
Under Section 65(c) of the UMSU Constitution, the General Secretary is required to present half-yearly reports to Students’ Council on UMSU’s finances. This report highlights key issues in UMSU’s expenditure, and identifies trends which may have implications for expenditure for the remainder of the year. It also provides an update on the status of budget lines frequently used by Students’ Council. The report is current to June 30 so authorised expenditure and income received after this date are not reflected in this report. There are a number of errors in the report and these are being clarified with MUSUL Finance.

Overview

UMSU’s income for the first half of 2015 was $2,956,226.92, which is approximately half of the total amount UMSU will receive in 2015. The vast majority of UMSU’s expenditure is derived from the SSAF, which UMSU receives in instalments throughout the year. UMSU’s total expenditure to the end of June 2015 was $2,663,775.43, resulting in an operating surplus of $292,451.49.

Based on current trends, across the organisation as a whole UMSU is on track to break even or return a small surplus. However, this surplus is expected to be smaller than the current half-year figure as a number of large, once-off budgeted payments are yet to be expended, such as election costs and NUS affiliation fees. It should be noted that due to the nature of the organisation, expenditure is not even throughout the year. For example, certain periods and events, such as O-Weeks, require much higher rates of expenditure than other times of the year, and large once-off payments such as election expenses are paid at various times throughout the year as required. This means there should not be any assumption that the quantum of the operating surplus at June 30 will have a direct relationship to the end of year outcome. Another financial report will be presented to Students’ Council in November 2015.

Office Bearer Department Expenditure

Mid-way through the year, most Student Office Bearer-run departments have spent just under half of their total budget, and are therefore on track to breaking even or returning a small surplus.

The Queer Department, which has spent just over half of its annual budget ($11,325.37 of $20,000) is one exception to this. However this expenditure is largely due to the Department’s major event, the Pride Ball, occurring in Semester 1. The Indigenous Department is another exception, having spent $31,862.05; well beyond its initial allocation of $20,000. This is due to the Department receiving an external grant of $25,727.27 to assist the Department in supporting students to attend the Indigenous University Games.

Two departments have spent considerably less than expected so far. The Disabilities Department has spent $2,210.64 of $20,000, and the VCA has spent $7,414.66 of $35,000.
Deficits

A number of other departments and volunteering programs recorded minor deficits, which are explained below. None of these appear to be of particular concern at this time.

Union House Theatre (UHT) recorded a small operating deficit of $5,820.03. A significant proportion of UHT’s income comes from theatre hire, and as theatre hire and associated revenue tends to increase in the second half of the year, UHT is not expected to return a deficit at the end of 2015.

There is an operating deficit of $32,047.56 in AV@Melbourne, due to the payment of redundancy entitlements. The VCE Summer School recorded a deficit of $1,098.18. This is not expected to remain the case by the end of 2015, as the incoming Directors will be seeking to secure sponsorship and payments for participation in the program.

The Student Union Advocacy Service invoices the University quarterly. The invoice for the second quarter of 2015 was raised in early July so this is not reflected in June financial reports.

Budget lines of interest

Only a small amount of the half-yearly Volunteering budget has been used so far (14,111.71 of $90,453.00). The large amount initially budgeted for includes salary expenses of one full-time and one part-time staff member, however currently only a part-time staff member is employed. The Volunteering budget is also now used for student Directors’ honoraria.

The Whole of Union budget line, with an initial allocation of $10,000, has $8,372.66 remaining (expenditure of $1627.34).

The Special Activities Weeks budget line, with an initial allocation of $15,000, has $13,840 remaining (expenditure of $1160.00).

Hana Dalton, UMSU General Secretary

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