for our Student Council members to be in monthly finance meetings.
- Be A Better Human meeting with OBs who decided to partake.
- General Manager and I meet frequently via Zoom to update each other on happenings of the LTSU.
- Followed up on Jasmine Kinderis' and students' concerns re accommodation services – meeting with res services to address these concerns.
- Met with Uni of Newcastle student engagement team re the work I've done with the La Trobe in student comms.
- Working with NUS Welfare Officer and LTSU Finance Counsellor, Student Engagement Coordinator, General Manager and Advocacy re Raise the Rate campaign.
- NTEU Statement from Greg Wighton and Kat Nordern re fighting the cuts campaign. Asked to have their statement be included in the President's report:

"On the 28th of April all student associations at La Trobe University were informed that their overall funding for the year would be cut by 50%. These cuts will have an unknown effect on the student organisations, and the services they provide. The University did very little in the way of consultation.

The NTEU members of staff at the La Trobe Student Union offer solidarity to the Student Representatives of the La Trobe Student Union and the Student Council in the face of these cuts.

To that effect we have offered our experience, resources and expertise to help form and fight a campaign against the cuts and to ensure a strong student voice is ongoing at La Trobe in light of the oncoming amalgamation.

The 'Your Education, Your Voice' campaign has the aims of:

- *heavily reducing the current proposed funding cut;*
- *communicating the University's decision to cut funding as widely as possible;*
- *highlighting the importance of our student union and associations and demonstrating the amazing work that our students, staff and clubs undertake;*
- *ensuring that LTSU and its associated organisations are able to effectively survive through to amalgamation.*
- *holding an SGM with the goals of:*
 - *detailing the true impacts of the 50% cut to all students; and*
 - *hearing what students think about this and what action they would like to take in response.*

This is not an exhaustive list of actions and the NTEU members are committed to working with the Student Representatives and Student Council to further develop and run this campaign, which will be coordinated and project managed by Helen Mayers, in collaboration with LTSU OBs and staff.

In solidarity and on behalf of all NTEU Members,

Kat Nordern and Greg Wighton (NTEU staff delegates for LTSU)"

5.2 Position: General Secretary – Abhishek Madan

There was not much that could be done this month due to the exams and they went for about the whole month. Earlier this month I had held the clubs and societies council where in a motion was put forward by Mattias from Social Alternatives. Since that was put forward at the last moment, clubs had requested another meeting. Had facilitated that meeting for the clubs.

Had attended meeting with Jessica Vanderlelie earlier this month i.e. just before the exams to discuss about the prevailing issues.

For the coming month, work on the current issues will continue apart from that I, along with Greg, will be working on the orientation week plan for clubs and societies for the second semester.

5.3 Position: Education/Vice President – Ashraf Imam

During the month of June, the executive team and I have tried to be on-top of all continuing projects, having consistent communication about it. We also had our weekly office bearer meetings where we discussed our potential plan of action, the month of June due to high volume of students doing exams and assessments, we did not get to complete or take immediate action even if it was desired but we planned our next coming steps for change for the students which is an accomplishment.

The education committee was a highlight of the month, as I was able to able and discuss issues relating to students. It was informative, beneficial and we plan for change in the future. We spoke about issues about the humanities course and its potential rise in prices,

about student misconduct, plagiarism and cheating as there has been an increase of it over the semester.

We also spoke in detail about the lower standard of quality of studies, the quality of teaching, its effects on this semester and the next. We also touched on making LMS more informative and understanding for students

5.4 Position: Postgraduate Officer – Musa Qamar

In the month of June, due to exams, I was unable to do much for the Post Graduate students as I was having my final exams just like everyone else. Assistance was provided to the students who asked for assistance in their coursework issues by redirecting them to relevant channels.

In the month of July, I am planning on hosting an online Migration seminar for graduating international Bachelors and Masters students. This will assist them in getting relevant information on Temporary Residence and Permanent Residence. It will help them understand each process better.

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

June was a quieter month for the EdPub team. We continued to attend VEAN meetings, making contributions where possible. Stephanie was slated to speak online as part of a protest on behalf of VEAN, which was cancelled due to Victorian COVID restrictions. We contributed in OB meetings where our schedules did not conflict. We began working on the Be a Better Human Campaign. We would like to aid in launching a proper WAM campaign in Semester 2, as well as contributing to NUS rallies against Dan Tehan's cuts to Higher Ed. Stephanie spent the last part of the month on mental health leave.

5.6 Position: Welfare Officers – Cooper Dickson & Jasmine Kinderis

Cooper and Jasmine had a relatively quiet month due to exams and end of semester work assignments. We started to assist on the be a better human campaign organisation and worked further on campaign ideas for semester two

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

No report was submitted to General Secretary

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

May-June- task completed

We have continued to focus and contribute our time towards renovating and updating our fb page.

We have also have been continuously supporting, guiding and helping students who have been reaching out to us regarding struggles with online studies and mental health

Plans for July Onwards.

We have planned an zoom session with Mental health wellbeing person from Confidence Hackers to have a free chat with students and to do casual talk about any topic they wanna talk about.

We are planning also to continue working on our major issues which we are focusing on this year. Examples include diversity and inclusion, women's safety and health and women's empowerment. Sony related activities will be held online.

Our moto is to help as many students as we can. Individual student support is already in place and will continue to address as per request

5.9 Position: Queer Officers – Kate Benesovsky & Hannah Lockwood

This month the LTSU Queer Department has been relatively quiet due to exams and academic pressures.

We put out a statement at the start of June, showing support for the Black Lives Matter Movement here in Australia, as well as the US and how it ties in with the LGBTQIA+ right movement. Additionally we've also been sharing events and activities happening in the wider community for pride month as well as working one on one with students who need it. Our major achievement for June was the release of the PRIDE Rabelais which was in time for Pride Month! It can be read on issuu, and I would highly recommend all students, staff and representatives to go have a read. A lot of students, including the Rabelais team put large amount of time and effort into this edition and it clearly shows. Many thanks to Chris, Clodie and Natalie for their hard work and understanding during this time.

The Queer section of the BABH campaign was also launched. Students and staff are invited to contribute to two community guides – first a 'Coming Out' guide and then 'How To Be A Good Ally'. These are student recommendations, and we wanted to open it up to students, staff and academics so that the experiences and submissions are diverse like our community. There is a google form that students can use to submit pieces anonymously (as some may be of sensitive nature) or they can email them to the LTSU Queer inbox. We encourage all officer bearers to get involved as well – you don't have to be Queer, we want to hear from allies too! These submission portals will mostly likely remain open until midway through Semester 2, and then will be collated into online guides which students can access at any time.

Across the broader BABH campaign, we are still working to have it launched over semester two. Our first official meeting went really well, and we will be having another very soon (mostly likely within the next week). The minutes were posted by Belle in the OB Microsoft Teams if anyone is interested, and there are still opportunities to get involved.

5.10 Position: Indigenous Officer – Jayde Hopkins

No report was submitted to General Secretary

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

No report was submitted to General Secretary

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

No report was submitted to General Secretary

5.13 Position: Activities Officers – Steve Frampton & Angus Turner

It has been extremely difficult due to work being very intense for myself at the moment and we haven't had as much time to dedicate to students as we'd like. We are still continuing our online activities that we started on campus, my favourite being acoustic afternoons. We've started doing some planning for what we students to experience next semester and how we can remind them that uni is a fun place. More to come soon.

5.14 Position: Rabelais Editors – Chris Graham & Clodie Veyrac

No report was submitted to General Secretary

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

No report was submitted to General Secretary

Motion to pass Office Bearer reports:

Moved by Prajuli Maharjan (General Member)

Seconded by Chloe Andrew (General Member)

Themistoklis Balakos (General Member) abstained

Motion passed

6. Other Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Mildura Students Association (MSA):

The MSA contributed to reconciliation week 2020 through our staff member Michelle. The MSA also held its first meeting with a quorum on the 25th of June. Regular dates for meetings will be set in July once all Committee members have their new semester timetables. Expressions of interest for the Secretary role have been passed to all committee members

6.2 Mature Age Students Organisation (MASO):

No report submitted to the general secretary.

6.3 Shepparton Students Association (SSA):

As an SSA we have regular meeting via zoom. Our next meeting is planned for:

Monday 13/06/2020 at 3:00 pm.

We are working closely to monitor the situation, adjust and implement our options in semester 2. Our next meeting in July will concentrate mostly on the orientation and the upcoming weeks on the Shepparton campus.

June 2020:

Ø We have acknowledged on our post that the Greater Shepparton is fortunate to have some compelling street art. The mural that started the Aboriginal street art project depicts two amazing Aboriginal elders. Ø We have partnered with LTSU Events & Activities and advertised the Acoustic Afternoons - live streamed performances every Tuesday. On number of occasions through June we have welcomed our own SSA Jess! Jess has been presenting her wonderful singing and playing skills J

Ø We have acknowledged and published online information about the MABO Day and the fact that That Greater Shepparton has the highest population of Aboriginal people in Victoria outside of the City of Melbourne.

Ø We have wishes our students good luck with the upcoming online exams by posting a funny video with a description: A new study technique! Good luck in the upcoming exams!

Ø We have posted the information about FOOD SHARE and the below information has been made available to all students:

Introducing: FOOD SHARE on campus. We can help with providing food/supplies in these stressful, crazy times. If you need help, we want to help. You can order a FREE food pack filled with fresh produce, pantry staples and freezer, fridge meals. It's easy: Order via email before Tuesday each week for delivery on campus Thursday. Single or Family packs are available. Contact: Kylie @ the Student Association for more information: k.daloia@latrobe.edu.au

Ø We have posted online and wished our SSA secretary, Hadeel a happy birthday!

Ø We have posted online about the possibility to access the Student Advocacy on the Shepparton Campus

Ø We have published online and introduced The Rainbow Eagles. The Rainbow Eagles is a LGBTI+ and Allies student social club based at the Latrobe University, Bendigo campus and they are reaching out to offer a social club to our LGBTI+ students here in Shepparton.

Ø We have published information about an available scholarship/bursary to apply till the end of the month. The below information has been posted:

Scholarship/Bursary: \$1000. You still have time to apply for the Soroptimist International Shepparton Regional Nursing Bursary. This is an annual bursary to recognise a high achieving second year female Nursing student at the Shepparton campus experiencing financial hardship. Applications close 30 June 2020.

<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/scholarships/soroptimist-international-of-shepparton-regional-nursing-bursary?fbclid=IwAR1KSE7gwkJNoyKruq29BWe8rEyCVp-lv7RUWHiK3IWDBZgAoAddEMLQkxA>

Ø We have cooperated with Bendigo side and offered students and staff The Indigenous Movie Nights: Our awesome pals at BSA Bendigo are partnering with the amazing Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival for Reconciliation Week.

Ø Attending all Student Leadership Groups/President meetings with prof. Jessica Vanderlelie and our council meeting on monthly basis (Olga and/or Kylie)

Ø Olga from SSA has been also invited to attend 2 Round Table meetings with VC: Prof. John Dewar as being part of the Excellence Academy Program this month. First meeting was in June and the second meeting has been planned for this coming Wednesday! Ø We had our LTSU Nights In: Trivia Thursdays night on June 18 at 6 Pm. We had \$50 voucher for grabs for the winner plus prizes throughout the night!

Ø We have published and acknowledged the Refugee Week: 14th June - 20th June 2020

With a post: Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. History: The first Refugee Week events were organized in Sydney in 1986 by Austcare. In 1987, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) became a co-organiser of the week, which became a national event from 1988. RCOA took on responsibility for the national coordination of Refugee Week from 2004. Major-General Paul Cullen, the foundation president of both Austcare and RCOA, actively lobbied, from the 1980s, for a global annual celebration of the contribution of refugees. His dream was achieved in 2001, when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) coordinated the first World Refugee Day. We are all in this together! Your SSA team

Ø We have posted again as a reminder good luck to our students about the ongoing exams this month and we have added a funny picture with a note (please find below):

We hope your exams are going better than this!

Planned for July 2020:

Ø We are planning a Talent Show for sem 2. Our cooperation with MSA in Mildura. Applications will be submitted online via FB, under the post and then the board of 5 judges (to be advertised soon too who that might be) will be choosing the candidates to finals via ZOOM or open mic. There will be prizes at the end for winners.

Ø Activities online, like quizzes and trivia on weekly basis

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

Ø Any planned sessions/meetings outside SSA are always attended by at least one member of the SSA team (Kylie or Olga from Shepparton Campus)

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

Apart from that, we are having our SSA meetings via zoom on regular basis and we are in touch with our Head of Campus, Miss Elizabeth Capp and other course coordinators on regular basis.

6. 4 International Students Association (ISA):

For the most of June, the committee members were busy with exams and as soon as it got over Sean had to leave ISA. Knowledge transfer and handover of other ISA related things happened before his departure.

Iris was recruited to ISA as a general committee member in place of keerthana.

Planning for next semester. Corona left things a little complicated and severely limited the extent to which events could be conducted, given the abrupt nature with which things at university imploded at the time from all the restrictions that were placed on all the students.

Zoom meetings were conducted to discuss what could be done for the upcoming semester given that the next semester is going to be completely online as well.

Motion to pass other standing committee reports:

Moved by Warsan Tubea (Executive General Member)

Seconded by Arun Kumar (General Member)

Motion passed

Abhishek Madan (General Secretary) noted in the minutes: For auditing purposes and correct minute taking he's asked for students' ID numbers as some put forward incorrect numbers or nothing at all.

7. Other Reports

7.1 Education Council (SRN)

No report

7.2 Clubs and Societies Council

Clubs council was held on 4th June, 2020. It was the last C&S Council for this semester. There were different clubs that affiliated and no provisional affiliations. There was one grant that was passed in the council. Apart from that, a motion was put forward by the social alternatives in regards to the funding cuts. It was put to vote after asking everyone's preference and most of the clubs present chose to abstain from voting. Another meeting

for facilitated later but not many clubs show up and there was no one to talk about the motion that was put forward.

7.3 Post-Graduate Committee

No report

7.4 Activities Committee

No report

Motion to pass other reports:

Moved by Warsan Tubea (Executive General Member)

Seconded by Areesha Nazeer (General Member)

Themistoklis Balakos abstained

Motion passed

8. LTSU Policy

Nil

9. Other Business

9.1 Election of two grievance officers for the LTSU Student Council. Nominations close on the 29th June 3:15pm 2020.

Nominations opened at 4:44pm and are open for a period of 24 hours.

The Chair (Annabelle Romano) will be the returning officer as she cannot vote and once a count is known, the results will be distributed to council.

9.2 Approval of leave of absence of Stephanie Briese (Education & Public Affairs Officer) for 1 month commencing 30th June 2020.

Moved by Themistoklis Balakos (General Member)

Seconded by Prajuli Maharjan (General Member)

Motion passed

9.3 Motion to expel LTSU Life Members for Misconduct

(Written by Jake McGuinness and Themistoklis Balakas)

Amendment by the mover Themistoklis Balakas to remove quotes regarding ethnic minority groups.

Amendment by the mover Themistoklis Balakas to remove subsection 4.e.i 'The LTSU considers the actions of Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft to be serious misconduct.'

Amendment by the mover Themistoklis Balakas to remove Platform 2 subsection b, *'The LTSU recognises that Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft have failed to meet their responsibilities outlined in the student charter, and therefore also fail to meet their responsibilities under the LTSU constitution.'*

Amendment by the mover Themistoklis Balakas for the Action points to read as follows:

1. *The LTSU student council suspends the life memberships of Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft pending the outcome of the investigation being conducted by the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP), with the intent to take further action upon the outcome of these investigations.*
2. *The LTSU will promptly convene a meeting of the Student Council, once the outcome of the investigations are made public, to vote on the expulsion of Jake Cripps and Nathan Croft as life members.*
3. *The LTSU, including governing members, will cease all communication with Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft after informing them of the suspension, until such time that further action be taken.*

Preamble:

On the 14/06/20 Channel 9's program '60 Minutes' and 'The Age' released shocking audio and video recordings of then Minister for Small Business, Adem Somyurek. This footage contains allegations of criminal activity including; forgery, misuse of public funds, and abuse of public office. These allegations, among others, are currently under investigation by the Victorian Police, IBAC (Victoria's Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission), and Administrators of the Victorian Labor Party. Somyurek has since been fired from his Ministerial role and expelled from the Australian Labor Party.

The footage also exposed systematic exploitation of minority communities throughout Victoria. Members of these communities were corralled by cultural leaders into becoming ALP members and told to attend branch meetings, largely without any understanding of what they were doing and little to no knowledge of the Labor party itself. Their memberships were allegedly paid for through Somyurek's 'branch stacking' operation, in direct breach of Victorian Labor rules, and used purely as *numbers* to increase their former minister's power.

The media investigation also brought to light appalling language used by Adem Somyurek directed at women and members of the LGBTQI+ community. These quotes have not been repeated here, so as to not give further platform to the repugnant sexism and homophobia espoused, however council members can find these in The Age article should they wish to gain a full understanding of the statements made.

This matter is being raised before the LTSU Student Council due to the direct and significant role played in the scandal by three former LTSU presidents. Abood Shehada (2019), Jacob Cripps (2017), and Nathan Croft (2016) all appeared in the video and audio recordings obtained of Adem Somyurek. Both Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft hold life memberships to the LTSU and were both named in the investigation, as important members of Somyurek's organisation, appearing extensively on both video and audio recordings.

Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft were both officially employed as Electoral Officers paid by public funds, however in reality served as members of Somyurek's 'flying squad', used to organise the stacking of branches around Victoria.

Nathan Croft – "I spoke with Robin [Scott] and he said on his days he's pretty chill. I gave him the heads up that I was doing some of this stuff and he's like, Have fun"

*Jacob Cripps – "Yeah, um, I'm starting in Tien's on Monday"
Adem Somyurek – "I'm going to speak to Tien then, and get you"*

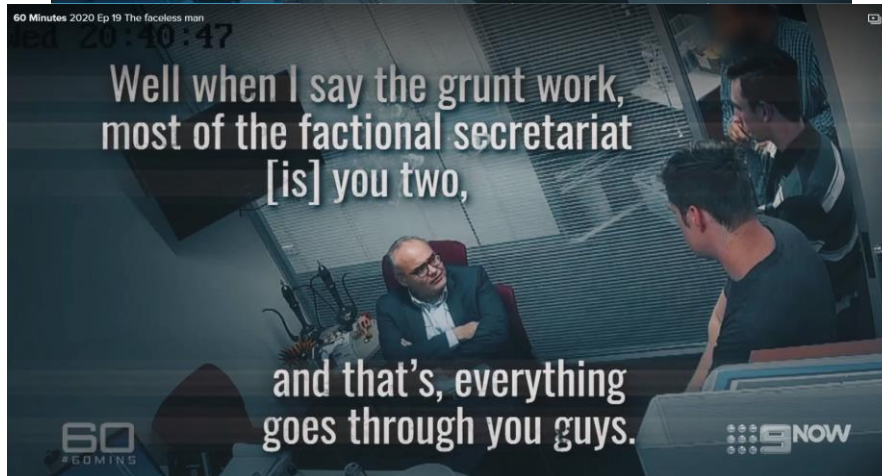
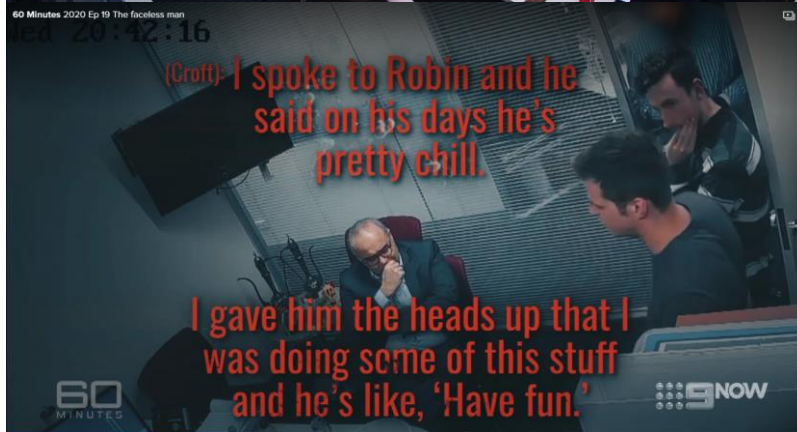
Adem Somyurek – "The way I see it working now, is that you're going to do the grunt work. Well, you are a flying squad too, on wherever we are raiding next"

Jacob Cripps- "No worries"

It is very clear that these were not the actions of low-level staffers coerced into potentially illegal and decidedly immoral actions. Croft and Cripps were, by Somyurek's own admission, important members of the operation.

Somyurek – "Well when I say the grunt work, most of the factional secretariat [is] you two, and that's, everything goes through you guys."

Please find below stills of the video footage shown by Channel 9.



Owing to their terms as union president, both Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft hold life memberships to the LTSU. Given their conduct, and enduring responsibilities as both students and members of the LTSU, the Life memberships of Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft should be stripped and their actions thoroughly condemned.

As outlined in the constitution of the LTSU, the purpose of the union includes
“(b) promoting the interests and welfare of students;

(c) representing students within and outside the University”

Nathan Croft and Jake Cripps have acted in direct breach of these clauses. They have also acted to subvert democracy and have shown little regard for the democratic principles which also undermine the values of this union. Nathan Croft and Jake Cripps have therefore undermined the integrity of the LTSU as it stands and have tarnished its name and reputation.

Platform:

1. The LTSU condemns sexism, homophobia, and the exploitation of minority groups, and proudly stands as an organisation built on the principles of tolerance, genuine inclusivity, and fair democratic process.
2. The LTSU reaffirms that all LTSU members are required to abide by the relevant university regulations, as stated in article 4 of the constitution.
 - a. The LTSU draws attention to article 2 (responsibilities) of the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
 - i. *“be respectful of other’s rights, and ensure that they actively foster and support an environment that is safe and free from harassment and discrimination for all’*
3. The LTSU recognises Life memberships as the *‘highest honour the LTSU can award a person’* as outlined in article 4.1.v of the LTSU Membership Regulations
 - a. The LTSU finds Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft undeserving of its highest honour, given their actions as outlined in the preface.
4. The LTSU recognises that disciplinary regulation, passed in accordance with the constitution, is unclear on the matter of expelling life members.
 - a. The LTSU acknowledges that when regulation is unclear, the student council is authorised to interpret the constitution so as to

find a resolution, so authorised under article 86.4 of the constitution.

- b. The LTSU draws attention to article 15.1 and 15.2 of the LTSU constitution
 - i. 15.1 - The Student Council must make regulations for the disciplining of members.*
 - ii. 15.2 - The discipline regulations:*
 - 1. A. Must require procedural fairness to be applied; and*
 - 2. B. May include the suspension and expulsion of members for serious misconduct.*
- c. The LTSU draws attention to article 17.1 of the LTSU constitution
 - i. 17.1 - Members cease to be members on resignation, expulsion or ceasing to have legal capacity.*
- d. The LTSU draws attention to article 10.1 and 10.2 of the LTSU membership regulations
 - 1. 10.1 - Please refer to the regulations regarding the disciplining of members.*
 - 2. 10.2 - Governing members are to refer to the committee and office bearer regulations. The discipline regulations:*
 - a. i. Must require procedural fairness to be applied; and*
 - b. ii. May include the suspension and expulsion of members for serious misconduct*

Action:

- 1. The LTSU student council suspends the life memberships of Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft pending the outcome of the investigation being conducted by the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP), with the intent to take further action upon the outcome of these investigations.
- 2. The LTSU will promptly convene a meeting of the Student Council, once the outcome of the investigations are made public, to vote on the expulsion of Jake Cripps and Nathan Croft as life members.

3. The LTSU, including governing members, will cease all communication with Jacob Cripps and Nathan Croft after informing them of the suspension, until such time that further action be taken.

Relevant resources :

- 60 Minutes Special - <https://www.9now.com.au/60-minutes/2020/episode-19>
- The Age Article - <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/secret-tapes-carpark-cash-drops-ministers-threatened-inside-victoria-s-stackathon-20200614-p552gs.html>
- The LTSU Constitution - <https://latrobesu.org.au/files/525>
- The LTSU Membership Regulations - <https://latrobesu.org.au/files/515>
- The LTU Charter of Students Rights and Responsibilities - <https://latrobesu.org.au/files/234>

Moved by Themistoklis Balakas (General Member)

Seconded by Chloe Andrew (General Member)

Themistoklis Balakos (General Member) spoke for the amended motion.

Jake McGuinness (Environment Officer) spoke for the amended motion.

Motion passed.

9.3 Motion to extend running time for LTSU June student council in line with constitutional requirements

(Written by Jake McGuinness)

Preamble:

This motion calls for an extended June student council, in line with timeframe laid out in the Student Council standing orders.

Both the April and May student councils have ended with business still yet to be completed, as well leaving students who attended the meeting to ask a question left without answers.

The current one-hour timeframe of the student council is evidently not suitable for the medium through which council is being conducted (Zoom) nor sufficient for the increased student interest in issues of the union and broader education policy.

The current timeframe, imposed previously by the chairperson, also runs in direct contradiction to the LTSU student council standing orders which state,

1.3 Meeting shall, subject to the presence of a quorum, start at the time set out on the notice and shall, subject to the discretion of the meeting, continue until all business on the agenda is disposed of, provided that at 12 midnight, the chairperson shall declare the meeting adjourned unless an absolute majority of LTSU general members vote otherwise.

Given constitutional requirements, and the common sense precedent set by our previous two student councils, this motion calls for the June student council to have its hours extended until all official business is completed.

It also reminds chairperson, that whilst they have the power to adjourn the meeting, should it become unruly, they do not have the power to end the meeting until all business has been completed. In both the April and May student council, the chairperson exceeded their powers granted under the standing orders and brought the meeting to a permanent close with official business still yet to be discussed.

2.4 The chairperson shall maintain order any may at any time, adjourn a meeting which, in his/her opinion, has become disorderly for such period as he/she thinks fit.

Platform:

1. The LTSU draws attention to article 1.3 of the LTSU standing orders
 - a. *Meeting shall, subject to the presence of a quorum, start at the time set out on the notice and shall, subject to the discretion of the meeting, continue until all business on the agenda is disposed of, provided that at 12 midnight, the chairperson shall declare the meeting adjourned unless an absolute majority of LTSU general members vote otherwise.*
2. The LTSU draws attention to article 2.4 of the LTSU standing orders
 - a. *The chairperson shall maintain order any may at any time, adjourn a meeting which, in his/her opinion, has become disorderly for such period as he/she thinks fit.*
3. The LTSU recognises that it did not follow the directions of the LTSU standing orders in the April student council or the May student council.
4. The LTSU recognises that it did not fully answer the questions of the students who attended nor address their issues completely

Action:

1. The chairperson of the LTSU student council will ensure the June council follows the direction of the LTSU standing orders, calling a close to the meeting only when all business has been completed
2. The chairperson of the LTSU student council will ensure they appropriately use their powers of adjournment, in line with the LTSU standing orders, in future.

Resources:

LTSU Constitution: <https://www.latrobesu.org.au/files/525>

LTSU Standing Orders: <https://www.latrobesu.org.au/files/518>

Mover: Themistoklis Balakas (General Member)

Seconder: Chloe Andrew (General Member)

Jake spoke in favour of the motion

Passes

9.4 Motion to oppose La Trobe Cuts

Amendment by the mover Themistoklis Balakas to remove the last sentence of the motion section, *"The La Trobe Student Union supports the "La Trobe Students against uni cuts" campaign"*.

Amendment by the mover Themistoklis Balakas for Action point 1 to read as follows: *"Office Bearers who wish to participate in the 'La Trobe Students against uni cuts' campaign may do so."*

Background:

The Higher Education sector in Australia is in crisis. Universities across the country are proposing major restructures to deal with the loss of revenue born from the loss primarily of international student fees due to COVID-19. These restructures are taking the form of attacks on students and staff.

Early responses online indicate that students are already facing attacks. Students classes are being "postponed" to 2021 and already there is a loss in teaching time, some classes reduced by 2/3rds.

Motion

The La Trobe student union opposes any attempts to make up the shortfall in revenue by imposing costs on students and staff, whether in the form of course cuts, staff cuts, fee increases, or attacks on the student union.

The La Trobe student union opposes attempts to permanently shift elements of learning online or the introduction of "blended learning", recognising that face-to-face contact and smaller class sizes provide more quality education.

The La Trobe Student Union opposes the 50% cut to its funding.

Action:

1. Office Bearers who wish to participate in the 'La Trobe Students against uni cuts' campaign may do so.
2. The La Trobe student union will seek a public commitment from the university for full funding in 2021

Mover: Themistoklis Balakas (General Member)

Secunder: Chloe Andrew (General Member)

Nahui Ludukens (student) spoke for the amended motion.

Themistoklis Balakos (General Member) spoke for the amended motion.

Jake McGuinness (Environment officer) spoke for the amended motion.

Motion passed.

10. Next Meeting

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

Meeting closed by the Chairperson at: 4:57pm