

La Trobe Student Union Council Meeting Agenda

Council Meeting:

The *eighth* meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 3pm via Zoom link online.

Annabelle Romano (President) declined being Chairperson.

The President read Section 2.1 of the LTSU Council Standing Orders, *“Subject to the regulations, at every meeting of LTSU after attendance and Apologies, the President will be the chairperson of the meeting. In the event that the President is not present or decides to vacate the chair the Education Vice-President will take up the role of the chair. If neither the President nor Education Vice-President is available to take up the role of chair the LTSU council will elect a chair from General Members.”*

The President asked Ashraf Imam (Education Vice-President) if he would like to accept the Chair, Ashraf declined.

The President then asked General Members to vote for a general member in attendance to be the Chair of the September council meeting.

Prajuli Maharajan (General Member) was elected Chairperson.

Meeting opened by the Chair at: 3:10pm

Meeting Agenda:

Acknowledgement of Country

- A. Deciding on the voting for Annual Election 2020
- B. Deciding on the Election Tribunal
 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 read out the following statement:

LTSU Council Meetings – Preamble and Reminders for Student Behaviour

Due to a preliminary investigation which includes but is not limited to the conduct of student behaviour at LTSU council and student meetings, LTSU has received a list of recommendations and directives that we will be working to implement today and over the coming weeks to ensure these meetings are a safe space for all, and that they are productive and conducive to the work undertaken at LTSU for all.

All students and staff present must conduct themselves with the upmost of professionalism and refrain from making any slanderous or defamatory comments. You are expected to be respectful and considerate at all times.

All questions must be relevant to the reports being given and all office bearers and executives can choose whether they will allow questions or not

All meeting will be taped from this point forward and made available to the university as part of the complaints process only

All minutes from the meeting will be provided via the LTSU website at the earliest opportunity

A staff member will be present at every meeting moving forward and will assist the chair in ensuring that any conduct that occurs is in line with all OHS requirements and that a duty of care is exercised as required. Any conduct that is considered to be harmful or inappropriate will result in the removal of the offending student immediately.

LTSU Code of Conduct

The LTSU Code of Conduct has been attached for your reference and the chair takes this opportunity to highlight **clause 3.7**

LTSU members shall not engage in discrimination, sexual harassment or intimidation against another LTSU member, prospective member, member of LTSU staff or La Trobe University students or staff. For the purposes of the last sentence, “discrimination” is taken to mean direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of nationality, race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, disability, marital status, parental status or status as a carer, physical features, political belief or activity, pregnancy or religious belief or activity.

LTSU Standing Orders

The standing orders are also attached for your reference and the chair takes this opportunity to highlight **clause 2 and relevant subsections**

2.1 Subject to the regulations, at every meeting of LTSU after attendance and Apologies, the President will be the chairperson of the meeting. In the event that the

President is not present or decides to vacate the chair the Education Vice-President will take up the role of the chair. If neither the President nor Education Vice-President is available to take up the role of chair the LTSU council will elect a chair from General Members

2.2 The chairperson shall be heard without interruption and when he/she rises during debate, all discussion shall cease.

2.3 Should the chairperson decide to take part in the debate on any question, they shall leave the chair and call upon another member to act as chairperson until the conclusion of the debate and the vote, if any, thereon.

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.

2.5 Any member desiring to speak shall rise in his place or otherwise indicate his/her intention and will be placed on the speaking list

The chair also takes this opportunity to highlight **clause 4 and relevant subsections under the LTSU Standing Orders**

4. Formal Debate

4.1 The chairperson shall, as far as practicable, call on speakers for and against a motion of amendment alternatively, subject to the right of the seconder to speak immediately after the mover. If two consecutive speakers have both argued for or against a motion or an amendment and there is no member wishing to argue the opposite side, or in the case of a motion, to move put without debate

4.2 Discussion shall be confined to the motion under consideration, subject to the Sections 3.7 and 4.1.

4.3 Every member desiring to speak shall address her/himself to the Chair.

4.4 Members shall:

- address remarks to the chairperson in restrained and courteous language
- relevant to the matter under discussion
- not use offensive or objectionable language
- not behave in a disorderly manner
- respect the authority of the chairperson at all times

4.5 Each person will be limited to five minutes for his speech and may speak only once, provided that the mover shall have her/his right of reply.

[LTU Charter of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)

The LTU Charter of Student Rights & Responsibilities are also attached for your reference and the chair takes this opportunity to highlight **Part C – Behaviour & Wellbeing – section 6**

6) You are responsible for:

- a. Behaving in a respectful manner at all times towards fellow students, staff and members of the broader University community and its partners;
- b. Valuing diversity and everyone's right to make a respectful contribution;
- c. Engaging in positive behaviours and using language which does not cause offence, physical/ emotional injury or intimidation to another person;

- d. Using social and other electronic forms of media appropriately and refraining from using it to vilify, intimidate, isolate or bully another student, staff member or member of the broader University and general community;
- e. Behaving professionally when representing La Trobe on student placements, on overseas programs, volunteering and at sporting or other University sponsored events;
- f. Using University property and resources safely, in a way which will not endanger others or cause unnecessary damage or reputational risk;
- g. Taking an active role in contributing to an environment that is safe and free from discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation;
- h. Reporting unacceptable behaviour or concerns and participating in a complaints process as required.

A. Deciding on Voting for 2020 Annual Elections

Thomas moved a motion to conduct the elections from OCT 5-OCT 7,2020 from 10am to 3pm for Melbourne Campus and OCT 5,2020; OCT 6,2020; OCT 7,2020 for City Campus, Shepparton Campus and Mildura Campus respectively.

Mover: Thomas Balakas (General Member)

Seconder: Chloe Andrews (General Member)

Motion put to vote by chairperson, Motion Passed.

B. Deciding on the Election Tribunal

Mr. David Wishart was chosen to be the Election Tribunal. He was the only applicant. He is a Professor at The La Trobe Law School.

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Attendance: Annabelle Romano (President), Abhishek Madan (General Secretary), Ashraf Imam (Education-Vice President), Musa Qamar (Post Graduate Officer), Warsan Tubea (Executive General Member), Jake McGuinness (Environment Officer), Lewis Kimpton-Drake (Environment Officer), Stephanie Briese (Ed-Pub Officer), Kate Benesovsky (Queer Office), Thomas Balakas (General Member), Arun Parvathyraj (General Member), Akshat Boldele (ISA President), Prajulie Maharjan (General Member), Brody Tanner (MSA President), Ahsanul Karim Fayaz (General Member), Areesha Nazeer (General Members), Chloe Andrews (General Member), Elissa Khoury (LTSU Staff), Kylie D'Aloia (SSA Staff).

Students: Jesse Felsing (19948919), William Griffin (18917561), Will Devine (20360605), Ally, Andy Tuano (20363977), Charlotte, Christine Nguyen (20384824), Harsh Patel, Jas Patel, Jenna Boyd (20206784), Joel Blanch (20368682), Jonah Allen (20762551), Sanjith Konda House (20169913), Lani (20387780), Leah Holden (20349839), Lewis McNiff (17998082), Lukas Jamieson (20363822), Matthias (19426374), Pam Kirikidis (20347668), Samara (19368760), Tate Copeland (20362739), Taylah LJ (19348257), Nahui Ludekens (20282130), Jackson Kelly (20350972)

1.2 Apologies: Cooper Dickson (Welfare Officer), Jasmine Kinderis (Welfare Officer), Clodie Veyrac (Rabelais Editor), Christopher Graham (Rabelais Editor),

1.3 Not in Attendance without Apology: Robert Campbell (Ed-Pub Officer), Jasmine Kinderis (Welfare Officer), Sumiyah Aziz (Women's Officer), Roja Mudundi (Women's Officer), Hannah

Lockwood (Queer Office), Olivia White (Disabilities Officer), Hang (Edison) Yu (Disabilities Officer), Jayde Hopkins (Indigenous Officer), Sayed Durraiz Ahmed (Ethnocultural Officers), Shehbaz Singh Sandhu (Ethnocultural Officers), Angus Turner (Activities Officers), Pooja Ganesh (City Campus Officer), Anushi Goyal (City Campus Officer), Kate de Witte (MASO President)

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

*Will be sent out soon and the acceptance would be done in the next council.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes:

* If there are any, they would be considered in the next council.

4. Correspondence:

None

5. Office Bearer's Reports

5.1 Position: President – Annabelle Romano

As there was a council meeting only a week and a half ago, there is not much to report on since then. In the week since council I have:

- Attended academic board executive committee
- Met with the General Manager
- Met with Jessica Vanderlelie in our monthly meetings
- Met with office bearers
- Attended the Vice-Chancellor's information forum
- Attended the staff co-ordinators and all staff meeting
- Been a part of the Project Team meetings
- Worked on the report for the Education committee of the Senate regarding the Job Ready Graduates Bill

5.2 Position: General Secretary – Abhishek Madan

The August Council took place almost 10 calendar days back. Since then, I have gotten in touch with another organisation to help our students with providing them the essential good via delivering grocery hampers. I will be fixing a date for another migration seminar as described earlier later next week. Apart from that, I am working with the team on the ongoing issues. C&S Council and CSAC will take later this month.

5.3 Position: Education/Vice President – Ashraf Imam

As we have just had An August council approximately two weeks ago, the executive team and I have been in the midst of further planning and discussing's on the current concerns of the LTSU.

Education committee will also be later on in the month, so in the next council I can provide more information and how it all goes

5.4 Position: Postgraduate Officer – Musa Qamar

No report was submitted to General Secretary

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

No report was submitted to General Secretary

5.6 Position: Welfare Officers – Cooper Dickson & Jasmine Kinderis

The welfare department has been extremely busy with stress less week this week! We highly encourage everyone to get involved with the activities we have planned next. Today is RUOK day so make sure you check in with your friends today. To find out more of what we're been up too please refer to the stress less week semester 2 Facebook event, for an Incredibly detailed plan. Were also still working on the mental health module and Jasmine is working with students living on campus to resolve some ongoing residential issues._

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

No report was submitted to the General Secretary

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

No report was submitted to the General Secretary

5.9 Position: Queer Officers – Kate Benesovsky & Hannah Proashek

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 – Angus Turner

No report was submitted to General Secretary

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 accept Office Bearer reports

Mover: Annabelle Romano (President)

Seconder: Ashraf Imam (Education Vice-President)

Put to vote by chairperson,

Motion passed.

Abstained: Thomas Balakas, Chloe Andrews

6. Other Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Mildura Students Association (MSA):

No report submitted

6.2 Mature Age Students Organisation (MASO):

No report submitted

6.3 Shepparton Students Association (SSA):

No report submitted

6.4 International Students Association (ISA):

These are the events and activities we have conducted on Social Media in the month of August and the first week of September. We have been active throughout the month and have posted several things on Facebook and Instagram. Here are the key points on what we have conducted,

1. Conducted Multi-Cultural Week with Bollywood Club and BISA.

a. Had a live session with Bollywood Club regarding the bollywood culture in India and did a live singing session with the vice-president of Bollywood Club

b. The potential candidate of Indonesian Club had a quick chat with one of our committee members regarding the culture of Indonesia.

2. Posted a House Olympics video on Facebook and Instagram

a. The House Olympics was started last semester and this time it had a game of ball throw with the involvement of President and Social Media Coordinator of ISA.

3. Throwback Thursday has been posted every week.

a. Throwback Thursday mentions the important events and people who has been a part of ISA and has done a lot of work in the past.

4. Conducted an online trivia competition with LTSU i.e. trivia nights

a. The trivia was about the different culture across the world, and we helped Freyja set the questions which was to be asked at the competition. The prize money was donated by ISA to the winners.

Motion to accept Other Standing Committee reports

Mover: Annabelle Romano (President)

Seconded: Ashraf Imam (Education Vice-President)

Put to vote by chairperson

Motion passed.

Abstained: Chloe Andrews

7. Other Reports

7.1 Education Council (SRN)

No Activity

7.2 Clubs and Societies Council

Clubs and Societies Council will take place later this month. So, nothing to report as of now.

7.3 Post-Graduate Committee

No Activity

7.4 Activities Committee

No Activity

Motion to accept Other reports

Mover: Annabelle Romano (President)

Seconded: Abhishek Madan (General Secretary)

Put to vote by chairperson

Motion Passed

Abstained: Thomas Balakas, Chloe Andrews

8. LTSU Policy

8.1 Resuming Sale of LTSU Membership

Preamble

In order to run for the LTSU election 2020, which this council has recently called for, students must be members of the LTSU to nominate. It's imperative to the democratic process that our regulations and constitution are followed, therefore we must allow the purchase of memberships. The council understands the staff are working from home and cannot be in the office to process membership packs as well as various other actions, however the option of purchasing the tiered membership should be allowed and merchandise can be sent out at a later date, if that student chooses to purchase that tier.

Action

Council directs the LTSU staff to reopen the online purchasing of LTSU memberships within 3 business days of this meeting's conclusion, until at least the conclusion of the 2020 LTSU student election.

Moved: Thomas Balakas (General Member)

Seconded: Chloe Andrew (General Member)

Speaker for: Thomas Balakos (General Member)

No speakers against

Speaker for: Jake McGuinness (Environment Officer)

Annabelle requested her statement be noted in the minutes: I understand why we have to open up memberships, however if we open up, students will not be able to get what they

are purchasing. She emphasised that she is not speaking against the motion but she believes that it would not be good governance if we sell something for a price and are not able to give back its worth.

Put to vote by Chairperson

Motion Passed.

Abstained: Ashraf Imam, Abhishek Madan, Warsan Tubea

8.2 Gender-neutral pronouns in LTSU regulations

Preamble:

Gender-neutral pronouns are inclusive pronouns which avoid association with the gender and/or sex of the person being discussed.

The LTSU's varied regulations (along with the Constitution) provide rules and a framework on how the Student Union is run. Therefore, it is only logical that these regulations should reflect the core values of the LTSU and its members.

The use of gender-neutral pronouns need to be normalised within current society so Queer people can be recognised and accepted fully. Using gender-neutral pronouns create a safe space for individuals who may not be able to come out, and negates the gender binary.

The LTSU needs to update all current regulations, using only gender-neutral pronouns, to fully reflect the variety of students it represents. All students need to be represented as they are either governed, or affected, by the union's various regulations in some manner.

Action

1. All current LTSU regulations (see below) will have all pronouns changed to gender neutral pronouns.

- Clubs & Societies Council Regulations
- Education Council Regulations
- Code of Conduct Regulations
- Committee & Office Bearer Regulations
- Discipline Regulations
- ISA Regulations
- LTSU Council Standing Orders
- LTSU Delegation to the General Manager
- LTSU Election Regulations
- LTSU OB Grievance Procedure
- MASO (Mature-aged Student Organisation) Regulations
- Membership regulations
- Mildura Student Association Regulations
- Shepparton Student Association Regulations

2. The gender-neutral pronouns used will be they/them/theirs.

3. The pronouns in current LTSU Regulations will be updated as soon as possible.

4. Future LTSU Regulations written will only use gender-neutral pronouns, instead of gender specific ones (i.e. she/her, he/him).

Mover: Annabelle Romano (President) on behalf of Kate Benesovsky (Queer Officer)

Second: Abhishek Madan (General Secretary)

Thomas asked if this would be applicable for the Women's officer positions as women's officers are female/women identifying.

Kate Benesovsky replied that it would be up to the discretion of the Women's officers .

Motion put to vote by Chairperson

Motion passed.

9. Other Business

Annabelle Romano (President) put forward a motion to move this agenda item to *in camera* under Section 65.2 of the Constitution, "*Meetings of Student Union bodies may only proceed in camera to consider confidential personal, employment, contractual and legal matters*" as the content is of a contractual matter.

Mover: Annabelle Romano (President)

Seconder: Warsan Tubea (Executive General Member)

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Motion Passed

9.1 Tender for R.O. (General Manager Elissa Khoury to present)

OGL Chosen for position of Returning officer for LTSU 2020 Election.

Meeting was taken out of *in camera*.

10. Next Meeting

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

Meeting closed by the Chairperson at: 4:28pm