



La Trobe University Student Union Council Meeting Wednesday, 17th of August

Council Meeting –

A council meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Wednesday 17th of August 2022 at 13:00 via Zoom link online.

Meeting opened by the chair at: 13:06

Meeting closed by the chair at: 13:34

Signed by Chair: Joel Blanch

Present: Eric Seychell, Joel Blanch,
Piper Horvat, Declan Redden, Corey
Perkins, Lani Dumas, Ramy Aljalil,
Dylan Vigilante, Monika Galovic,
Georgia Ibrom, Hamish Grundy, Sasha
Irvine, Sienna Fox, Tanmay Kabir

Apologies: Chloe Ye, Fatma Turac,
Ansh Verma

Not Present: Rory Gee, Alicia Griffiths

Meeting Agenda –

- 1. Acknowledgment of Country**
 - 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**
 - 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - 4. Procedural Matters**
 - 5. Office Bearer Report**
 - 6. LTSU Policy**
 - 7. Next Meeting**
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1. Acknowledgment 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.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes –

Minutes to the previous meeting of the LTSU Student Council are now publicly available on the LTSU Website.

Mover - Joel Blanch

Seconder - Tanmay Kabir

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Passed Unanimously

3. Matters Arising from Minutes –

Nil

4. Acceptance of Financial Report –

4.1) Motion to accept the 2022 Q2 financial reports

Mover – Eric Seychell

Seconder – Sienna Fox

Action –

1. The LTSU Student Council recognises their financial responsibilities outlined in clauses 30.4(f) and 30.4(g) of the LTSU Constitution which state:
*“[...] the Student Council is responsible for:
(f) the expenditure and investment of the funds of the Student Union
(g) setting the budget of the Student Union in accordance with clause 7.”*
2. The Council understands financial reports are exclusively for internal distribution for LTSU Student Councillors and agree to not breach the duty of confidentiality.
3. The Council accepts the second quarterly report of 2022.

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Passed Unanimously



5. Procedural Matters –

5.1) Motion to fill LTSU vacancies

Mover – Joel Blanch

Secunder – Sienna Fox

Action –

- 1) The Council moves to appoint Tanmay Kabir to the vacant position of Queer Officers and accept his resignation as a General Member
- 2) The Council moves to accept the resignation of Phillip Tantanis and appoint Piper Horvat to the vacant General Member position.
- 3) The Council moves to appoint Declan Redden to the vacant General Member position upon the resignation of Tanmay Kabir.
- 4) The Council moves to appoint Corey Perkins to the vacant General Member position.

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Passed Unanimously

6. Office Bearer Reports –

- a. President (*Joel Blanch*) – Presented at Council
 - b. General Secretary – N/A
 - c. Welfare-Vice President (*Ansh Verma*) – Not present
 - d. Education-Vice President (*Eric Seychell*) – Presented at Council
 - e. Postgraduate Officer – N/A
 - f. Education & Public Affairs Officers (*Lani Dumas & Ramy Aljalil*) – Presented at Council
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- g. Welfare Officers (*Fatma Turac*) – Not Present
 - h. Residential Officers (*Dylan Vigilante & Georgia Ibrom*) – Presented at Council
 - i. Social Justice Officer (*Hamish Grundy*) – Presented at Council



- j. Women's Officer (Sasha Irvine) – Presented at Council
- k. Queer Officer – N/A
- l. Disabilities Officer (*Monika Galovic*) – Presented at Council
- m. POC Officer (*Chloe Ye*) – Not present
- n. Activities Officer – N/A
- o. Rabelais Editors (*Callum Burkitt & Lewis Kimpton Drake*) – Presented at Council

Motion to Accept Report Backs

Mover: Joel Blanch

Secunder: Eric Seychell

Passed Unanimously

7. LTSU Policy –

4.1) Motion to amend and permanently adopts new Election Regulations

Mover – Eric Seychell

Secunder – Joel Blanch

Preamble

The current standing LTSU Elections Regulations are not fit for purpose and has led to temporary elections regulations being adopted at every election since 2020. These changes reflect how our union currently operates and puts forward a better way to run our elections in the interests of students.

Action

1. The LTSU councils agrees to re-adopt the LTSU 2021 Temporary Elections Regulations with the following amendments:
 - I. Change clause 14.1a to read “on Monday from 10:00am to 4:00pm,”
 - II. Change clause 14.1b to read “on Tuesday from 10:00am to 4:00pm,”
 - III. Change clause 14.1c to read “on Wednesday from 10:00am to 4:00pm,”
 - IV. Change clause 14.1d to read “on Thursday from 10:00am to 2:00pm, and”
 - V. Add clause 14.5 to read “Campaign material may only be displayed on the Bundoora campus on polling days.”



- VI. Add clause 14.6 to read “Campaigners may not canvas votes in-person from students outside of the times prescribed in regulation 14.1.”
 - VII. Change clause 15.4 to read “In-person ballot papers must not be issued after the time for the close of voting each day under regulation 14.1”
 - VIII. Change clause 17.1b to read “Material must include authorisation from the returning officer in the format prescribed in regulation 17.1c”
 - IX. Add clause 17.1c to read “Authorisation of the material should be legibly displayed in the following way: (Authorised by Full Name, Student Number, and the Returning Officer).”
 - X. Add clause 17.7 to read “All physical campaign material must be explicitly authorised by the RO prior to publication. This includes, but is not limited to, any How-To-Vote recommendations, posters, flyers, and any other materials.” and renumber following clauses accordingly.
 - XI. Change clause 18.1d to read “interfere with any ballot box, ballot paper, voters’ roll, nomination, in-person polling device, or other things related to the election;”
 - XII. Change clause 18.1j to read “coerce, threaten, cast a vote on behalf of a voter, or otherwise interfere with any candidate or voter;”
 - XIII. Change clause 18.1o to read “Liking, commenting, or sharing election material without caption or other new content published online is not considered to be participation for the purpose of this regulation”
 - XIV. Add clause 18.1q to read “Participate, direct, or provide materials to anyone to chalking.”
 - XV. Add clause 19.6 to read “Students may not make vexatious complaints as determined by the RO”
 - XVI. Add clause 19.6a to read “In the case a student makes vexatious complaints, the RO may dismiss complaints without hearing from person/s subject to the complaint.”
2. The LTSU agrees to title this new document “La Trobe Student Union Election Regulations (August 2022)”.
 3. The LTSU agrees to adopt the document titled “La Trobe Student Union Elections Regulations (August 2022)” as the permanent election regulations.

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Passed unanimously

4.2) Motion to award Isabella Curie an LTSU Life Membership
Mover – Eric Seychell
Secunder – Sienna Fox

Preamble



Isabella Currie has been a long-serving member of the LTSU council, being a key member of the campaign to save the union in 2021, as well as being a member who promoted and actively ensured our council followed best governance practices. Fighting to defend student unionism and integrity are the kind of values that people on our council must have to give the LTSU long term success, and LTSU council should recognise and reward people accordingly.

Action

- 1) The council award Isabella Currie an LTSU Life Membership in recognition of her extensive service to the union.

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Passed unanimously

4.3) Motion Supporting NUS End Deadnaming at Universities Campaign

Mover – Eric Seychell

Secunder – Sienna Fox

Preamble

Deadnaming is a practice that risks the welfare, wellbeing, and safety of trans, gender and nonbinary people and needs to be stopped. The prevalence of deadnaming is an institutional problem that fails to acknowledge an individual's chosen name and continues to be problematic, invalidating, and transphobic towards transgender, gender diverse and non-binary students. A recent NUS Survey of queer students in Australia identified that 83% of student had said that there was a persistent deadnaming issue at their university, 93% of students indicated that they were deadnamed on student facing platforms, 20% were deadnamed by staff and 43% were deadnamed on university accounts. This clearly identifies deadnaming as a prevalent issue on university campuses and the need for it to be urgently addressed.

Universities are failing to build inclusive and supporting learning environments for transgender, gender diverse and non-binary students. Universities should have a duty of care towards their students and have a responsibility to provide a safe learning environment that minimises opportunities for psychosocial harm. They need to acknowledge that until action is taken to end deadnaming in Australian Universities, trans, non-binary and gender diverse students will continue to be at severe risk of bullying, harassment, physical violence and psychosocial harm. It is time for universities to protect transgender, gender diverse and non-binary students and allow them to bring their whole selves to their studies. It is time for universities to recognise that a chosen name is not optional and should be always respected.

Platform

1. The LTSU acknowledges that deadnaming is a prevalent issue in universities and is a risk to the welfare and wellbeing of students in particular transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary students.



2. The LTSU condemns the deadnaming that occurs on and off campus especially through student facing platforms and within the classroom.
3. The LTSU believes that a student's chosen name is valid and is not optional and should be respected and that the allowance of deadnaming especially towards transgender, gender diverse and non-binary students is problematic, invalidating, and transphobic.
4. The LTSU believes that university staff should be provided with training on inclusive language, including pronoun use and deadnaming and the risks to students when they are deadnamed or misgendered.
5. The LTSU supports the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department's 'My Records, My Rights: Stop Deadnaming at Universities' campaign calling for an end to deadnaming at universities.

Action

1. The LTSU Council will endorse and sign the open letter that the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department has that is being addressed to Vice Chancellor's and Universities Australia calling for an end to deadnaming at universities.
2. The LTSU will write a statement supporting the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department's campaign to end deadnaming at universities and publish this on Facebook.
3. The LTSU will share the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department's petition encouraging La Trobe students to sign the petition to put pressure on universities to stop deadnaming on campus.

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Passed unanimously

4.4) Motion to establish a committee to review the LTSU office-bearer regulations, the function of the executive, the transition of power post-annual elections, and further functions and process of the union

Mover – Eric Seychell

Secunder – Sienna Fox

Preamble

The LTSU has undergone significant changes since 2020, and it is important to review some of the key governance aspects of the union.

Action

1. The Student Council agrees to establish a committee (as per clause 43.1 of the LTSU constitution) to review the LTSU office-bearer regulations, the function of



the executive, the transition of power post-annual elections, and further functions and process of the union as outlined in clause 2 of this motion.

2. The Student Council outlines the terms of reference for the committee as:
 - a. Student Honoraria, in particular a mechanism to enforce all honorarium changes are equitable and proportionate to the expectations of office-bearers; and
 - b. Training of Office-Bearers, Council Members, and the Executive; and
 - c. Managing the transition period following the LTSU's annual elections; and
 - d. Reviewing the function and operation of the LTSU Executive; and
 - e. Establishing campaign approval frameworks; and
 - f. Reviewing Office-Bearer expectations; and
 - g. Reviewing and creating clear procedures for Office-Bearer performance management.

3. The Student Council agree to appoint the following to the committee:
 - a. The President and the Education Vice-President; and
 - b. Two members of the Student Council; and
 - c. The General Manager of the LTSU.

4. The Student Council affirms affirmative action will apply to the committee, ensuring there is an equal gender-balance on the committee.

5. The Student Council formally agrees to strongly consider the recommendations made by the committee that fall within the terms of reference.

6. The Student Council formally agrees to consider any recommendations made by the committee that fall outside the terms of reference but are related to the function of the union.

7. The committee should meet a minimum of 4 times during the time between August 17th and December 3rd, and a report must be presented to the LTSU council in October with recommendations.

8. The committee is to be chaired by the General Manager of the LTSU.
 - a. In the case the General Manager is unavailable to chair the committee, a chair will be elected by vote of the committee members, with the President acting as the Returning Officer.

Motion put to vote by chairperson



Passed unanimously

8. Next Meeting

The eighth meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Wednesday the 14th of September 2022 at 13:00 via Zoom link online.