



**University of Melbourne Student Union**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Student Office Bearer Reports**  
**12:50pm, Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019**  
**Location: North Court, Union House, the University of Melbourne**

<b>Student Office Bearer Reports</b>	
President	Submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	Submitted
Clubs & Societies	Not submitted
Creative Arts	Submitted
Disabilities	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted
Environment	Submitted
Indigenous	Submitted
Media	Submitted
People of Colour	Submitted
Queer	Submitted
Welfare	Submitted
Women's	Submitted
Burnley	Not submitted
Southbank	Not submitted

*All Office Bearer Reports are presented as they were received, with only formatting changes.*

## **President Molly Willmott**

### **THE STATE OF THE UNION**

2019 UMSU has been a wild ride – some would argue more wild than usual. I am currently managing the process of the biggest constitutional amendments in UMSU’s history, while also balancing the student precinct project, free speech on campus, climate activism, a federal election, and just the day to day running’s of the union and support of office-bearers.

I’ve really taken a keen focus on student facing initiatives. I’ve done various panels, workshops, and have met with parts of the uni and its subsider bodies that we have not interacted with before. My main goal of the year is to leave successive presidents with more networks and more opportunities to do broader campaigns and initiatives.

As you may have seen, we have had some changes in office with resignations from disabilities, queer, indigenous, and education academic. Don’t fret though! We’re operating effectively, efficiently, and entertainingly. Please read through all office bearer reports to see what we’ve been up to.

#### Summerfest

##### Southbank Carnival

Really happy to report back that this ended up being a good day. It something that we should be working at pushing further as we’re going to down to Southbank – working with staff, student reps and groups to boost days like these. I think it ended up being successful but would love to see increased attendance and interaction with the union in the long term. Drag Queen was lit too.

##### Parkville Carnival and Clubs Days

Huge! Our union and our OBs talked to thousands of students, got thousands of students engaged, so many new club members, and we’re producing the meatiest mailing lists possible. Very proud of the team – there were a few hiccups and issues during these days but I think it’s put us in excellent place for the rest of the year.

##### Sleepover

Summerfest week 0 went out with a bang. Not much to report back from this other than I was just hanging around making sure everyone (OBs and students) we’re doing alright. Attendance has dropped since last year, so I believe there needs to consideration of this from the next term of Obs

##### Other Stuff

Disabilities held the first ever carnival day Ida event. As such, it was a learning curb. There were issues with capacity, how many people came, and autonomy, I think all need to be discussed but this was certainly a learning curb for the union and they’ll have to be debrief regarding it. I think with this all-in mind it was handled as best as could be.

### **STUDENT PRECINCT**

We started the year with a briefing about the project up until now with Alex Kennedy, project director. We're moving into the design stage this year, so I'm going to be making sure the heart and soul of UMSU is reflected into the new precinct. We're well underway with student experience and engagement meeting with a couple of firms and groups involved in the project. Two things I've already flagged in initial discussions that I think the union needs to have a strong voice in is workers right and antiwage theft measures in the precinct and ethical procurement of materials. This may be after my time but hopefully bringing this stuff up now will mean it's in the conversation in 2022 or so.

At the first proper steering committee meeting we begun to the Detailed Design Stage of the student precinct project. We have been talking about the use of space, greenery, and how we are adhering to our Reconciliation Action Plan.

At mid sem 1 at student leaders we signed off on the majority of Doug Mac, the building that UMSU will be moving into. There are a few things left to sign off on, but as of right now were heading towards the end of the detailed design phase. At steering committee, I was given the very funky opportunity to look at the materials that the precinct will be built with. Mesh, brick, carpet, velvet, stone, woods, lino, paint swatches, pin board – everything! But curtains – no curtains 😊. The best material that I touched would have to be the glass brick! It's clear! Anyway, this will all be on display where tsubu used to be and I implore you all to go and look at what our precinct will look AND FEEL like. I really enjoyed this.

### **RENEW OUR UMSU**

Please refer to the general secretary's report for an update about this.

### **CONFERENCES**

At the start of my term I had the privilege of attending the Third Annual Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) Conference. TEQSA is the peak regulatory body of tertiary and post-school education in Australia and its conference sees delegates from nearly every small and large higher education provider come together to talk about the state of Australian higher education. I was, due to budget stuff, not able to attend the entire thing, but what I did attend was really insightful and gave me the scope of higher ed from a regulatory stand point.

I was also able to attend a lunch of student representatives and share stories about how our unions and our universities interaction with us. This was a great opportunity to network with other reps and university administration around the country.

I was a delegate for Unimelb at the 31st annual student union Christmas, NUS Natcon. I spoke on a range of policy from Womens, to education, to environment. I am proud of many of the policies passed at NUS Natcon, especially ones surrounding safety on campus and federal election campaigns. Of course, it wasn't always the best of times, and it's important to note that the behaviour of some conference attendees was problematic and unproductive. It unfortunate that some incredibly important policy and great actions of the union are overshadowed by this

Presidents' Summit was held at Deakin Burwood from the 3-6 th of February. It saw nearly every campus president in the country and NUS national office bearers convene to talk about the most pertinent issues of higher education and student unionism at present day. Besides

hearing back about the campaigns our national body will be running this year, here are some highlights of this conference that are literally invaluable to me as UMSU President;

- Writing Government Submissions – Something I really want to do this year is for UMSU to have a louder voice in young people and tertiary education legislation and its formulation. Regardless of whether its state or federal bills, UMSU should be involved in the parliamentary process and lending our voice to shaping bills that affect our students. Former senator, Trish Crossin, presented about the process of doing so. Since then I have contacted both the federal and state governments to be notified of inquiries relating to youth affairs, education, public transport, workers’ rights and penalty rates. Get ready for a lot of submissions this year!

- CW/ SEXUAL VIOLENCE - Nina Funnels presentation about Safety on Campus – This is very close to my heart as a former Women’s officer, but there are going to be big shifts in this area this year nationally. Dan Tehan and TEQSA have shelved a national taskforce once again, we are having the follow up to the 2016 Change the Course report, and there are extremely worrying things happening regarding underage students, international students, and colleges that we must keep an eye out for on campus.

- Media Training – we got some basic media training about strategy to deal with the press internally and externally to the union. This will come handy when I get formal media training in the coming month or so

- SSAF Discussions – each union presented their SSAF structure to the summit, all I can say is that we are EXTREMELY lucky to have our SSAF allocation and the services we run in this union are so vital, but also unique, because of our 37% allocation. For context, there are unions that receive less than 5% of their SSAF.

- SSDP – SSDP came and presented about their pill testing campaign. As the first union in Australia to successfully roll out a pill testing pilot, I’m keen to endorse this campaign (see motions).

Regardless of all of this, the opportunity to talk to other campus presidents at the summit was invaluable and reconfigured my perspective on a range of issues in tertiary education. My recommendation is to continue to engage in this summit, it was truly invaluable.

## **Student Life (MSEEP)**

The Student Enhancement Green Paper was tabled in the past fortnight. It includes a range of strategies that inform an approach to an interconnected community for students at the university of Melbourne. It’s an important initiative, and the paper makes some points. We discussed our position on the 10th at a special elected rep called to discuss this.

There are also smatterings of discussion about this throughout this report

## **MEETINGS**

### **Academic Board 1**

Went to my first ACA Board! The vice chancellor attends which was nice. The university is introducing a new upper chancellery position whose portfolio is student life – is exciting and something to watch out for.

The main discussion was surrounding a Freedom of Speech/Aca Freedom policy the university is drafting up. We will be discussing its application and drafting in future meetings.

### **Academic Board 2**

Rescheduled AB happened! It was a quite one. Not much to report other than there was discussion on MSEEP and the relationship between students, their social opportunities and the academic environment.

### **Elected reps**

These meetings have key people in chancellery sitting down with student reps. This is the first time we are doing it this term, so this is more of a feelers meeting sussing out what they are for

I'll do a breakdown of what was discussed in a tick, but basically, we had discussion regarding the purpose and use of these meetings which reaffirmed that they would be used for general discussion and information sharing between the union and chancellery. Education attended with me, and reported back to the university their focuses this year – primarily mental health, ethical scholarships, employability. The GSA also reported back on what they were up to. Breakdown of what was discussed here;

#### **- Boeing**

This has been the first opportunity to discuss the universities relationship with Boeing, who is one of the largest weapons manufacturers in the world. Chancellery directed us and our questions to the member of staff most involved in the program and Will and I are in the process of organising a meeting

#### **- Ethical employers at the STEMM careers fair**

we have discussed the inclusion of unethical employers at university careers fairs with chancellery. We are setting up a meeting with the people in careers in the next fortnight or so to talk about this issue.

#### **- Student Housing**

With the building of new student accommodation around the Parkville campus, we have started talking to the uni about how it is set up and the partnerships with external organisations. Watch this space, we're in ongoing meetings etc.

We had a special elected rep just for the MSEEP Green Paper. We presented chancellery with some broad issues that we have with the paper, and where we think its strengths are. The TLDR is that we believe that the student experience is outside of the classroom and is the totality of a student's time – academic, social, services, and transport. The official response is due on the 30th, we have started it.

## **OTHER THINGS IVE BEEN UP TO**

### **Cultural Estate**

We had a meeting with Su baker, head of the cultural estate, and Rose from the science gallery. The university is developing a strategy regarding its \$450 million-dollar cultural estate and how it interacts with students and the history of our university. namely they are looking at how to involve performing arts (which we do very well). Susan from A&E went along and talked about UMSU connection to the performing arts UHT and our own collections as a union. There is also some collaboration with the science gallery that may be in the future! Very cool! Also, I realised that my dream job is to just talk about art and culture all the time so watch me get on like 50 gallery and theatre boards when Im middle aged.

### **Federal Budget**

It was shit. There was no mention of students or young people and the actual issues we face. Surplus doesn't matter when students are still in poverty but WHATEVER. I'm going to have a chat to education public and welfare about how to best respond.

### **Ms Willmott goes to Washington (parliament of vic lmao)**

Cam and I went to meet with the Minister of Transport, Melissa Horne, and her advisors. We discussed a range of issues surrounding student accessibility to university and its relationship with public transport. Everything from the Free Tram Zone extension, to concessions for all students, and the enforcement of ticket inspectors were all talking points, and I believe that we're able to progress with a lot of what was discussed. I am currently in the process of setting up meetings with the Minister for Higher Education (Gayle Tierney) and Martin Pakula, well known for being the former attorney general and once a part of the VCE Legal Studies Syllabus, now the minister for Trade (the ministry in charge on international students which is pretty grim that they're in that portfolio but alas! We proceed!).

### **RadEd Week**

I'm chaired the student sustainability forum tonight (16/4) for the environment department. Very keen to talk a sustainable, divested campus. Will updates in future reports

RadEd week also gave me my first scandal of the year. The how privilege manifests in tutorials workshop was taken to the Australian over claims it told white men to be silent. This was inaccurate, misleading and misrepresentative of the workshop. Got a mention on the bolt report though that was fun.

### **Respect Work**

Met with Celia Scott from chancellery to talk Respect. We received an update on consent matters, our consent module, and the anonymous reporting register that was released this year. We also talked about the future of anonymous reporting at the university, how the VC is interacting with the space, and the weird ground we've found ourselves with respect – in that, that there are still issues that surround the safety of students on campus but most of them are being addressed. In all honesty, this space will be a difficult one to navigate in the next few years because it shifted from pushing the university and other stakeholder to implement key changes to watching these initiatives roll out, keeping pressure, and acting. This is good and bad, right now it's a waiting game and looking at how initiatives and reports come out and seeing what we can do about it.

### **Student Strike for Climate Change**

I've been working with NUS and Enviro is organising the Student Strike for Climate on campus. The march rally was great and about 50 people turned out – we're hoping the pre-election one will be good too

### **Federal election**

We did enrolment drives and have made some graphics about what parties support what policies and how that will affect students.

### **BUPA**

At the start of April, the university is launching a uni-wide mental health and wellbeing survey. It will be done in collaboration with BUPA. Its data will look at all aspects of university services, including umsu, and will address where the university is truly falling down with mental health services. This will be crucial data so have a look out

Free Speech!

## **NEXT SEM**

Next sem will be very interesting. Things students should watch out for are how the MSEEP changes will be discussed and what impact that will have on teaching and learning spaces on campus.

Student precinct will also be going to be trucking along – there will be activations in the next few months around campus to intergrade students with their new precinct that will hopefully be opened in in 2021

We're also in the process of engaging with Stop1, and academic board committees to progress campaigns on issues on flexap, Cadmus, and student services accessibility.

Hopefully, the BUPA results will also be out so there's a chance that we could engage and build campaigns off that.

We are also investigating affiliating to other student organisations like AQSN and UATSYS. That will be coming up in the immediate future.

**General Secretary  
Reece Moir**

### **Summerfest**

Summerfest went great this year! Lots of students got to listen and learn about the amazing stuff UMSU has to offer them! I spent my day at Southbank helping some departments setting up and was there for support if needed. Parkville Summerfest was very busy, so I spent the day wondering between stalls to make sure OBs were okay, and also helped out Sarah Tynan on the NUS stall for some of the day. I also spent some time at the info marquee, handing out UMSU Guides and talking to new students.

### **Publications**

As General Secretary, I am the publisher of all publications produced by UMSU. It's been great to see what Media have been up to! Coming into Semester Two there will be more department publications coming out – I'd like to stress that I should receive copies of these before they go to print! ☐

### **New Student Precinct**

I am an appointed representative to a part of the New Student Precinct that covers student experience! There has only been one meeting this year so far, which I was unable to attend. Sad!

### **Students' Council and Committees**

The management and organisation of meetings of Students’ Council is an integral component of my position. Unfortunately, there have been multiple inquorate meetings this year. I try to organise Council with quorum in mind; however, this year sees a Council with varying (and conflicting) availabilities and coupled with unforeseen events quorum hasn’t always been met.

### **Student Initiative Grants**

One particular initiative through the Students’ Council is the Student Initiative Grants. Interested persons and groups can apply for a SIG of up to \$1,000 to partly fund an event or project that benefits University of Melbourne students. The program has continued this year, with multiple organisations already applying for grants!

### **Presidents’ Summit**

The National Union of Students organises a Presidents’ Summit each year. Sometimes, like this year and last, they also invite General Secretaries. I think it was an invaluable experience to meeting with other executive office bearers from across the country. We got to learn about the direction of NUS for that year, their departmental campaigns, and also share ideas with our colleagues. Trainings included media training, workshops on safety on campus, and discussions with the NTEU.

### **Renew our UMSU**

The Renew project was an initiative started last year by Justin Baré, CEO, Desiree Cai, President, and Daniel Beratis, General Secretary. The project is basically a revamp of our constitution so that is updated and in line with the direction and operation of the Union today! Consultation and research were an aspect of the process last year, with the findings put in propositions for constitutional change.

Through deliberation in Students’ Council and between the project team (President, General Secretary, CEO, and consultant), these propositions and documents have been scrutinised, amended, and passed onto the legal team we have engaged with. Students’ Council will be privy to draft constitutions and constitutional documents as they come (this is confidential due to the nature of the documents, and the fact that these are drafts and revisions, not a final product), in preparation for a Special General Meeting to be held this year. At this SGM, we will ask students to approve of our new constitution!

### **Annual General Meeting**

As an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic), we are required to hold an Annual General Meeting every year at which Members—a group comprising all students—consider the financial documents and other such matters as required, the result of which shall be delivered to Consumer Affairs Victoria.

**Activities**  
**Olivia Panjkov & Liam O’Brien**

### **Key Activity 1**

Tuesday bands have been well received this semester, and the Vinyl decal in front of the office has been checked out by students too. The two biggest events so far have been Stella Donnelly and Babba, both drawing very large crowds. Stella Donnelly had a great message to spread with her music, and Babba was a much needed week 5 dance party.

### **Key Activity 2**

Thursday BBQs have become very big this year. There is a regular and large crowd that comes every week for lunch. This is possibly due to the BBQs being advertised heavily along with the gig and event advertisement. Some students have told us that this is their main meal of the day. When crowds are large, we need to give out smaller portions to ensure everyone gets fed. The students need to line up multiple times to get enough food.

### **Key Activity 3**

UMSU Sleepover was a big night with lots of different activities going on around Union House. Students really enjoyed the laser tag and silent disco. The Clubs & Societies events were amazing, and provided hours of entertainment and opportunities to meet new people. It was a warm night, and so the icy poles and extra water purchased was well-received. Going forward, it is recommended that this be a solely Activities department event in the future, as the involvement of some of the other departments added unnecessary contingencies. The BBQ, band and comedian in North court before the event started was a good plan and the department highly recommends this set up for future events of this style.

### **Key Activity 4**

Start of Uni Party (SoUP) was very popular this year. The event sold out and had a great turnout. The event had a relatively cheap ticket price, and so it was accessible to more students, and particularly for first years, who had just had a big and pricy O-Week. The pizza was nice and simple, and the two deliveries of pizza were appreciated. It used the same set-up as the gig on North Court for Sleepover, which was well-received again.

### **Key Activity 5**

St Patrick's Day Celebration was held in the Ida bar this year. The crowd appreciated the option to hang out on the dance floor as well as the balcony. The AV team and the bar worked hard to handle the last minute changes to the event, and it all came together really well as a result. Arrangements were made to reuse the leftover steins and make use of all the extra food. However, due to a malfunction of the Activities fridge, the food was spoiled. An event of this style is highly recommended for next year.

### **Action Points to be completed**

#### **Action Point 1**

The Comedy Competition will be on Wednesday the 1st of May. A comedian MC has been booked and we are still accepting entrants to the competition.

#### **Action Point 2**

Trivia is being planned and the advertisement will be up on social media soon

#### **Action Point 3**

Preparation of Tuesday Band Program for Semester 2 is underway, and a gig guide will be printed as soon as the program is finalized

**Clubs & Societies**  
**Jordan Tochner & Christopher Melenhorst**

*No report submitted.*

**Creative Arts**  
**Eloise Hammill & Lucy Holz**

**SUMMERFEST**

For the Whole of Union Sleepover, the Creative Arts Department ran a Scrunchie Making and Chill space in the Arts Lab and an Environmental Disaster Maze in collaboration with the Environment Department. The chill space was heavily used and many scrunchies were created.

We held stalls at both the VCA and Parkville Carnival days, offering face painting and collage making. We used this opportunity to talk about our upcoming workshops, how to get involved in the arts at university, and Mudfest.

We held a Botanical Drawing workshop during Week 1, which was extremely popular and reached capacity. Originally this was to be a collaboration with Burnley and was to be held on their campus, however due to the change of time because of extreme heat, we had to relocate to Parkville. Nonetheless it was a huge success and had fantastic student engagement.

Summerfest ended with the infamous Arty Party, in collaboration with Union House Theatre. There were lots of fresh faces at the event – mainly first years who were excited to get involved in the creative arts and theatre scene. This year the student theatre groups were involved in ‘student theatre group speed dating’, which involved representatives from each group giving a 60 second speech about their group.

**CREATIVE ARTS GRANTS**

Over the course of the Semester we met and consulted with grant applicants in preparation for our first Creative Arts grant round. We held individual consultations with five student applicants and have received a total of four applications for Creative Arts grants of \$500 each. Each received the grant, and recipients included a student theatre group, visual artists and a filmmaker.

**GRANT WORKSHOP**

We ran a grant workshop early in semester to focus on upskilling and supporting student artists who are considering applying for grants. We spoke about Creative Arts grants, Annie from Theatreboard talked about the grants they provide, Petra from Union House Theatre

spoke to their grants and Susan from Arts and Culture gave information about SSAF grants. We had a very engaged group of students attend who asked lots of questions, and one ended up being successful in their application for one of our Creative Arts grants.

### **TALKING OUT OF YOUR ARTS (TOOYA) – POST SHOW Q&A**

Talking Out of Your Arts is a post-show Q&A event designed as an opportunity for students to speak to their work and in turn open up a dialogue between community and artist of creative processes, and how we respond to the works we attend. We host these sessions for any student theatre group that asks for one. Although there have not been many productions yet this semester, we have conducted one for MUDCRAB's production of Kit Goodman! A Good Man, and have already organised to host another for Four Letter Word's (un)Australian and Melbourne University Shakespeare Company's As you Like it.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATIONS**

So far we have collaborated with Activities Department in the Whole of Union Sleepover Event, the Environment Department on the Environmental Disaster Maze and Union House Theatre for Arty Party. We look forward to future collaborations, particularly during Mudfest.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATION**

Student representation on the Theatre Board, Union House Theatre venue allocation, George Paton Gallery selection meeting, Arts and Entertainment SAG, UHT awards committee, New Student Precinct, New Student Precinct in collaboration with Next Wave Festival.

### **MUDFEST PREPARATION**

Mudfest is the largest student run interdisciplinary arts festival in the Southern Hemisphere. Occurring biennially, this year's Mudfest will run over eight days, from the 21-28 August. It will include events, workshops, Q&A panels and guest speakers as well as the artwork itself as part of its interdisciplinary program.

This year Mudfest will respond to the theme "Regeneration". This stems from the dire need for fundamental change within the frightening reality of our world. "Necessity is the mother of invention", and the challenges we currently face as a global society provide this necessity for change and regeneration. This year's festival contemplates the idea that regeneration is required in times of need. We must change and evolve to ultimately thrive. In Mudfest 2019 we hope to provide the fertile soils to allow our artists to push boundaries. We hope to support emerging artists to develop and blossom in their practice as they grow and learn, producing new original work in response to their reality. Mudfest 2019 is about growth in all its many facets, artistically, professionally and as a community.

Mudfest provides students with the unique opportunity to be a part of a festival environment that encourages cross-pollination with other disciplines and approaches, as well as fostering an environment of inclusion, sustainability and development. In 2019 Mudfest will maintain the initiative of showcasing works that are environmentally sustainable and accessible to people living with disability, encouraging artists to share their work in an inclusive and ethical environment.

We have just finished selecting our core Mudfest Festival Team. This group includes a Production Manager, two Deputy Production Managers, Access Manager, Sustainability Manager, Marketing Manager and Publicity Manager, Website and Ticketing Manager, Visual Arts Creative Producer, Performing Arts Creative Producer, Music Creative Producer, Interdisciplinary Creative Producer and Moving Image Creative Producer. This hiring

process included applications and interviews, as well as contacting other UMSU departments so they could advertise to their relevant networks. All these are student roles and they each have a mentor, allowing for further professional development.

Artist applications are ready currently open. They will close on Monday the 13th of May at 9am, and we will then begin selecting works in collaboration with the Creative Producers.

We are holding an artist information session at 11am on Friday May 3, which will allow prospective applicants to ask questions and receive support and information regarding their applications and work.

We have created a festival timeline and established effective communication channels for the production team in our whole team meeting. We have created measurable festival goals and ways we can determine whether they have been achieved throughout the process.

## **Disabilities Lucy Birch**

### **VCA Summerfest**

A disabled speaker was hired to read spoken word on the main stage, this was successful. We also handed out flyers and help run the UMSU tables.

### **Parkville Carnival Day**

Parkville carnival day was very successful, a large amount of recruitment was chalked up to advertising during this event. We had several volunteers flyering for all of our events and a full time popcorn machine running that attracted a large amount of visitors. We likely advertised to hundreds of people.

### **Summerfest Events**

Our summerfest events were introduction to special consideration, disability speed friending, these events were successful with attendance of 10- 15 people per event, and many attendees were then recruited into the department and continue to come to collectives.

### **Regular Events**

Regular events, Beer and Boardgames, Disability and Mental Wellness Collective, Mindfulness Workshop and Anxiety Support Group have all been running smoothly with strong attendance, with the exception of Anxiety Support Group which has struggled to maintain consistent attendance numbers. Every week the Collective has seen the strongest growth out of all of the events, with attendance successfully climbing every week. In week 8 the collective will begin its first excursion to nearby cafe brunetti's, we hope also run movie collective excursions as well. Beer and Boardgames has also been very successful with an initial high attendance, lowering to a feasible 25 people per week. All events are currently running within budget.

### **Purchase of Assets**

We are also furnishing the disability space with a projector, carpets, and couches among some of the main features. We have bought art supplies, shaved ice machine (for allergies), water cooler, yoga mats, picture frames, dimmer switches, white noise machine, board games and rugs.

### **Autonomy**

We have passed to motion through our committee to make autonomy in the space flexible for careers as well as those chaperoning people with social anxiety

### **Renovations**

We are still furnishing the disability space. We are looking to illicit a response about projector installation from the university who have not gotten back to us, as of the 9th of February.

### **Artist Submissions**

25-35 artists have responded to the artist submission so far, with more expected with the release of comms made advertising in week 8. We are paying artists \$500 for the mural and \$100- \$200 for smaller pieces. These will also be used in the Imprint. Contracts have been organised.

### **Writing Submissions**

We are expecting a similar response from the week 8 writing advertisement. That has gone through several weeks of editing and organising contracts.

## **Education (Academic Affairs)**

### **Elizabeth Tembo & Dominic Ilagan**

### **Projects we have worked on so far this year:**

2. Scheduled Meetings

- TALQAC Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee

The Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee of the Academic Board has met twice in 2019. In his report to the first meeting on the 7th of March, Professor Richard James (Deputy Provost – Teaching & Learning) flagged in his report to the Committee that University Leadership are very concerned about the outcomes for student mental health and are putting this in the forefront of their work this year. UMSU was invited to present our own report: We expressed concern about poor assessment design and teaching and learning practices that haze and punish students leading to poor mental health outcomes. We also talked about the lack of student support for health and wellbeing, but also in accomplishing assessment tailored to the nuances of differences in practice between fields and faculties and how we don't happen to have that with Stop 1, and since Business Improvement Program in 2014 which abolished all Faculty-specific support bodies were disestablished and lumped into Stop1.

The Chair of the Meeting and Committee Professor Ian Malkin (Director of the JD Program and Dean of the Melbourne Law School) indicated and flagged at the prospect of starting a

working group regarding Student Mental Health, High Stakes Assessments, and Lack of Student Support, to be discussed at later meetings. This suite of concerns will set the theme for meetings of TALQAC this year.

- ACCC Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee

The Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee has met once for the 2019 at the time of writing. Professor Richard James (Deputy Provost – Teaching & Learning) flagged the University's concerns about the uncertainty moving forward of performance-based funding models for the Higher Education Sector in Australia, as had been indicated by both the major parties (with vast differences of course in how either party measures 'performance'). Business Intelligence flagged at the prospect of making overhauls to making the Study Plan/Handbook/Course Design interface, beginning with this widget they flagged and developed for breadth subjects. 'Co-creation' is the newest buzzword for the new student precinct which aims to improve student engagement: they want us to own the space and build a sense of community and belonging in it through projects and practices of co-creation.

- APC Academic Programs Committee

The APC meetings of the year have been very happening, dealing with the following

1. FlexAP The University's Flexible Academic Programming Project (FlexAP) was temporarily in hibernation but is slowly being implemented throughout the Uni. It was flagged that more streams of changes planned by the University will be phased in throughout the year and 2020. FlexAP aims to enhance the learning environment of large undergraduate classes, utilise more online testing and feedback resources, increase the range of subjects available during the summer and winter terms among others (more info on the UMSU and University websites). Though the issues that FlexAP aims to address are things we've identified as issues, so far, since 2015 there have been a mixture of positive and negative suggestions and once changes are made, it's excruciating to have them undone. We'll therefore be looking to work closely with Professor Gregor Kennedy (Pro VC of Teaching & Learning) to ensure the planned changes are student and staff friendly and that all parties are consulted with. We're hoping to meet with Professor Kennedy and/or Professor Neil Robinson to further discuss planned changes. Our goal for the year is to have healthy, transparent and robust discourse with University.

2. MDHS Following student feedback, plans are being made to restructure the first year subject in the Doctor of Medicine. We pushed to have the heads of the school ensure that students are heavily consulted throughout the process of the redesign, and the board was in agreement. The redesign is only in its early stages.

- SPC Selection Procedures Committee

This year we saw the University partner with Boeing to create engineering scholarships worth thousands of dollars. While this is going through, I sounded to the committee my intention of working with Sustainability to create opportunities for students to engage with companies involved in renewable energy and the transition to it through paid internships and scholarships. When it comes to scholarships it is important to note that it is the role of the committee to scrutinise the implementation, wording and logistics of scholarships (and not to create them). The committee also handles selection procedures for courses. I raised the issue of the University enrolling students whose English scores are less than the recommended levels for tertiary study in English while students have reported not receiving adequate support and being disadvantaged. The chair of SPC has been open to this discussion and sent through reviews relating the performance of those students who've needed to take on additional testing and follow additional recommendations. Compared to the rest of the

student cohort, these students are sometimes outperforming other students. The additional pressure and stress of studying in a language at this level is something the board recognises and other ways to support students are being pursued through channels outside of the scope of this board.

- AB Academic Board

One thing to highlight from Academic Board is the implementation of more streams of the Flexible Academic Programming (FlexAP) project. To put it simply, this project particularly focuses on digitalising more aspects of the delivery of our learning and assessments. A new committee has been made to oversee a select number of approved subjects transfer into this new stream. There is currently no student representation on this new committee. We have reached out to Professor Gregor Kennedy (Vice-Chancellor of Teaching and Learning) who is heading this project so we may find out more information about the nature of this stream, the subjects the program is to be trialled on and is currently being trialled in, and the room for student engagement and feedback, etc.

- Elected Reps with Chancellery

This meeting was being held as the Students' Council meeting most recently held (18/03) began. After hiccups with Raymond Priestley Security over whether or not Dominic should even be allowed into the meeting (we love provisional appointments and university management bureaucracy), we sat down with Professor Richard James, Professor Evan Kritikakos, reps from the GSA, and our own UMSU reps. EdAc flagged our projects and focuses for the year: student mental health, employability outcomes, green scholarships, equity in study materials, accessibility and 24-hour spaces, and lecture recordings, among others. Richard James plugged the Green Paper into student life and a culture of co-creation (this is fast becoming a buzzword among university management) on campus re: student mental health, alienation, and alluded to fostering vertical integration between current students and alumni to tackle alienation and improve student employability outcomes. Interesting meeting, if only to have witnessed Professor Kritikakos' bling. Gvng gvng.

### 3. O-Week

We had stalls at both the Southbank and Parkville Carnival Days. Despite having a great amount of engagement on both days it was especially difficult to discuss our campaigns with students, particularly at Southbank because most of the students we interacted with were first years who hadn't been in University before and were just there to make some friends, have some fun and collect as much free stuff as possible (BIG MOOD). We already knew Summerfest wasn't the best forum for engagement with our department and that engagement with EdAc would be low regardless as we're the University facing side of the Education department, the department that communicates directly with the University (whereas EdPub is the student facing side, the side that engages students). We contented ourselves to handing out free totes and ice-tea to those who signed up to our department's mailing list.

### 4. Student Employability

Undergraduates at the University of Melbourne enjoy employability outcomes that are ranked... (DRUMROLL PLEASE FOR THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION UNIVERSITY RANKING'S NUMBER ONE\* IN AUSTRALIA) number 7 out of 8 in the Group of Eight Universities of Australia: The 2018 QILT Graduate Outcomes Survey places us 34th in the 40 Universities covered by the Report. This is a big concern for Unimelb

students and UMSU representing them, and for University Management: Ed-Ac has taken on this issue for this year. We have dropped a line and touched base with the University Director of Student Success; he and Dominic met out of serendipity at a Unimelb Careers Networking Night. We're still to work out the scope and extent and the nitty gritty of UMSU/Unimelb cooperation on bettering student employability, and in bringing stakeholder groups like UMSU INTL and Faculty Clubs and Societies into the fold. Potential outcomes could mean more careers mentoring programs and more industry nights with Unimelb partners on the more modest side, and recommendations for tweaks to the Melbourne Model and the focuses on teaching and learning on the more ambitious side. At any rate, if we are unhappy with the substance of actions and solutions the University is putting forward: prepare for a student-led campaign on this.

\*For Graduate Research offerings

#### 5. Melbourne Law School Lecture Recordings

The push for compulsory class recordings in the law school is in full swing. Working with Education (Public), a position paper has been drafted and circulated to the heads of Melbourne Law School (MLS) and meetings and discussions over the position have been conducted with the Dean of the Law School, and in APC and in TALQAC. With already high levels of stress and anxiety within the school and disciplines, the lack of resources and student autonomy only serve to exasperate what is a broader issue. It is UMSU Education's position that Melbourne Law School (MLS) should make recordings of Melbourne Law School (MLS) classes accessible to students on an unconditional basis.

At present MLS follows its own internal special considerations processes to make class recordings available to students who either miss more than five consecutive business days or miss over five business days within a two-week period due to medical issues or extenuating personal circumstances. For the sake of students balancing work commitments with study, for the sake of English as an additional language (EAL) speakers, for the sake of those who due to stigma or lack of access are unable to acknowledge yet alone get help for and documentation of their mental illness (something seen at an astonishing rate within the industry and among MLS students) and for the significant number of students experiencing excessive assessment stress/anxiety; unconditional class recordings are a positive and essential step in the right direction. This demand is not unprecedented as it is actually the current University wide lecture recording policy. This has been a whole of Education campaign. Education (Public Affairs) collected over 500 signatures on a petition this year. Together we have created a position paper and have met with academics involved in coordinating the academic processes of MLS. This includes Professor Ian Malkin and Professor Anna Chapman. Education Academic has also submitted the papers to University Academic Board committees, Academic Programs Committee (APC) and, Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee (TALQAC) where we discussed and debated current MLS practices and our proposal in front of the wider University academic management community. Our first meeting was with Professor Malkin, a director of the JD and the chair of TALQAC. Though he chose not to divulge his stance on the matter due to his position as chair, we got the impression that MLS had little to no intention on changing their current practices as a review process and found that they, a proportion of students, staff and industry liked the current practices and feared that recordings would significantly alter the learning environment of the school. Our subsequent meeting with Professor Chapman, the Associate Dean of the JD, coordinated MLS's response. Our meeting with her all but reinforced what we had picked up from our meeting with Professor Malkin. Though there is a strong evidence that show that lecture attendance is not significantly impacted due to recordings, this fear based on anecdotal evidence still underpins the School's refusal to change. The meeting of

APC revealed that academics in university leadership have a diverse range of positions. There didn't seem to be strong support of either UMSU's position and MLS. The schools with similar teaching styles to Law such as Business do also automatically make class recordings available, however, they impose an attendance hurdle. Two compromises were suggested; adopt this policy and introduce a hurdle, or just make the lectures all available at the end of the semester. Were we to choose between the two, we would opt for the latter. Aside from that, it was revealed at APC that we cannot push these changes through APC/Academic Board and that, like with the previous change to University Lecture Recording Policy, it will need to go through the Provost. A member of Chancellery, Professor Gregor Kennedy offered to raise this issue with the Provost. We are yet to hear back from him.

#### 6. Ed Ac at Southbank

After hearing complaints about the delivery of assessments in the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, we met with Professor Gary McPherson (Director) and Associate Professor Elliot Gyger (Associate Director – Teaching & Learning) to discuss the assessment structure of the music performance core subjects of the Bachelor of Music (Performance) degree. It was discovered in the meeting that the assessment design and structure of these music performance subjects with a 100% weighted end-of-semester practical were inceptioned with the consultation and input of students from the Music Students' Society, but we all gleaned and generally agreed for the need to provide for students more opportunities for pastoral care to cope and be able to turn to their peers and upperclassmen mentors for help and support should they need it. We also flagged under-resourcing of essential student services (academic and wellbeing support) and peer-support programs supplied and sponsored by the University. They have agreed to get on board with us in our effort to secure more resources into health and wellbeing and pastoral care for the Southbank campus—at current, the Counselling and Psychological Services is only offered for three days of the week. We have met with individual Southbank general reps about this issue.

#### 7. Relationship with Advocacy

We have begun meeting with Advocacy on a regular basis (shoutout to Alanna!) to gain knowledge of previous actions by UMSU and knowledge of University staff. It has been immensely helpful in planning our campaigns and projects for the year.

#### 8. Collaboration with the NTEU

Progress has begun, following a meeting early March. UMSU endorsement for their Casual Staff Campaign has been given, especially since most casuals and tutors are also students. In return, they are endorsing our campaigns. We will be meeting representatives of the NTEU regularly to cooperate on our campaigns, efforts and projects throughout the year.

#### 9. Unrecorded Lecture and CADMUS Reports

Just chasing up lecturers on non-compliance with some success ^\_^ . Last year the EdAc officers managed to secure tangible improvements to CADMUS however the push continues and we're waiting on detailed reports from students to come through on the nature and scope of this year's Cadmus before we take the complaints and propositions to the Uni.

#### 10. Other meetings

- Student Life Green Paper Feedback with Professor Richard James

UMSU HAS THOUGHTS. ED AC ALSO HAS THOUGHTS. Stay tuned for UMSU's official response to the Student Life Green Paper, which deals with aspects of student life and the student experiencesome good, some not-so-good. At any rate, we've had one meeting

with Professor Richard James regarding this paper which shall inform the project and university policy. We encourage student feedback as well.

- Meeting with Professor Andrew Melatos, co-chair of APC

The meeting with Professor Melatos was productive. Three major issues were flagged and helpful feedback was given in return. This was a productive meeting where I gained some insight and advice on the campaigns I am running. Though not all of these campaigns are relevant to APC, it can be difficult to know whom I should be speaking with. Since the documents from APC pass through Academic Board (AB), while I pursue the leads I have, I've been given permission to raise these issues here for the committee to note, so they may be flagged in AB.

- 24-hour Study Spaces

We've been in contact with Karen Kealy, an Associate Director of Information Services and Library Spaces, and met over the logistics of implementing 24hr study spaces throughout the semester. Libraries are on board with increasing access to resources for students however need us to help them lobby for the extra funding needed which would roughly exceed \$300K pa. We looked at the numbers of those who use 24hr spaces during swotvac however and found that as little as 2 people may use the Baillieu after 2am, this can partially be attributed to limits with public transport. We also looked at the number of students who use the after-hours access in Baillieu during last semester and found at most 6 people attended. Considering the Uni's busiest libraries at what's supposed to be the busiest periods of the year have such low usage during early hours, we're looking into investigating the necessity of such spaces and other ways to provide for students. We also discussed the need for more spaces in general. Libraries have been working with faculties who have faculty buildings to discuss the resources made available to students to study. Interestingly, apparently faculties said that their students preferred not to use the spaces provided and [understandably] preferred libraries. There are still unknowns such as how many students knew about all the spaces available to them within their faculty building and whether they would not use other spaces just because they preferred libraries. Karen is keen to continue working with us to resolve issues of accessibility to study spaces. She has agreed to forward us the data on usage and we'll be looking to view the results of the big survey the libraries conducted last semester with the potential to launch our own.

- Meeting with Alastair Ingham Regarding Stop 1

The work the EdAc officers of 2018 did with Alastair saw significant improvements to waiting periods at Stop 1. Our goal this year is to restore Stop 1 to its glory days of in-depth course specific advice from knowledgeable staff. We have met with Alastair and look forward to working with him over our shared concern of improving the student experience and the quality of student support services at Unimelb. In our meeting he is very proud of the progress Stop1 has made with respect to a student's average wait time. It had gone down in the peak period (O-Week to Week Three) to around 7 minutes. He plugged that they tried to implement a "make a mate while you wait" system by bringing out music and bean bags and some bevs in the lawn shared by Stop1 and the 1888 Building, but that system flunked because wait times had gone down drastically. Alistair expresses concern over student mental health and alienation on campus, and flags that the tasks for Stop1 moving forward are in two areas: firstly, to improve the quality of advice given at Stop1 consultations, all while maintaining the trend of decreasing wait times and increasing streamlining in the service; secondly, to collect and utilise data collected by the university on its students to proactively check up on students and identify risks earlier through early intervention—he envisioned

these as, consultants calling up students prone to risks throughout their study (access Melbourne students, rural/regional/interstate/international students, etc.) building rapport and proactively reaching out and asking how things are going and how uni is treating them. Seems like a really lit dude.

#### 11. OB Lyf

We started the year with two Office-bearers, Elizabeth and Ru Bee, and then there was one because Ru Bee had to resign owing to her other commitments (final year commerce life sad). But then Dominic got up as Elizabeth's co-office bearer following their provisional appointment by the Education Committee early in March, so there's two once more! It's been wild ride for us so far, but we very much enjoy working together!

Minor-Major hiccup to highlight: So the University Infrastructure Service and HR Department seem to have cooked things a little: they misspelt Dominic's name (He has a longer legal name lmaooo), which means that the two and a bit weeks it had taken them to produce an IT account and employee profile with all the relevant credentials... had been addressed to a wrong person and to the wrong (probably non-existent) email address. Had to wait the better part of a week and a bit for them to have produced the right email account, computer log-in, employee profile, etc. Dominic celebrated a month of his provisional appointment with Elizabeth to EdAc waiting on IT to give him access to the Education Department Mailbox, and the Education Academic Department Email Address. All this progress and more, brought to us by a love of intermittent jazz on the phone while on hold for the better part of two hours, interrupted habitually by YOU ARE NOW \*insert ordinal number here\* ON THE QUEUE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE. He remains ever-passionate to the Education cause though.

## **Education (Public Affairs)** **Charli Fouhy & Cameron Doig**

### **SummerFest**

SummerFest VCA was a huge success as the first orientation week at UniMelb. We were pushing the Arts of Social Practice Collective, a politically engaged collective on VCA campus that meets once a week. We gave away a few hundred tote bags with information about advocacy and legal and how to get in contact with their student union. SummerFest Parkville was a smash hit for EdPub! We had an "EdPub in the Pub" event on the last day of Summerfest, gave away over 1000 tote bags on Department Day and grew our emailing list by at least 1000 to keep in contact with students throughout the year.

### **Surge Camp**

In week 3 of semester 1 EdPub went on the activist camp Surge Camp to learn skills related to relational organising, what a good campaign looks like and how to get further involved in UMSU. This was the first of its kind and has a more detailed report in the 9(19) EdPub OB report.

### **Syndicate**

Syndicate has turned more online this last semester, working to turn people out to Young Worker's Centre events and therefore moving people into their actual union, rather than being

“the union” on campus. We see this as a good step and one that allows students to get the support they require when it comes to workplace issues.

### **Take Back Our Coop**

Take Back Our Coop has grown to multiple committed members and is running a BBQ in week 8 to get the word out. We’ve focused on getting a solid article together for Farrago as well as weekly meetings, with link ups from the national campaign anyone can come along to. We’re tentatively campaigning to bring people along to the AGM next semester.

### **Change the Rules Rally**

The Change the Rules rally on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April saw 150,000 unionists on the streets of Melbourne with UniMelb EdPub turning out a solid squad of around 20 students under the National Union of Students flag. We chanted, we got political and we felt the union spirit next to thousands of comrades.

### **Election campaign**

Enrol to vote drive! EdPub held a stall every day after the election was called and up until the deadline to be enrolled for the federal election 2019. This done in conjunction with the Young Worker’s Centre from Trades Hall Victoria, with the goal of getting as many young people enrolled to vote. We held another EdPub in the Pub event where students were liquidly encouraged to update their details and enrol if they haven’t already.

### **National Day of Action**

As we’re in the middle of a federal election, EdPub will be supporting the National Day of Action on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May and run by the NUS calling on all political parties to address higher education with tangible policy. We’re planning to hold stalls, do postering, hand out invitations etc.

### **National Tertiary Education Union**

EdPub has been in consistent contact with the NTEU to keep up with their campaigns against casualization and the coop. The NTEU are excited to help with the National Day of Action in the election campaign coming out of EdPub.

## **Environment Will Ross**

### **Key Activities in 2019**

The Environment Collective has been busy, as ever, in its pursuit of concrete long-term change on and off campus, in the name of sustainability. We’ve been working for the university’s sustainability in forums, upskilling students in activism through workshops, and supporting linked struggles like the Climate Strike and Djab Wurrung trees through protest. Equally important, we’ve been providing community. The Environment Collective works to

provide an active home for the environmental and social justice values of the student body. Below you'll find a description of the key activities of the department.

To learn more drop by our weekly collective meetings at 1pm on Tuesdays (in Graham Cornish A), or like the UMSU Environment Collective on Facebook. As always, feel free to drop by our office on level 1 of Union House (opposite the Food Co-op).

### **Radical Education Week**

Radical Education Week was our big week 8 undertaking - packed with workshops and discussions on everything from climate grief and school strikes, to circus for social justice, radical prison abolition, queer political action, and everything in between! The idea behind Radical Education Week is to critique the corporatisation of tertiary education and erosion of cooperative spaces at the university, and to teach useful and thought-provoking ideas that students will never learn in the classroom.

Radical Education Week was very, very well attended throughout the week, with top turnouts of up to twenty at our biggest 'shops. There were many thought-provoking discussions and moments. We were also very proud to hoist our cute new 'Radical Classroom' banner for the first of hopefully many years to come. We're so thankful for all the amazing contributions from students, friends and the UMSU departments and Food Co-op. It took a great deal of effort from many people, but it is certainly a worthwhile exercise. We are now reaching out to participants and our collective to reflect help improve the week for future years.

### **Student Forum on Sustainability/Fossil Free MU**

As a part of Radical Education Week, The University of Melbourne Student Union Environment Department was proud to host the Student Sustainability Forum on Tuesday 16th April at 6.30pm. This was an evening for students, staff, and community members alike to come together and re-examine our goals and progress toward sustainability as a University community. Many older members of the collective and the Fossil Free campaign came along, and contributed to wide-ranging, critical, and productive conversation with the panel, consisting of University and Chancellery staff, as well as former Enviro OB Lucy Turton. Ideas were raised for more student advocacy, consultation and working groups with the possibility of permanent positions for student sustainability advocates. The night went exceedingly well, leaving more questions to ask as we head into a new phase for the Sustainability Plan at UniMelb.

The Forum was a great opportunity for those students to hear from those spearheading UniMelb's sustainability efforts, and to work with them to imagine a more sustainable future. More importantly, it was an opportunity to communicate the work being done by the Sustainability Executive, and work together to build (and sometimes push for) a more radical platform for sustainability on campus.

### **Djab Wurrung Solidarity Protest**

The Environment Collective also took part in organising a key solidarity protest for the Djab Wurrung Tree Embassy outside Richard Wynne's office. We, along with a number of other groups, put pressure on Wynne, Victoria's minister for planning. More than two dozen

staunch people came down to help out all up, with only a day's notice. This was our statement from the protest:

“The University of Melbourne Student Union is deeply concerned about what is happening on Djab Wurrung country. We were outraged to see Victorian police, accompanied by VicRoads bulldozers, are attempting to break up campsites and arrest protectors last week.

The Djab Wurrung Indigenous community and their supporters have been fighting for more than a year against the Victorian Government and VicRoads who are planning to bulldoze more than 260 sacred trees on Djab Wurrung country in order to expand the Western Highway in Victoria. This struggle has seen one of the longest blockades, and one of the strongest stands against colonisation in Victoria in decades.

Djab Wurrung people have labelled the project “an act of cultural terrorism”. It is set to destroy 800 year old trees of immense cultural significance to Djab Wurrung people, including birthing trees estimated to have birthed 10000 Djab Wurrung children or more.

The proposed mere 12.5km expansion of the highway is expected to cost to government \$42 million dollars. For such a brief and unnecessary expansion of the Western Highway, VicRoads is willing to decimate sacred women's birthing trees and cultural land. We are sending a message to all parties responsible: business as usual will not continue while the government pursues cultural genocide.

It is wrong and unfair for any government to talk about treaty at the same time as they are pushing policies that lead to cultural genocide - such as the plans to bulldoze the Djab Wurrung trees. We stand with the Djab Wurrung Embassy in their demand “NO TREES NO TREATY”.

### **School Strike 4 Climate**

At the beginning of the year, Summerfest was a fantastic opportunity to get word out not only about the Enviro Collective, but also the School Strike for the Climate taking place Friday 15th March.

Enviro organised a UniMelb support contingent to this March. This culminated in our Info Session during collective where one of the student organisers came along & spoke about the March and what we can do to support the strikers. After this, volunteers from the info session will be flyerling, posterling, chalking and lecture loving to spread the climate strike and let UniMelb students know that they had a contingent to march alongside.

This was an exciting time and the great numbers Enviro really allowed us to spread word about the Strike, facilitating not just student marchers but also marshaling on the day. On the day, more than 60 students showed up for the UniMelb contingent and were part of the huge 40,000-strong rally in the Melbourne CBD. Our support for the school strikers is ongoing and will see more action this year.

### **Students of Sustainability**

Students of Sustainability (SOS) conference is an annual gathering of environmentalists and activists hosted by the Australian Student Environment Network. Students and other activists from across the country come to learn skills and discuss contemporary issues in environmental and social justice.

SOS 2019 is going to be held on Gadigal, Wangul and Darug lands (sydney) in late July, with arrivals and departure happening around the 25th. The Environment Officer and a dozen or more of the environment collective members have expressed keen interest in coming along, and plans are in preparation for the rental of a minivan to take attendees in convoy to Sydney with other collectives members who have car access.

### **Bike Co-Op**

Enviro Dept is happy to (tentatively) announce that the Bike Co-Op will be reopening this year, likely at the end of semester 1! Final discussions are now going ahead for the organisation of volunteers and staff, and setting a concrete date to open the Co-Op. We have secured new furniture and keys for the space on Ground Floor, Union House, which will feature all the previous equipment and hot running water (yay). In addition, a poster campaign has garnered upwards of 100 volunteer signups for the Bike Co-op once it reopens, hopefully replacing the many volunteers that have sadly been lost in the long and overwrought relocation process.

We are also calling out for ideas for launch events, autonomous workshops, and promos to get the word out. Watch this space.

It's been an exciting year so far and we look forward to bringing more useful and interesting events to students and in creating more change on and off campus. Please look out for Enviro Week and our series of Radical Workshops next semester for these are all set to be fantastic events.

## **Indigenous**

### **Jordan Holloway-Clarke & Marly Holloway-Clarke**

As this year's Indigenous Officer the aim is to build upon and improve many of the pre-established programs as well as implementing new programs. I see my purpose as supporting the students in their cultural and personal lives so that they are able to succeed academically and in their careers. With semester 1 coming to an end we take this time to recap on what has been achieved so far this year and look forward to planning for semester 2 and into the future.

### **Social Calendar**

The Indigenous Department is continuing planning our social calendar for students, social sport (starting wk 3), social recreational events and art and culture activities. These events provide a place for Indigenous students to socialise outside of class and connect with other mob on different campuses. In the past it has created great opportunities for students to support one another and to form close bonds.

### **Indigenous University Games**

The Indigenous Department is continuing with supporting two teams at the National Indigenous University Games. This years games will be held in Perth, WA during the last week of exam which will potentially create issues for students that have exams in that last week. We held the first and second trial and info night with massive success. We hope to

secure a win once again this year and take the trophy home as back to back champions. The squad has been chosen and formal trainings will commence next week.

### **MB lunch**

Every Tuesday MB has a successful lunch with large numbers coming most weeks. As OB's we think it is a great space for us to advertise our events and make any other announcements. A couple of weeks ago we took the large majority of the tote bags, stationary, hygiene products and condoms to no surprise we almost ran out of everything and people were so thankful and appreciated that.

### **Submitting the Budget**

We have submitted the budget after major consultation with Murrup Barak and will be presenting it in an upcoming scheduled students council meeting. We have budgeted for a jam packed year and as numbers of Indigenous students grow our budget has to grow with it. Indigenous Uni Games will be in WA this year which means it will be significantly more expensive than last year and we plan on pushing for two editions of Under Bunjil this year to truly showcase this cohorts talent. Although we have allocated a significant portion of the budget to those portfolios we still aim to help all students weather it is continuing buying hygiene products, notebooks or essential items that people may not be able to afford.

### **New Office Bearer**

Marley Holloway-Clarke is formally stepping down from the position of Office Bearer and a new candidate has put in their application to take over the role with Jordan Holloway-Clarke. This role needs to have the support of two OB's for the amount of work that goes into the programs and the people in the community.

## **Media**

**Stephanie Zhang, Carolyn Huane,  
Ruby Perryman, & Katie Doherty**

### **Our team**

We started off our term advertising call-outs to join our team by becoming a subeditor, reporter, graphic, and a myriad of other roles. We set out a goal of increasing the participation of people of colour in the media office, and we've been gradually working towards it. Unfortunately, we were a few off from meeting our quota of 50 per cent subeditors of colour, but we are still taking applications from the PoC community and will likely reopen applications more broadly for people to hop on board for semester 2.

This year, we've also expanded and added new roles to cater to increasing interest in involvement. We added a music team, which falls under the direction of our Radio Fodder station manager, and is tasked with updating the regular rotation and helping out at Farmers' Markets. We also recruited two events coordinators to help us jazz up launch parties and wordplays (as well as take those tasks off of our ever-busy hands).

Last year, the media office restructured and introduced paid managerial roles for our more multimedia, non-print teams. These included, most importantly, the Radio Fodder station managers, video team coordinators, and social media coordinators, roles which require student volunteers to dedicate a massive amount of their time to train team members and organise meetings.

Unfortunately, this year, we were told that legally, we would not be able to pay these roles as we had last year. We have received the options paper from Justin, but it is disappointing to see that our rapidly increasing department cannot make adjustments to cater to the increasing amount of students interested in getting involved. Our inability to pay managers greatly hinders our capacity to spend time training newbies, and causes various accessibility issues for students coming from low socio-economic backgrounds who might not be able to dedicate as much time to the media department. This subsequently raises questions about the sustainability of the media department's current structure.

Currently, our collective has almost 300 people. We love that so many people want to get involved, and are interested in different aspects of the media department especially given the expansion of teams and roles over the years, but as four university students paid merely an honoraria, it is often incredibly strenuous for the four of us to manage and overlook all aspects of the department.

We've been swamped with preparing our print magazine for the past few months, but will return to attempting to resolve these issues in coming months.

### **NUS NatCon**

As with last year, our news editor Steph spent a week up in Ballarat attending and covering the National Union of Students National Conference. We look two collective members to help out with the coverage—it was overall a very educational trip. We also met the University of Sydney's Honi Soit there!

### **NEWS Conference**

Annually, Farrago editors attend Express Media's NEWS Conference (National Editors Workshop and Skillshare Conference), designed to help new student media editors gain their footing. We took a contingent of keen young faces this year, and had a great time. Also met a lot of other student media editors across the country, most of all Woroni, whom we've invited back for some dumplings whenever they're in town.

### **Summerfest**

Summerfest was great! We went down to Southbank and handed out lots of mags and signed lots of people up to our mailing list. Carnival day went pretty much the same, and we found that there were a surprisingly large amount of American exchange students interested in getting involved with Radio Fodder.

Our edition one launch party, which happened on the last day, was well-attended. The bar tab probably helped, but there was a high pick-up rate of our first magazine.

### **Farrago**

We launched our first edition 28 February. Edition two came out 30 March, and at the time of writing this, edition three is being processed at the printers and is scheduled to be out 2 May.

Our print schedule so far is as follows:

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Copies</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Edition one	5,000	\$16,665.00
Edition two	3,500	\$14,102.00
Edition three	3,500	\$13,772.00

Printing costs have gone up a bit this year, because we chose to print on 100 per cent recycled paper.

A couple of highlights so far:

- ‘Bitter Beans’ by Megan Hanrahan and Ailish Hallinan
- ‘My father was at a mosque today’ by Gülsüm Güngör
- ‘Old Bath’ by Sam Harding

Big shout-out to our graphics editor Carolyn here, pulling through hours and hours of layouting and making our magazine look so beautiful. She’s been experimenting a lot this year with different formats and fonts and we’re really proud of how unique our incarnation of Farrago is.

### **Launch Parties**

Our launch parties have been really lovely so far. The first one we held down in North Court (North Beach during Summerfest), and the second we held at the Clyde. The third is scheduled for 2 May in the Ida bar.

Expenditure is as follows:

<b>Launch</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Edition one	\$750.00
Edition two	\$500.00
Edition three	~\$500.00

### **Federal Election coverage**

Farrago’s news team is already hard at work doing coverage for the federal election! We’ve had several meetings so far, and have released a budget video explainer as a small taste of what’s to come. Currently, we’re working on candidate interviews and issues videos, and Steph is in the process of wrangling a room for the live coverage night. At the time of writing, there are 3 weeks to election night. It’s getting increasingly stressful but our contributors are doing a wonderful job.

We’re also adding a couple more things to this year’s coverage! We’re going to amp up the political satire with the help of our satire team, as well as try to poll the university. Keep an eye out.

### **Radio Fodder**

Radio Fodder has been under the purview of Ed Pitt this year, our sole Station Manager. Ed’s done a great job training hosts and putting together the timetable. He’s also been organising regular meetings with our new music team, updating the regular rotation. We’ve also spoken

about our department's policy about putting abusers and other problematic people on air, as well as giving more airtime to local and/or student bands.

### **Reviews**

Katie's taken the helm of reviews editor this year, and she's been doing great. The reviews section has always been a really great opportunity for newcomers to get involved and published easily, but unfortunately also demands a great deal of behind-the-scenes work of sifting through a shocking amount of PR emails and liaising with publicists.

### **Website (Farrago)**

We've been busy with our print publication so haven't done much with the website aside from posting articles, but we do have some online columns this year. Also, the news section as usual has some online-only articles due to timeliness. We expect the website will receive more attention once election coverage really amps up.

### **Collective**

We've aimed to hold more collective-building events this year.

So far we've held two wordplays, which are open-mic night style events where we encourage collective members (or other students) to perform their work. Wordplay one happened in the Ida on 18 March, and Wordplay two 17 April. They'll be happening more regularly this year.

We've also been holding PoC in Media collectives with the People of Colour Department as an effort to engage with people of colour and create a safe space for them. Steph has attended the three that have occurred so far, and met a lot of cool students wanting to get involved or have already been involved. The collective additionally gives people of colour space to air their concerns about an overwhelmingly white community that has made up the foundation of the media department over the years, and Steph is very grateful that members feel comfortable to approach them with their concerns.

Our sections have also had a smattering of casual events over the past few months. Carolyn hosted a little graphic get-together, doodle session. We took subbies to Prince Alfred after training. Steph holds regular newsroom meetings. These are all really lovely opportunities for us to meet the people who make up our department, as much of our work is done behind emails and Messenger. We hope to meet more and more of our collective over the rest of the year.

### **Conclusion**

The media department is busy as ever. It's stressful but worth it because of all the amazing people we get to work with and the wonderful work we get trusted to read by contributors. We can't believe we're already knee-deep into working on edition four!

## **People of Colour Farah Khairat & Mark Yin**

### **SummerFest**

We ran four main events over the SummerFest period.

On Carnival Day (O-Week Tuesday) we ran a stall to talk to new students about our department, pass out some goodie bags and engage students with an activity around spilling the (iced) tea on some problematic faves. We met so many new students here, and gave out all of our bookmarks and snacks, as well as the vast majority of our tote bags.

The day after this, we ran a Games Day event in collaboration with UMSU International. This was quite well-attended, and we got to mix our crowds in what turned out to be a really fun event. There were some hiccups with communication between our two departments, but this was a successful event on the whole for a first collaboration and will hopefully be the first of many (see Games Night).

On Friday, we held an Anti-Racism 101 workshop. We'd interviewed a number of strong presenter applicants and really wanted to choose someone who represented both the spirit of the department as well as the direction it would take in 2019. This was a really intimate event with a mix of old and new faces, and Yaameen Al-Muttaqi gave a really fantastic workshop. Several first-timers who attended this event are now collective regulars.

Finally, we can a *Crazy Rich Asians* Film Screening on Mar/4 (Week 1 Monday) as the first of our recurring film screenings (fortnightly on Monday). We located this in the Ida bar and catered it with Wonderbao. This event was particularly popular, perhaps the busiest event this department has ever held (which was Stressful at times), and we're stoked to have been able to do something like this to kick off semester. We hope to see ongoing progress with this level of community-building and engagement throughout our term.

### **Cultural Sensitivity Staff Training**

This is an important policy to us which we'd like to roll out throughout the year. On Feb/18, we started with a general inclusive classroom training session within the Faculty of Arts (along with UMSU Queer, Womens and Education). The training was successful: staff members seemed very receptive to what we were saying and they also seemed to find it helpful.

By this time, we'd also met with a Faculty member in the FBE, where we are looking to hold a session later this semester as well.

We also ran one within the Peer Assisted Study Sessions which consisted of an hour of workshopping (with a panel of 7 students of colour & us) a previously existing document which had cultural sensitivity guidelines, including a range of issues such as gender, disabilities, language, content warnings and more. We then presented these changes to the Student leaders in a session hosted by Jocelyn Richardson, the PASS coordinator. The

document is currently being fully updated and will be finalised within the week to also be updated for future PASS leaders.

### **Collectives**

After a successful SummerFest period, our main collective has burgeoned to as many as 30 regular attendees, with some others only attending intermittently. We're proud to see this level of engagement with the event that's really at the heart of what our department does.

Queer People of Colour collective is also seeing some great attendance (~20 regulars), with some attendees coming specifically for the hot food (we see you, you are valid). Media PoC Collective, a new fortnightly initiative this year, is seeing small but intimate and committed attendance from passionate students. Film screenings and reading group are much the same.

### **Diversity Week**

We ran seven events for Diversity Week. Noteworthy here is that the Christchurch attacks had taken place on the Friday beforehand, which changed the overall tone as well as our departmental goals for what the week would be.

On Monday, we screened *Black Panther*, another themed edition of our regular film screenings. We also had a reading group tied into this on Thursday. On Wednesday, we brought back Dr. Yassir Morsi to discuss Super-Diversity—his talks are always highly popular. On Friday, we collaborated with the Bollywood Club and ran a cultural games/dance event. We also ran a Diversity in Education and Entrepreneurship event. It's notable that this is the first time the department has held an event like this, and that attendance was quite small likely owing to timing (4pm on the Friday of what was a very long week).

In addition to these, on Tuesday afternoon, we held a vigil on the Concrete Lawns. The vigil had an intimate attendance but felt very important to those who attended. We left flowers on the grass as well as a chalked messages that people could continue to walk past (and add to) throughout that week. We also painted a banner in solidarity with the victims and got attendees to write a message on. This banner was then taken to an antiracism rally in the city by Farah. On Wednesday morning, we ran an interactive campaign involving distributing flowers among students with messages of solidarity and hope. Students really loved this and it was very heartwarming to see some students leaving these in front of the university prayer rooms.

We also had posters and chalking throughout the week, and we could've done none of this without the other OBs and volunteers who helped us all throughout.

### **Incident reporting form**

We've put one up on our website now—this is hopefully an additional way for students to reach us, and also for us to expand our work in the advocacy sphere. This also has an anonymous option for students who wish to remain so.

### **Us Screening**

We hosted an excursion/collaboration with UMSU Indigenous and Monash African Students Society this Friday to go see *Us* at Palace Cinemas Como. We sold all 68 tickets within a day, and were very excited to be collaborating on things with other departments/groups/campuses etc. as well as supporting the work of PoC creatives. This event was well loved and allowed

for PoC students to meet new students from different campuses and departments. The collective feeling throughout the film was also a huge vibe for everyone involved!

### **Southbank Collective**

We're running two collectives at Southbank on Thursday in weeks 7 and 10 (we'd originally shot for week 6 but everything had piled up by then so we held off for a week). The first of these had four attendees, and we discussed what it was like being a PoC student in a very white campus, as well as the complexities of mixed-race and white-passing identities. We hope to see this collective build in coming iterations and potentially run special events at Southbank later this year as well.

### **Games Night (with UMSU Intl)**

This was a second collaboration with UMSU International, on the Wednesday night of week 5. This event was held at the Ida Bar and was bustling with people from different clubs. Overall, this was very successful and we hope to continue to reach out to different cultural clubs throughout the year, as well as making further inroads with cross-departmental collaboration.

### **Radical Education Week**

We ran two workshops over the course of this week. The first was the Origins of Race and Bias talk, facilitated by Sophie Chauhan. This was a really insightful talk with a mix of white and PoC attendees which received great feedback. We also hosted the annual, "How Privilege Manifests in Tutorials" as part of the week. This was different to most years as we hosted it at the South Lawn Classroom but it was still a meaningful and productive conversation which *The Australian* has decided to misrepresent in an article (we made it woo). Overall, Rad Ed Week was a success and we really enjoyed collaborating with the Environment Department and hearing different voices and perspectives.

### **Anti-Racism Workshops**

We ran two of these a week across weeks 6-9 of semester one (two weeks either side of the mid-semester break). This had a really competitive application process, as the level of interest was quite high. We ultimately had a mix of new and returning presenters over a range of really exciting topics.

We chose to make these non-autonomous with the consent of the presenters because we think it's really important for white allies to learn, and to take away something from our events as well as for them to question their knowledge to allow for their development as allies.

The topics we covered this semester were: deconstructing racism in beauty, academic racism, PoC representations in the media, racism and the 'African gang crisis', PoC issues in the election, imperialism and fashion, and the tea with colonialism.

### **Myriad magazine**

We opened callouts for editors (print+digital) and designers in week 7 of semester one, intending to keep these open for the break and interview in week 8. We're hoping to keep on track with this so that the magazine has the most outreach possible.

### **Grants**

We launched applications for grants this semester alongside *Myriad* and are hoping to allow students of colour who need the financial support to engage in different projects.

## **Queer Andie Moore & Raph Canty**

### **Summerfest**

Summerfest was huge for the queer department. We had a lot of engagement at our stall where we gave away biodegradable glitter tubs, zines, sour rainbow straps and queer themed badges with designs inspired by the 80s and 90s liberation movements, which we made with a badge machine. We received about 100 signups to our mailing list and put the word out about our department to many more.

### **Zine**

We created a Zine this year, similar to last. It contained content written by queer students at UniMelb, displaying a range of works from creative writing to opinion pieces, art to poetry. It also features information on the department and events we run, as well as an introduction to queer nightlife in Melbourne, and where LGBTQIA+ students can seek support in sickness and health. We printed 2,000 of them, and continue to distribute them at our events, through institutions, and have them throughout the UMSU distro stands around Uni.

### **Speed Friending**

During Summerfest, we held a really cool “Speed Friending” event, which got about 60 attendees, and provided a warm space for new queer students to meet other queer students, with free sushi and soft drinks. This was an amazing event, allowing people to meet others beyond their initial friend groups, and provide a casual environment where first years particularly could meet new people.

### **Queer Picnic**

Our queer picnic was a precursor to Queer lunch and was very well received. We had chips, dips, crackers, soft drinks and snacks, and a lot of new and returning faces were in attendance. For next time, it would be great to have more signage so that people could identify the event and have enough space to spread out without running out of picnic rug!

### **Sleepover**

During the Union House sleepover, the Queer Space was open for people to go and chill out in, which was well utilised by sleepover attendees. We also put on a dance party early in the morning, which wasn't incredibly well attended, although that was likely due to it being around 3am, and attendees being quite fatigued at that point (this didn't prevent the disco from being an absolute banger). As well as this, we helped run a nap space for folks to rest in.

### **Collectives**

We have supported a range of collectives this year, catering to autonomous subgroups of queer students. These include the Trans collective, Queer People of Colour collective and the new Asexual and Aromantic collective which has seen a lot of interest already. Every week our regular collectives are catered for with snacks. Queer People of Colour collective has maintained a solid attendance with catered hot food this year, and continues to provide an important space for People of Colour within the department. The Trans collective maintains a

smaller, but consistent and intimate attendance, and also facilitates a vital place for trans and gender diverse students within our queer community.

Another new collective this year has been the Southbank Queer Collective, which meets every second week. We're encouraged by the growth we've seen at Southbank campus, which has increased every fortnight to about 30 people, and we're indebted to the support from the Faculty of Fine Art and Music's Academic Support Office in boosting attendance. We've also had the chance to work with the Faculty in hosting speaker events about queerness and art, such as our last collective with Midsumma organisers about "The Queer Art of Failure".

This year, we've also changed the focus of Queer Political Action collective. QPAC provides a space for queer students to discuss important political issues affecting them. It has been running every two weeks this semester, and taken the form more of speaker events. So far we've been lucky to host organisers from We Are Union! Pride, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, and grassroots anti-transphobia and prison abolitionist movements, and used QPAC to build engagement with Radical Education Week. We've worked with the Food Co-operative each fortnight to cater the collective, which has helped boost attendance, and support an important co-operative structure on campus. Hosting the collective after Queer Lunch has also helped this.

### **Queer Lunch**

Queer Lunch is our big regular weekly event, taking place on a Wednesday at 1pm. We have maxed out orders of pizza, sushi and soft drink and have seen overwhelming numbers which has been amazing, with the first week welcoming in 70 students, moving down to a regular, rolling attendance of 40-50 students. Moving forward, we are trying to utilise the Arts Lab as a secondary space, as the Queer Space is literally overflowing with so many people coming. We are overwhelmed with the event's popularity.

### **Coming Out Support Group**

Coming Out Support Group continues to run somewhat externally to the department which we fund and support with room bookings.

### **Events**

#### **Trans Day of Visibility**

For Trans Day of Visibility, we had a stall outside Union House giving away free cupcakes with information about being a trans ally, which engaged a lot of students, particularly cisgender and heterosexual students. We also worked with the University's Pride in Action Network to run a play and panel about transphobia and coming out. We're hoping to do something similar for IDAHOBIT in May, again with the University's new Pride in Action network.

#### **Queer Gals Movie Night**

We've worked with the Women's department to run a movie night every three weeks for queer women and non binary folk, which has been really neat! We've done two film screenings with queer cuties and good vibes. We hope this can continue to provide an important space for queer people identifying with womanhood.

#### **G&Ts with the LGBTs**

Adding to our regular social events, G&Ts with the LGBTs has proven a hit, attracting many students to the Ida on a Thursday evening every second week for a free drink. This is a very important social event for fostering a sense of community among the collective, and allowing students who can't make Queer Lunch for both time and social reasons to engage with the collective, and we're glad it's been so well received. Big shout-outs to Patient Wolf Gin for supplying us with outstanding gin at outstanding prices, and Kyle from the Ida for cooking up some sweet af okonomoyaki and edamame. The Tsubu legacy lives on!

### **CAMP**

CAMP magazine will be coming back for another edition this year, which we're currently planning for by selecting the editorial team. We've been liaising with the previous editors to plan the timeline of the magazine's creation, and are hoping to release the magazine early next semester. Sub-editor applications and pitches will open up soon!

### **Queer Collaborations**

This year, the Queer Collaborations student conference is happening in Warrnambool on June 30 - July 6. We're planning a contingent to go and are in the process of receiving registrations of interest and allocating funding from our conferences budget.

### **Pride in Action Network**

We've been involved in the launch and blossoming of the University's Pride in Action Network, which has allowed over 1,000 staff and students to sign up as allies, receive news about LGBTQIA+ inclusion initiatives on campus, and retrieve rainbow lanyards to express their support for our diverse community. Through PiAN we worked on a HUGE Midsumma contingent with over 600 attendees, and two events for Trans Day of Visibility.

### **Queer Space**

The Queer Space continues to be heavily used by the community as a multi-purpose room to study, relax and socialise. We have been supplying iced tea of the week for anyone there, with cheap T2 tea, which has proved a hit. We've also been topping up the fridge regularly with cartons of full cream and soy milks for tea and coffee, which students have been making very good use of.

This year we've also worked on refurbishing the space a bit, with us replacing our old table with a foldable, wheelie table, which makes it much easier to move things around for Queer Space, and two new fans to stop the Queer Space from getting too hot, particularly with so many people in it. We've found the Space has become much more accessible for these reasons.

We've also noticed the mood of the space has become a lot more positive this year, receiving feedback that it feels a lot less cliquey than in the past, which makes us feel so so happy! There's a real buzz in the collective this year. :)

**Welfare**  
**Ashwin Chhaperia & Natasha Guglielmino**

### Welfare Advertising

New year, new Welfare. We realised the Department didn't have a mascot and to rectify that we got Phoebe up on our posters, Handbooks and tote bags. In addition to a pullup banner, 1000 copies of our Handbook and 500 tote bags were ordered, with everything having run out.

We also hit 3000 likes on Facebook which we celebrated by making the number '3000' with pancake batter at our second BBQ. We've also increased our Instagram follower count from 225 up to 380, a 69% increase, in just 2 months.

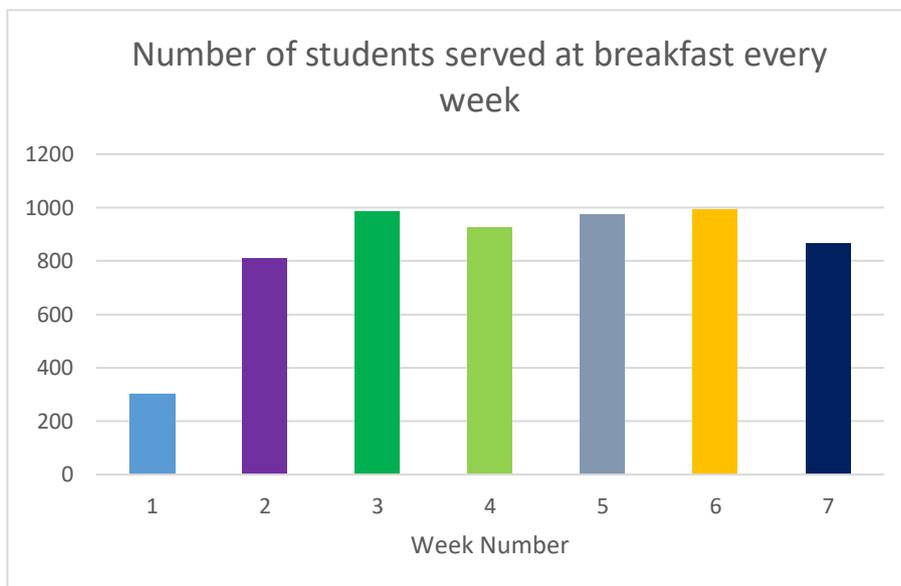
### Regular Events

Yoga and meditation started in Week 2 and have happened every single week without any problems. In fact, Frank (yoga instructor) and Kieran (meditation instructor) love the fact that they get an average of 30 students/week (yoga) and 15 students/week (meditation). Both classes have seen an exponential increase in participation since last year which is an indication that the little money we spend on promotion does not go to vain.

Support Collective is a new initiative but gets low numbers because of the stigma attached with belonging to low SES backgrounds.

Welfare Collective runs fortnightly and gets around 45-50 people who really appreciate the friendly conversation, banter and free food.

Although BBQ started in Week 1, Breakfast Bar started in Week 2 to accommodate for volunteer training and Induction. Compared to last year, we get almost double the number of people and at the time of writing, we'd served breakfast to 5,855 people!!! We've also made breakfast more sustainable by having next to zero food wastage. In order to meet student demand for healthier breakfasts, this year we order more of muesli, oats and wholemeal bread instead of things like Coco Pops and white bread.



### Volunteering

We got a record number of volunteer signups on Carnival Day. We now have a dedicated bunch of vollies that show up at 8am every single day. To make breakfasts safer this year, all our supervisors have been given SFH training.

### **University Service Essentials (USE)**

This was an event in collaboration with the Education & Welfare Department of UMSU International. It was aimed at international students to assist with the transition to university and introduce essential services (like Legal, CAPS, SEDS etc). We had presenters from key Stop 1 services followed by a Q&A session and light refreshments/food, and both departments were happy with the feedback received.

### **Safer Partying Initiative**

We ran our first session in Week 6 with the help of Harm Reduction Victoria, Michael (2018's Welfare officer) and DanceWize. 50 pill-testing kits were assembled, and they were taken down to HRV. Most of the kits have been given out so we look to acquire some more kits and hold another session.

### **Welfare on Wheels (WoW)**

Our new initiative, in collaboration with UniLibrary and Wellbeing, is aimed at curbing student hunger and kicked off in Week 7. We gave out a trolley full of fruits, Up & Go and muesli bars to Giblin-Eunson library on Monday and Tuesday between 3-4pm. WoW's primary aim is to not let students study on a hungry stomach and to fill the demand for affordable healthy food options. We'll be doing weekly runs in Giblin-Eunson, ERC and Baillieu until Week 11 (for a detailed schedule, check out our Facebook).

### **Union House Sleepover**

Our Welfare Space ran smoothly. We had snacks, bean bags, cushions and two big baskets of fresh fruits. Students liked the space as it gave them an area to chill and relax away from all the music and dancing. There were no untoward incidents in the Space, so it was an overall success.

### **Food Bank**

Arguably one of the most important things we do. There has been an increased demand for food packs this year and we hope it's because people are noticing our promo material more often and not because students are facing increased hardship. More than 150 food packs have been given out at the Southbank and Parkville campuses.

### **Dogs at the Rowdy**

We held our first event with the Rowdy in Week 3 and it was a grand success. The event was booked out in a few hours and we're doing another one in Week 10 as part of Stress Less Week.

### **Stress Less Week (SLW)**

Saving the best for the last, we've brought forward Stress Less to Week 10 to ensure there aren't a lot of clashes with assignment deadlines and tests. SLW is almost planned, and we are looking forward to releasing our Week's calendar very soon. Watch this space for more!

## **Women's Aria Sunga & Hannah Buchan**

### **Summerfest**

Summerfest was a great start to the year. We signed up over 600 women and non-binary students to our weekly newsletter, handed out many tote bags, brochures, 2018 Judy's Punch mags and lip balms, and spoke to so many students about the department.

### **Tote Bags**

We commissioned a unimelb student to design some art for our tote bags of the year and had 1,500 tote bags made to hand out during Summerfest and Winterfest.

### **Brochure**

Again, we asked for some students to send in some of their art they'd like to see featured in the Women's Department brochure, in exchange for a small gift. With the help of comms, a beautiful brochure was designed with information about the Women's Committee, our collectives, the women's room and about the OBs.

### **Beach Activation - Mocktails**

Our first carnival day event was Mocktails with the Women's Department on Wednesday the 7th of March. We were able to speak to many students about our events happening early in semester one. The event was non-autonomous, because we wanted to reach as many students as possible and have them interact with the Women's department (as well as invite them to our non-autonomous events).

### **Moonlight Cinema**

We watched Ocean's 8 on North Court for one of our Summerfest events. We had a huge screen and deck chairs scattered around for people to hang out and chat. We also had pizza, popcorn, and games for people to play. We used this as an event to introduce people to the department, and we also used it as promotion for International Women's Day.

### **Colleges**

We reached out to the colleges to see how the Women's Department could get involved in their orientation activities to spread awareness about UMSU and department itself!

- International House: We were able to attend an orientation event, and speak to freshers in smaller groups for 5 minutes each about the services offered by UMSU and the Women's Department and hand out some merch (tote bags, brochures and safety brochures).
- University College: the Women's Department submitted a small bio to be published in their information booklet, as well as distributed 2018 tote bags, and 2019 WD brochures. We also got in touch with a Queens College, Trinity College and the Intercollegiate Committee in general, but unfortunately their orientation events were fully packed. But we look forward to working with them, and other colleges in future!

### **International Women's Day**

#### **Banner Painting: (non-autonomous)**

More people than expected turned up for banner painting, as we didn't advertise it as heavily, and we painted a bunch of awesome signs and banners. It was a really fun time and lots of new people engaged with the department and became friends with each other.

### **IWD Picnic: Why does IWD exist? (non-autonomous)**

This event was held in collaboration with UMSU Intl. and Women in Commerce in Politics, an UMSU affiliated club. We were intending to have speakers for the day, one provided by UMSU Intl, and the other provided by WCP, and we as Women's Officers would also speak, but unfortunately one speaker cancelled last minute, and the other speaker misunderstood the dates and was in Sydney on the 8th of March and therefore could not attend. That being said, the event was still wildly successful, as many students came, asked why we had free cupcakes and free pizza, and we were able to talk to them about the Women's Department and the importance of International Women's Day.

### **IWD Rally**

We were able to lead a huge contingent up to the State Library for the Rally, and it was so good. We had two huge banners and lots of little signs for people to carry.

### **Collectives**

#### **Regular Collectives**

As expected, attendance during the semester at Women of Colour and Women's Collective has lessened as the semester has progressed, but not as much as we had expected! These collectives are seeing around 15-25 people come throughout and chill in the Women's room.

#### **Southbank Collective**

This is the first year that the Women's Department is hosting a collective at the Southbank Campus, and while small, the collective is slowly growing. In future, we may plan for fewer, but more extravagant collectives held in more open spaces (the current space is quite secluded and a bit difficult to find). We've also brought down some pads, tampons and safe sex supplies for students to take, as well as some brochures and copies of Judy's Punch 2018.

#### **Queer Gals Movie Night**

We have had two sessions of Queer Gals Movie Nights. It's a great event and super easy to run. We watch the movies in the Rowden White Library in the beanbag room. At the first event we watched the movie Carol and at the second we watched But I'm a Cheerleader! Both events had really strong attendance, and we are able to interact with students who haven't interacted with the department much.

#### **Respect Week**

We had our Respect Week event on the 12th of April. We gave out mocktails again because we had so much stuff leftover from our Summerfest event and people seemed to enjoy them. We put a bunch of stuff on the stall including the university's Respect Now Always campaign material, and posters from the NUS Women's department. We also had a big calico banner as an activity for people to write on with the question "What does respect mean to you?" We would exchange a free mocktail in return for people writing on the banner. We had pretty successful engagement.

#### **Respect Task Force**

At the time of writing there has been one Respect Task Force meeting. The taskforce exists to discuss the issue of safety on campus. At the meeting we discussed the university's plans for Respect Week, and we also discussed the anonymous reporting register that was launched earlier in the year. The next meeting is scheduled to be in late May.

### **Judy's Punch**

Progress on the department's annual magazine, Judy's Punch has begun. We have opened expressions of interest for editor positions and will be interviewing applicants in the coming weeks. We've distributed most of the remaining 2018 Judy's Punch mags during summerfest, but some still remain in the Women's Room.

### **Women's Room**

We regularly restock the containers for pads, tampons and safe sex supplies in the Women's Room quite frequently, around 1-2 times every week, and it's awesome to see women and non binary students utilising those things.

We're also beginning to work on a campaign promoting the Women's Room. Comms have gotten back to us with a beautiful design for all the collateral, and we will be rolling out promotion for that in the coming weeks.

**Burnley**  
**James Barclay**

*No report submitted.*

**Southbank**  
**Hilary Ekins**

*No report submitted.*