

University of Melbourne Student Union



Meeting of the Students' Council

Student Officer Bearer Reports

Meeting 1(21)

President	Jack Buksh	<i>Submitted</i>
General Secretary	Allen Xiao	<i>Submitted</i>
Activities	Christos Preovolos	<i>Submitted</i>
	Phoebe Chen	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Clubs and Societies	Kalyana Vania	<i>Submitted</i>
	Muskaan Hakhu	<i>Submitted</i>
Creative Arts	Vaishnavi Ravikrishna	<i>Submitted</i>
	Merryn Hughes	<i>Submitted</i>
Disabilities	Lindsay Tupper-Creed	<i>Submitted</i>
	Brigit Doyle	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Academic Affairs)	Jennisha Arnanta	<i>Submitted</i>
	Planning Jay Vynn Saw	<i>Submitted</i>
Education (Public Affairs)	Hannah Krasovec	<i>Submitted</i>
	Tejas Gandhi	<i>Submitted</i>
Environment	Lynne Bian	<i>Not Submitted</i>
	Disha Zutshi	<i>Not Submitted</i>
Indigenous	Shanysa McConville	<i>Submitted</i>
Media	Lauren Berry	<i>Submitted</i>
	Ailish Hallinan	<i>Submitted</i>
	Pavani Ambagahawattha	<i>Submitted</i>
People of Colour	Mohamed Hadi	<i>Submitted</i>
	Emily AlRamadhan	<i>Leave</i>
Queer	Amy Bright	<i>Not Submitted</i>
	Laura Ehrensperger	<i>Submitted</i>
Welfare	Hue Man Dang	<i>Submitted</i>
Women's	Srishti Chatterjee	<i>Submitted</i>
	Mickhaella Ermita	<i>Submitted</i>
Southbank	Leyla Moxham Jamie Kim	<i>Submitted</i>
Burnley	Kaitlyn Hammond	<i>Submitted</i>

President

Jack Buksh

CW: Mentions of Sexual Assault and Harassment, no explicit detail

Key Activities

New Student Precinct

New Student Precinct Steering Committee was held on Tuesday August 17. There were no consequential decisions made.

Obviously, the latest COVID-19 lockdown and the tightening of restrictions will have an impact on the completion of the project. The timelines for UMSU moving into the NSP I am sure will continue to shift over the next few months.

UMSU is working closely with the New Student Precinct team to identify the risks that need to be managed as we undertake the transition process. We should be able to work through these with the University to ensure that our needs are met throughout the moving process.

Most of the retail and food and beverage tenants across the New Student Precinct are locked in – we don't know who they are yet, but the University is confident that they will provide a variety of options and will cater for a range of dietary options and price points.

The University conducted research and a report into food insecurity for students. Professor Craig Jeffery from the School of Geography was present at Steering Committee to present this research. It was far more nuanced than I might have expected, and actually showed a real understanding from the University as to the issues that students face when it comes to food security.

The Value Management process is mostly completed. As Council will recall, the initial proposal from the University was unsuitable for UMSU. Where the process is at now does not have an impact on UMSU programming, operations or services while also working towards cost saving targets that the Precinct needs to meet.

We have also had a meeting with the University regarding the charter for how New Student Precinct Operations will be carried out. The original Charter was developed without consultation with UMSU, so we are now working through issues in that to ensure the operations of the Precinct meet our needs also.

SSAF

Following Council's endorsement at the meeting on August 6, I have written to the University to inform them of UMSU's position on the SSAF proposal. When we get a response, this will be provided to Council with any further steps if required.

Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy

The University has circulated a draft of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy. There was not a huge consultation period on this, but obviously UMSU has compiled a response with feedback on the policy.

This policy has been after years and years and years of campaigning from UMSU, and I know there are plenty of UMSU Presidents and Womens Officers who will be very happy to see this work finally cumulated into some tangible policy.

Can I also thank Srishti and Mickaella for their hard work on developing this year, and indeed the work in getting the response done on behalf of the organisation. A big thanks also goes to Patrick Tidmarsh and Phoebe Churches for their fantastic guidance and work on this issue as always.

Other Matters

Progress has been made on other matters that Council is already aware of. More information will be enclosed with the CEO report.

General Secretary

Allen Xiao

„Unsre Taten selbst, so gut als unsre Leiden,

Sie hemmen unsres Lebens Gang.“

Every deed of ours, no less than every sorrow, impedes the onward march of our lives.-

J.W. von Goethe, Faust I 631-2

Key Activities:

Many things in progress on the governance front in the last two weeks, most of which Council has been made aware of.

Southbank honoraria

Over the past few weeks, I have been working with Moores and the **Southbank** team to revise the payment regulations that would have provided for fair remuneration to Southbank Officers before the Constitutional changes in May.

Now that the Activities and Education Officers are officially recognised as such, Moores has advised that a motion is sufficient to provide them with honoraria. Supporting documentation has been enclosed in the Agenda; I am pleased that our student representatives outside Parkville are being fairly recognised for their contributions this year.

EBA matters

I have been reviewing the documents for the UMSU EBA- much to process. An informal meeting of the Subcommittee has been convened, with a view to continue the search for external legal advice as Council had previously indicated in March. Council will be updated on these matters as they develop.

SIG Applications

I've had the chance to liaise with several individuals and groups regarding their **SIG Applications** in the past few weeks, and it is pleasing to see that more have been coming through, especially from groups establishing their presence on campus. I would recommend to Council that they promote this initiative to any community groups they are involved in. As we approach the tail end of scheduled Councils, I will be approaching Comms for a further promotional period.

Due to recent staffing changes, I have been liaising actively with Ciara from Info Desk (massive shout-out!) to ensure applicants are compensated. I eagerly await updates from the recipients as the year goes on.

UMMSS and funding

Representatives from the University of Melbourne Medical Society have reached out with concerns regarding their funding during the past year. It is good to see that graduate student societies are aware of, and involved with, the processes of UMSU. As the picture of SSAF allocations becomes clearer, I will hopefully be able to continue this work and update Council on this.

Activities

Christos Prevolos

Key Activities

3BT and 2BT: More words

It had been a while since I last submitted a report until last fortnight, but in the interest of keeping people more updated, I'll try to expand upon it a bit and hopefully elucidate what's been happening a bit more. While I don't think there is a valid excuse for me to have left such reporting incomplete for so long, I would still like to note the following events.

The last 3 months have, essentially, been a continuous disappointment and a difficult time for me and my role within the activities department (among, of course, many other departments, unionists, and students). As I have taken on the role of organising all things bands/bevs/bbqs related, it has been a real emotional rollercoaster, to say the least.

It might be fair to levy an accusation of putting all our eggs in one basket, or being overly optimistic, but after serious discussions with the CME staff towards the end of last semester (before and even after the June lockdown), we decided that our best option in terms of student engagement and resource allocation was to try and run an in-person bands program.

The rationale behind this decision was twofold: priority one is, of course, to return value to students for their SSAF dues. This was the driving decision behind last semester's online bands program, in which we had 6 bands playing. Such a program would allow us to still provide high-quality exclusive gigs to students (albeit in an online format) while adhering to the COVID restrictions at the time of its design, and without breaking the budget. This leads to priority number two: having recognized the privilege of my/our position as officers within a union (namely, the privilege of directing SSAF funds), we decided that we should do our best as an institution to support artists, musos, sound engineers, and other people (especially POCs/LGBTQIA+ folx/womxn and other marginalised groups) involved within industries that have been adversely and relentlessly affected by what has, in the past, been pretty poor support schemes during lockdowns.

Combining the desire to streamline as much in the way of capital into the arts as possible, while also desiring to provide students with the best possible 3BT experience we could offer, led to us, after much consideration, deciding to try and run the Bands, Bevs, BBQs program in person once again, with a 12-week schedule, and twice-weekly BBQs. We had planned to make some changes - hence the mildly expanded budget. Firstly we of course endeavoured to provide halal food

options alongside others at our Tuesday BBQs; secondly, we wished to expand upon our non-alcoholic drink selection, by expanding it from soft drinks to include other options such as non-alcoholic beers, kombucha (from sponsors at Vit Hit), among other things. Thirdly, we wished to slightly change the format of Thursday BBQs as I alluded to in my previous report. These BBQs, for this semester, would be entirely plant-based/sustainable, as encouraged by our plant-based food supplier (who would offer us a discount on ordering prices if our BBQs were entirely plant-based). They would also feature, whenever possible, infrastructure and equipment to host DJs; this would 1) allow us to offer an alternative music choice to that of Tuesdays and 2) afford student/professional DJs an opportunity to work and make some money. Worst-case scenario, which we pretty much are living through now, having this infrastructure would allow us to reschedule any band that had to be cancelled within the first 6 weeks of term to one of these Thursdays, so that we could still run 12 gigs (at 2 a week). It is hopefully obvious at this point that any such plans will not be coming to fruition for at least the next 3 weeks as of the time I write this.

As it stands right now, both the events team and I are a bit wearied by the whole situation. It has really been quite demotivating and disappointing in terms of the scope of our engagements. There is some desire, given the somewhat cynical view we all have at the moment, to call off in-person gigs altogether, and resort to having an online showcase again; however, though these events did draw viewers in the low hundreds, it is no secret nor surprise that the in-person gigs are far more engaging for students and are hence draw more value for money. This is of course not to say that online events are not worth running, or that they are 'lesser' than in-person events; rather it is just that these such events (involving barbecues etc.) run better as physical events.

It is very difficult to be optimistic about this situation at the moment. As I have stressed our priority is to run these events in person. The ongoing pandemic and its consequences have not made it easy for me or the CME staff to determine what can and cannot be done, even a few days ahead of time (as we would have seen with the August lockdown). The point of no return, then, will have to be around mid-September; if no in-person events can be held, we will need to transition to an online-only format as this is better than doing nothing. We're also looking at re-broadcasting some of the more popular shows – it would be better than nothing at the moment.

I hope this can answer some questions as to what has been happening. I would like to note again that I should have kept people updated; however I won't deny that it has been pretty demoralising to continually see plans fall apart, most often a day or two before they can happen. Nevertheless, **I know that I am not the only one of us going through this** and this is why I sincerely apologise for not being more vocal about the situation.

I can't find any way to describe this other than Sisyphean. I have been working through exam periods, holidays, classes and more, zooming with CME, texting Julian late at night/early in the AM when impending restrictions are but mere rumours, and trying to cope with the ever-changing pandemic situation. All of this seems to have basically been in vain, since pretty much nothing we have planned in the last 3 months has been able to happen. Do I think there was an

alternative? Yes, and no; we could have run this online, in some capacity, but it would not have been the same, and as I said, we tried our best to bring back the in-person format everyone loves. All I can do now is please ask you all to bear with me as the events team and I continue to try and run this sorely missed program. Apologies if I haven't felt like talking about it much.

Other Matters to Report On

The Activities committee has been great and seriously understanding of the situation. After meeting with them, and having a chance to ask some questions, I think they are of the opinion that running a single 'Spring Festival' event featuring the bands that were supposed to be playing during the first 6 weeks would be a great and innovative way to fit them into the schedule – though they all note that this is, of course, far more vulnerable to lockdowns/restrictions and so hopefully if this is an option it can be worked on.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. 3BT/2BT

I have been meeting with CME to try and organise how this is going to work. The latest lockdown extension has made this quite difficult; Julian advises me that we could still bring back *some* gigs at the end of the semester, though these would most likely have to be seated events, and may have to be held separately from BBQs. As much as I would want to run 'standard' BBB events the Events team and I agree that it is unconscionable to do so while the COVID situation is what it is right now.

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Continue to organise how this program would be able to run.

Budget Expenditure

Meeting Number	Meeting Date	Item Description	Amount Passed	Budget Line	Comment
5	5 th August 2021	Motion to move \$160,000 from the "Entertainment Program" budget line to pay for bands, AV, food, alcohol, staff and other supplies as part of the 3BT and 2BT programs.	\$160,000	Entertainment Program	This money was moved en-bloc to cover: band expenditures (around \$65,000), AVM expenditure (\$30,000), food/alcohol/BBQ expenditure (\$ 53,000) as well as BBQ/bar staff (\$10,000).

Bands list: For completion, here is a list of the bands we have organised/planned for this semester:

Week 6: Chitra

Week 7: The Murlocs

Week 8: BABBA

Week 9: Becca Hatch

Week 10: Pinch Points

Week 11: Hachiku

Week 12: Jade Imagine

Some of these will likely be rescheduled to next year (which should hopefully decrease the budget expenditure for next year's team)

Activities

Phoebe Chen

No Report Submitted

Clubs and Societies

Kalyana Vania

1. Club Event Leadership Program

- Given that we are still in the state of uncertainty with current restrictions, the prior plan for an in person expo planning can't proceed until further ease of restrictions. Given that our goal for the in person event was to help clubs garner new members for their clubs, our goal shifted to how clubs can still do that, absent from the expo that would not likely occur this semester. Event planning and promotions are issues that clubs had to adapt and push forward more since the pandemic started. Running successful events depending on the nature of the club, are also ways to which a club can garner new members and audience. On August 13, 2021 we met with Josh Farr from Campus Consultancy, who is well known for leading various seminars and programs across different campuses and even clubs. To give context, Josh has partnered with 50 different clubs, societies, colleges and independent programs (Swinburne Step Up program, RMIT, etc). His expertise lies in giving professional development to student leaders as well as event management.

After our conversation, we noted that there are several ways where we can help clubs address their issues, or assist them in event planning.

Having 2, 90 minute Workshop (during Week 6 & 7) around firstly Leadership 101/ Motivating a Team then secondly Event & Project Management for Online Events can help assist. To make it more formal, I have contacted the LICA team to see whether the workshop hours can be put under "Professional Development" for their LICA.

Lastly, we also aim to have a certificate of acknowledgement given to participants from both Josh and C&S.

We are not sure as to how keen the committee is on the idea of making this into a "progress event" instead of a one off workshop. We think making it into 2 workshops will be better for the clubs to learn and actually implement the ideas being set out.

Our success measure for this event is to have clubs hold an event on Week 10 (mid semester break) base on everything they have learned. Not only that, but we think having it spread across 2 workshop instead of 1 allows for club leaders to connect with each other and create the possibility of more joint events and collaborations.

Hence the structure as of right now is looking like (dates and time of the week contingent to committee feedback):



2. Awards Night

We aim to hold the annual clubs awards night for 2021. As of right now we are looking at a possibility of a fully online awards night with giveaways, prizes as well as and performances.

It may be best to have this event on Week 10 (mid semester break) to take into account people's availabilities and exam periods coming up. It might be best to discuss further first with the committee how they feel about it and what we want awards night to look like for this year.

3. Online trainings

As of right now we have made 2 round of questions for AGM and Treasurers Training. Our next goal is to set a date/time to record the trainings, as well as more information revolving around Financial Management & Governance Training. I will be adding some modules (not considered compulsory trainings) for wellbeing & respect in general that clubs can take reference to. Once recordings are done, we aim to set out a demo phase where someone can trial these trainings out for feedback. Although these online trainings may not be able to be published within this year fully, we aim to have this in progress resource available to be available and ready to go by next year 2022.

Clubs and Societies

Muskaan Hakhu

Key Activities

C&S Canvas subject

We have successfully completed creating quiz questions for the AGM, SGM and financial trainings. Next week we aim to focus on recording and modifying the trainings in a module form.

We aim to make these trainings available to all club executives and scoring 80% would be the passing grade for these and once an individual scores this, it's then that they would be considered to have completed the training.

Along with this, the subject module would also have all the slides and resources (that would have earlier been emailed to the club executives upon attending the zoom trainings) as helping guides. The quizzes would not have a limit on number of times a person can do them.

Engagement Trainings

The pandemic has been a very difficult for the clubs, especially in-terms of gathering engagement. Hence the C&S department has decided on holding workshops and seminars to help clubs with the issue of engagement and how to market events in an online setting. We do believe that this workshop would be highly beneficial since a lot of the events would be happening online.

These trainings would be taking place in two parts, the first part would primarily focus on helping clubs understand how to get engagement and the second part would focus on helping clubs' market these events.

At the end of this session club executives would also be getting a certificate stating that they attended the seminar.

RSA and SFH Trainings

Due to recent changes in the pricing of these trainings, the C&S department has decided to get quotes from different companies and aims to go with the most feasible one. As of now we are waiting on these quotes.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

- Waiting on quotes for RSA and SFH from other institutes that provide the trainings

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Quotes of RSA and SFH trainings
2. Update on the Canvas Subject
3. Update on the trainings

Creative Arts

Vaishnavi Ravikrishna

Key Activities

Mudfest

Well, the official festival dates of Mudfest have passed and the festival ended on August 13th. However, since we and our artists have put in so much work, and especially with the extension of the lockdown, we decided to extend the Mudfest On Demand portion of the festival, which includes all the videos, artworks, etc. (basically anything that isn't an event) for another two weeks minimum, with the consent of our artists. It's all up on our website! Our virtual 3D gallery has been a big success and since it isn't accessible for screen readers, we made sure that all the films and artworks available in the 3D gallery are also available on our website with image descriptions/captions added to those works. We've released a Mudfest survey made on the culture counts platform which usually hosts the Arts & Culture Department's surveys, with the help of the amazing Susan Hewitt, so that we can receive some feedback about the festival and see what has worked and what hasn't. We're closing nominations from our Mudfest Awards judging panel tomorrow morning and meeting with them in the evening so that Merryn and I can finalise the votes and get in touch with the winning artists for each category. However, the People's Choice Award that we had will remain open until this Friday, and we've already received over 80 responses from audience members on that! We've been having a couple of discussions on what the prizes should be for the winners and have decided to give the winning artists some options and ask them to let us know what suits them best so that the prizes can benefit the artists fully. We also met with the new Enviro OBs Disha and Lynne to talk about the overall Sustainability Award that we have for Mudfest, and they've both been lovely and agreed to give us some suggestions as well as sponsor that specific award! We're planning our virtual Mudfest Awards Night to be on August 27th on Zoom to announce the nominees and winners for each of the categories, so that's exciting! We've also started receiving the final reports from a few of our production team members, so we're really feeling like we're coming to the close of this incredible journey. It has been a wild time and we are so lucky to have had so many talented artists be a part of this with us.

Above Water

We've logged the job for the in-person launch that we're hoping to have somewhere on Southbank campus on September 30th. Details are still murky but we'll be diving in to work on it quite soon.

Creative Arts Collective

Friday 4:30 PM AEST has been working well for Collective! It usually ends up going for at least an hour and a half and we have our regulars as well as some new people, and also some people who attended early last semester coming in and going before and after their classes! It's so nice to see so many lovely people and is definitely a highlight of the week for all of us!

Student Artist Spotlight

The Student Artist Spotlight has been going well! We received some incredible submissions for Week 2 and Week 3 and submissions are currently open for Week 4! You can check them out if you take a look at our website or our socials! We haven't been receiving quite as many submissions so far as we did at this time last semester, so it would be good if we could find a way to reach more people! We'd love it if any other departments wanted to share our posts as well!

Grants

Our first grant round of this semester closes on August 20th and we've already met with 4 or 5 different artists who are planning to apply for this round. We've received one final application and are expecting to receive the rest by 5:00 PM AEST this Friday. Several projects have been affected by the lockdown so it's all a little uncertain for some artists.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. Submit basecamp job for Above Water Launch Party - DONE
2. Promote Mudfest 5-13 August - DONE
4. Outline the Mudfest report guidelines for Mudfest Prod Team - DONE
5. Create Culture Counts Survey for Mudfest and submit to UMSU Comms by Friday 13th August to be released on Monday 16th August - DONE
6. Take Mudfest On Demand content down from website between 14-22 August then release back to website with announcement on socials that the content will be available for an extended season (dates tba). – DONE (we never took it down, just left it up)
7. Organise Mudfest Awards – DONE (final winners and prizes TBD)

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Finalise Mudfest award winners and their prizes and contact the artists
2. Organise, publish and promote Mudfest Awards Night on August 27th
3. Plan a potential mask-making workshop with Enviro
4. Contact venues for Above Water Launch
5. Close grant round on August 20th

Budget Expenditure

Please refer to Merryn's report!

Creative Arts

Merryn Hughes

Key Activities

Mudfest

- Mudfest happened! 5-13 August!
 - Our events were well attended – had over 100 attendees to some of our Zoom plays!
 - We've been receiving great feedback, including from the Australian Network of Disability (AND) who commended Mudfest on how accessible our program was. Our Access Manager Nikki Eenink worked hard to ensure our events were live captioned and our creative producers helped artists write image/video/audio descriptions and content warnings for their work.
 - Overall it was a great success! We did have a few issues with some Zoom events regarding live captioning and technological difficulties but we were able to improve our performance after those mistakes to ensure they wouldn't happen again
 - We were really impressed and amazed at how well it all went. We're so proud of our team and our artists and so grateful for all those in UMSU who have supported us <3
 - We released a survey on Sunday 15th August to receive feedback from attendees. You can fill in the survey here: <https://culturecounts.cc/s/y56mQ>
- Mudfest On Demand, GPG Virtual and our 3D Virtual Exhibition are available for an extended season!
 - Vaishnavi and I decided to have an extended season for some of our Mudfest works to keep us all company through the lockdown! Vaishnavi contacted all the artists to make sure they were okay with their works remaining on the website beyond the official festival dates with an option to opt-out (though no one took it).
 - You can view 30+ incredible works by our artists here: <https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/studentlife/arts/mudfest2021/program/mudfest-on-demand/>
 - I also made a quick 2.5min virtual tour of the website and what is available in our extended season which you can view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCIXRjc3rZQ>
- Mudfest Awards
 - We have a panel of 16 members composed of student volunteers and staff who have been viewing Mudfest works and have placed their nominations for our various awards

- We are voting on Thursday 19th August and Vaishnavi and I will confirm and contact winners on Friday 20th August
- We will announce the winners publicly at our Mudfest Awards Night on Friday 27th August (time tbc)
- Grants
 - I sent out the Mudfest Artist Grant Acquittal Report to all grant recipients on Monday 9th August.
 - Artists who received a grant but have had to pull out due to the move to online have been asked to return any unspent funds to UMSU. So far, 4 artists in this situation have returned their unspent funds to UMSU
 - All recipients will need to submit an acquittal report unless they did not spend the funds and pulled out of the festival.
 - Acquittal reports are due by 5PM AEST Monday 13th September.

Above Water

- Vaishnavi and I are planning on contacting the winners closer to the launch date and distributing their prizes after we pass the money with our committee.

Student Artist Spotlight

- The Student Artist Spotlight is back for Semester Two and we've been receiving about 3 submissions a week which is the minimum number required to vote on a winner. It's been really nice to see people responding to our weekly themes too 😊
- All of our committee members are on the judging panel to help us select the winners
- Students can send us their submissions [via this google form](#)
- Submission deadlines close on Fridays 11:59 PM AEST each week

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. Submit basecamp job for Above Water Launch Party – DONE.
2. Promote Mudfest 5-13 August – DONE.
3. Send Mudfest Grant recipients the acquittal report form – DONE.
4. Outline the Mudfest report guidelines for Mudfest Prod Team – DONE.
5. Create Culture Counts Survey for Mudfest and submit to UMSU Comms by Friday 13th August to be released on Monday 16th August – DONE.
6. Take Mudfest On Demand content down from website between 14-22 August then release back to website with announcement on socials that the content will be available for an extended season (dates tba). – CHANGE OF PLAN: with the extended lockdown, Vaishnavi and I thought it best to just keep all the Mudfest On Demand and GPG Virtual works up as is for an extended season.
7. Ensure all Mudfest Staff and Volunteers have a valid Working With Children Check and send records to HR – IN PROGRESS. I have followed up with the last member of the prod

team who is yet to send a scan of their WWCC to me and I am waiting to receive the WWCC scans from 53/87 of our Mudfest Volunteers.

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Source Mudfest Award Prizes
2. Confirm winners of Mudfest Awards
3. Notify winners of Mudfest Awards on Monday 23rd August
4. Post Mudfest award nominees on socials on Monday 23rd August
5. Promote and host Mudfest Awards Night on Friday 27th August
6. Submit SSAF Grant Variation Request
7. Create and distribute Mudfest survey specific to production team, artists and volunteers
8. Send WWCC scans of Mudfest Staff and Volunteers to HR

Budget Expenditure

Meeting Number	Meeting Date	Item Description	Amount Passed	Budget Line	Comment
Creative Arts Committee 12(21)	6.8.21	Purchase of 10 x \$50 gift-card prizes to be awarded to students with standout submissions to the Student Artist Spotlight	\$500	'Special Projects' from the Creative Arts Budget 2021	This was carried without dissent by the Creative Arts Committee under motion 6.2. Amount not yet spent in its entirety.
Creative Arts Committee 12(21)	6.8.21	Reimburse Stephanie Markerink (Mudfest Visual Arts Creative Producer) for two-month Zubyte subscription.	\$50.95	'Accessibility' from the Mudfest Budget 2021	This was carried without dissent by the Creative Arts Committee under motion 6.3.

Creative Arts Committee 12(21)	6.8.21	Cover cost of a Mudfest Production Team dinner (alcohol not included).	\$800	'Front of House - Food and Beverage' Mudfest Budget 2021	This was moved by the Creative Arts Committee to avoid conflict of interest and was carried without dissent under motion 6.4. Amount not yet spent.
Creative Arts Committee 12(21)	6.8.21	Payment of Ai-Media live captioners at Mudfest Zoom events	\$5,494	'Accessibility' Mudfest Budget 2021	This was carried without dissent by the Creative Arts Committee under motion 7.1.
Total:	\$6,844.95				

Disabilities

Brigit Doyle

I could easily start this the same way as last report but change from 5th to 6th lockdown. This 6th lockdown really put a dampener on all things. This week we have an career workshop run by the Australian Network on Disability, to talk about how to make your workplace work for you, and different alternatives a workplace could provide. Also sharing disability information, recruitment process and how to survive in the workplace. As well as the internship and mentoring program for students with disabilities. This will be a really good chance for students to ask questions and take their next step in finding a job, or improving their working conditions. We also have online trivia coming up, and we are moving our Pilates: Movement for Everyone online, and trying to work out the legal side of working with MU sport.

We are running our disability collective a bit different this semester, with different people running each week. This way many different people get the chance to run a session and bring their voice to the table and develop their skills. Come along to one to have a look. We also have the fabulous Queer&Disability collective happening. Other events in the works include some more mental health training, and an NDIS talk. We have also released the Auslan classes and plan to approve more places in line with National Week of Deaf People coming up.

Disabilities

Lindsay Tupper-Creed

Since last report, the deterioration in the covid situation has meant we are now preparing for the department to remain unable to engage on campus for the remainder of the year.

If this eventuality occurs, this will leave us with projects and items we are unable to finish, particularly:

- Gift bags that were prepared to be sent out during the winter break currently occupy most of the office
- Stocks of materials for activities such as our WinterFest bathbomb making
- An order of keep cups meant to be given out as merchandise during WinterFest

Presently, we are hopeful that these projects can be completed when circumstances allow.

We are working on moving several events to an online format, particularly:

- A career workshop given by the Australian Network on Disability in Week 4
- Pilates classes with MU Sport
- Trivia
- Our collectives and activity times

We expect to develop further plans for online engagement as circumstances for the latter part of the semester become clearer.

We are working through the backlog of Auslan class registrations that have been approved, and so far have registered 62 names. We have a further 88 places to allocate, of which the bulk will be advertised and accept new applications.

The university's Mental Health Advisory Group met in Week 3, a meeting where we are invited, along with many relevant university teams, to share the work being done in mental health. As addressed in our most recent committee meeting, some areas that support mental health such as CAPS continue to receive additional funding, as throughout the pandemic, but also continue to see an approximate 50% increase in demand. The university is continuing with a plan to restructure "whole of university" Student Life departments by the end of the year. We expect to be asked to engage with the plans from a few of the areas, such as the new diversity and inclusion team, as they are developed.

The university recently released a new diversity and inclusion strategy, which we are in the process of examining.

Education (Academic)

Jennisha Arnanta

Key Activities

Key Activity 1: Academic Committee Meeting

Jennisha attended the TALQAC meeting last week where academics came together to talk about ensuring the teaching and learning quality in the University. There were three main surveys that were discussed during the meeting:

- Recommendations for Renewal of the Subject Experience Survey
- Insights from the End of Semester 1 Diagnostic Survey on Teaching and Learning
- 2020 QILT Student Experience Survey: Investigating the Findings

The Subject Experience Survey serves two primary purposes: 1) feedback for subject coordinators to allow ongoing improvement in teaching and learning; and 2) information for quality assurance.

There are working groups set up to consider ways in which the Subject Experience Survey (SES) methodology might be modified to improve confidence in the findings and improve their usefulness and relevance, as well as enhance the general experience of the survey for both students and staff.

There were discussions on the positive response to Mid Semester Survey as students are able to see fast turnaround for their feedback being implemented in the second half of the semester. The Working Group believes that an MSS would be a highly valuable tool for enhancing the student learning experience and that it should be available across all subjects.

The second survey discussed 'End of Semester...Survey', acknowledged students' wants to return to an on-campus learning experience with face-to face classroom interactions as soon as possible.

As the QILT survey 2020 indicated the most significant decrease in student satisfaction with the University of Melbourne, Jennisha raised questions on what the University will be doing to address these findings. In response to this, the University indicated that they are working on improving the curriculum, interaction and engagement within subjects and improving online presence (including teaching presence). There will be a focus on improving the clarity of subject structure through online delivery. These are all work in progress within the scope of TALQAC Committee.

Outside of TALQAC, there are other initiatives being done to address these findings. Within the SAS teams, there are only \$60m worth of grants to help students. Lastly, the existence of meal programs to distribute over 60,000 meals to students during these trying times

She will also be attending the Academic Programs Committee Meeting this Friday.

Key Activity 2: Education Committee Meeting

We held our fortnightly education committee meeting together with EdPub where we debriefed our committee members about what we have been working on, what has been going on and how they can get more involved for both the departments.

Key Activity 3: Availability of study spaces in Baillieu Library

Safe or suitable places to study are accessible to students during the lockdown. Students can still request a study space on campus in Baillieu Library during these lockdowns.

Apply here: <https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/.../SV>

Key Activity 4: Follow-up Exam Subcommittee Meeting

Following up on the previous report of the exam subcommittee meeting, Jennisha had raised questions on raising technical difficulties that students faced during exams (Canvas crashing etc..) and the unreasonable amount of details they would have to provide to apply for special consideration afterward. Upon agreement that there needs to be better communication to inform students and simpler methods for students to handle these situations prior to examinations, we are in communication with the University to brainstorm methods and working towards a solution to increase awareness of these messages to students

Jennisha is following up on better methods to inform students of sudden timing changes during the examination period.

Key Activity 5: Answering enquiries from students

Over the past month, we have been replying and answering queries and concerns from students. These included problems on lecture recordings, timetable and subject queries. As a response, we bridged them to the appropriate people to solve the matter (such as the Advocacy team) or emailed the subject coordinator to resolve this issue.

Action points:

Hold another education committee meeting

Education (Academic)

Planning Jay Vynn Saw

Key Activities

Key Activity 1: Elected Reps on International Students

We had our elected reps meetings with Deputy Vice-Chancellor International Michael Wesley, PVC Student Life Sarah Wilson, Tim Brabazon. GSA representatives and UMSU INTL representatives were also present. The University Leadership provided disappointing news that there has been no progress in the return of international students to Australia, and that includes countries with low infection rates such as Singapore.

This is extremely disappointing as our international students have carried hopes of returning to the country, yet they are made to pay exorbitant amounts of fees for an online learning and non-existent campus life.

Key Activity 2: Education Committee Meeting on 18th August

We held our fortnightly education committee meeting together with EdPub where we debriefed our committee members about what we have been working on, what has been going on and how they can get more involved for both the departments.

We would like to emphasise that upon the news of the extensions of the lockdown, we have contacted the University and demanded an immediate meeting to push for the support that our students need.

The series of multiple lockdowns and extensions till 2nd September means that we are due to have only one week of the semester without a lockdown.

Both our students and staff are suffering during these lockdowns and the University Leadership must take greater responsibility in providing better academic, welfare and financial support to the people that form the University - its students and staff.

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to the appropriate people to solve the matter (such as the Advocacy team) or emailed the subject coordinator to resolve this issue.

Key Activity 4: Joining Melbourne Modules

Jennisha, Mohamed, and I reviewed the playpens for two of the Joining Melbourne Modules as we pushed for a module that informs on the issue of racism and the need for anti-racism in our campus.

These are our feedback from the review:

2.3 Respect at university - Racism on campus explores racism and acknowledges that universities do have a problem of racism. Although the *Give Nothing to Racism* video delivers a compelling message about racism, we believe it would be more informative to include the perspectives of our University of Melbourne students. This allows students to connect more with the idea that students experience racism on campus rather than it being a distance experience. For example, students can recount their personal experiences of racism or accounts of racism that they have heard from other friends.

In 2.4 Respect at University - Responding to racism on campus, while we appreciate that there are allyship to prevent racism, it would be appreciated if there can be the inclusion of support services for those students who experienced racism and what they can do/who to approach in those situations.

In 2.5 Respect at University - Gender diversity, similarly, we believe that the inclusion of student perspectives such as representatives from the Queer Department would greatly increase the accessibility to the students. Topics such as the explanation of pronouns have been promoted by the Queer Department. We believe that including the voices of our Queer students at The University of Melbourne to speak on their perspectives and the challenges they faced would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, we believe there can be an additional subsection dedicated to our international students. Currently, the physical barrier between domestic and international students may give rise to the concept of two different populations rather than ONE university student population. Our international students that are onshore and offshore have shared issues as well as distinct issues that these communities would deeply appreciate if they are explored through these modules. For example, our onshore international students often had to decide to leave their family and friends in their home countries through this extended period of the pandemic for fear of never coming back to Australia. They've struggled with employability and strike a balance between work, studies and social, and both domestic and international students can appreciate these lived experiences. By sharing their stories, our students and staff would have a deeper appreciation of the struggles faced by each community and how we can be more empathetic with our struggles.

Action points:

1. Continue to push the University on the necessary changes for our students that had to experience a full semester in lockdown
2. Attend Academic Program Committee on 20th August
3. Attend Academic Board

Education (Public)

Hannah Krasovec

Key Activities

Campaign to Stop the Robert Menzies Institute (RMI)

For the last two weeks, the campaign to stop the Menzies Institute has been my main focus. I gave an overview of what the Institute is and why we are opposing it in my last OB report. We had a public/open campaign organising meeting with GSA Education and students on Thursday 12 August 2pm via Zoom where we planned for the online rally. We had an online rally on Wednesday 18th August at 1pm, co-hosted with GSA Education. We had two speakers – Emily Kaji, representing UMSU Education, and Briana Symonds-Manne. Both Bri and Emily spoke really well and explained the intentions of the Institute and the people on the board, as well as the close links between the Unimelb executive and the Federal Liberal Government. We also had some interactive activities – eg. “checking in” to the Menzies Institute at Old Quad and “leaving reviews”, commenting on Unimelb’s social media posts, and making posters/signs and holding them up for group photos over Zoom. Unfortunately, the Libs who came along didn’t want to speak – they just debated in the chat and refused to make their points vocalised. The turnout was really good – around 90 people in total. A shoutout to the GSA Education Officers Monica and Brendan for helping me co-chair and organise the event. We do have an in person rally planned for 15 September but that date could change depending on COVID etc.

Collectives

Collectives have been going well!! In our last Rural, Regional and Interstate Collective we discussed the possible return to campus – this was before lockdown was extended. Attendance has been a bit low to this one so we’ve reached out to Comms so they can advertise it on the main UMSU socials and promote it. It is important to note that attendance for the in-person RRI collectives has usually been higher, but unfortunately that hasn’t been able to happen with lockdowns.

Education Action Collective has been going really well!! Attendance has been pretty good for this one. In the last 2 collectives we discovered that Vice Chancellor Duncan Maskell was speaking at a Science Week Forum (shout out to Ben Jarick for letting us know!!). The purpose of the forum was to discuss the future of science research at Unimelb and how to balance that in a financially difficult situation or something – doesn’t really make sense to me when the university made an \$8 million profit last year, and Duncan earns \$1.5 million annually, but anyway. We came up with a plan of what questions we could ask and spam the chat with. We focused on the subject cuts, staff cuts, increasing tutorial sizes etc but also brought the Menzies Institute stuff. The forum was on Friday 13th August at 9am – they thought we’d all be asleep but jokes on them!! We didn’t advertise the action because otherwise they would have blocked us all from entering.

Unfortunately, the university disabled the chat function so we couldn't spam there, but we did manage to spam them with questions in the Q&A function. Predictably, Duncan and the other panellists didn't answer our questions, but it was funny seeing the looks on their faces as the questions came through. Plus, they know that we won't be giving up the fight because we're in lockdown or they scheduled the forum for 9am.

EdCon grants

All EdCon grant applicants were approved in Education Committee meeting 11(21). Grant applicants were sent an email from UMSU to organise the reimbursements, with a deadline of 10th August close of business to reply. Applicants should have received their reimbursements or will soon.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. Have everything ready to go for the August 18 rally against the Menzies Institute.
 - Done!!
2. Keep working on the anti-Menzies campaign – need to keep up the momentum after the rally.
 - At the time of writing this, we finished the rally 45 mins ago. Will definitely be keeping up the momentum though – rally planned for 15 September as aforementioned.
3. Hold another campaign meeting with GSA Education for the anti-Menzies campaign.
 - Done – last public campaign meeting was Thursday 12 August 2pm via Zoom, as aforementioned.
4. Have some stalls to promote UMSU Education and the anti-Menzies campaign.
 - Unfortunately, we haven't been able to have stalls etc because of lockdown, however we have been posting on social media and sending out emails etc.

Action Points to be completed by next report

4. Organise/hold Education Action Collective with the Young Workers Centre for a session on knowing your rights at work, joining your union etc.
5. Get UMSU official socials to promote the Menzies campaign more.
6. Get UMSU official socials to promote the Rural, Regional and Interstate Students Collective.
7. More memes on the Instagram. Been lacking in the memes lately.

Budget Expenditure

Meeting Number	Meeting Date	Item Description	Amount Passed	Budget Line	Comment

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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Education (Public)

Tejas Gandhi

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that – Martin Luther King Jr.

Key Activities:

Rural, Regional and Interstate Collective:

Had a session on discussing the return to campus and way the lockdowns are turning out to be for people in regional and interstate areas. The attendance was fairly low and we look forward to making plans to advertise the collective more. Have talked with communications department and planning to promote it on umsu socials.

Planning for future collectives-

We, at ed pub, discussed about the future events we plan to do over the coming weeks as the lockdown had been extended and there were more online events to be organised. We plan to do discussions about the problems around student accommodation and colleges, problems returning to melbourne/to in person classes with covid etc, discussions of what concerns rri students at the moment along with RRI themed Kahoot, chill games session.

We also plan to have a RRI in the garden and some in-person events also to be planned and organised when the lockdown comes to an end.

CUPUW Meetings-

Had a fairly good session talking to various casual and unemployed university workers. This week was about skill sharing and discussing about various issues faced by comrades in their university and talked about our swot analysis of campuses.

No Menzies Institute Online Rally-

We had our first online rally for no Menzies institute this week. There were some staunch speakers who spoke against the ring-wing forces coalescing at our university, called out the institute to inculcate this ideology in our staff and students trying to hamper our freedom to

education and limit progressive subjects and learning for students. There were some staffs as well which was good to see.

We discussed about the actions we can take in break out rooms and also discussed the future actions to build the campaign. We have an in-person rally planned and co-hosted with Stop the liberals- Menzies institute off campus, NUS & GSA Education for September 15th which will hopefully happen so that the top executives in John Medley building understand the student movement opposing this institute because I think it's really important to have an unbiased education in the future given to the students coming from various backgrounds on campus. We will advertise it on our socials and make as many students aware out of stupol bubble to support this campaign as well.

Progress on assigned actions from last report-

1. Do Planning meeting for the upcoming campaign-
Had discussion in the rally, and also organise meetings in the upcoming days.
2. Plan out the upcoming collectives
Done for RRI Collectives online. Have do planning for some in-person events and ed collective.
3. Provide weekly report for cupuw meeting
Done
4. Brainstorm more campaigns to focus
Working on it.

Action points to be completed by the next report:

1. Do planning for ed collectives.
2. Brainstorm more campaigns to focus- Have to discuss with Hannah and also see what action we can take in online campaigns.
3. Do organising meeting for the Menzies institute campaign

Environment

Lynne Bian

No Report Submitted

Environment

Disha Zutshi

No Report Submitted

Indigenous

Shanysa McConville

Key Activities

Gundui Bunjil Volume 10

Submissions are still open for Gundui Bunjil Volume 10. Because of the extended lockdown we've decided to keep submissions open right up until the mid-semester break. We also have a cover art competition running as an incentive for students to send in works. The winning piece will be featured on the cover and that student will receive a bundle of Blak merch. All other submissions will still be featured throughout the magazine as well, so no one misses out!

VIC Indigenous Nationals Competition

As the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle kept Victorian universities from competing in this year's Indigenous Nationals competition, the University of Melbourne is organising a Victorian based competition for the teams that missed out. While this was set to take place in Week 5, it has been put on hold until we know more about resumed campus activities in September. At this stage, it is also only Swinburne that are still keen to compete, so the competition structure will be re-evaluated closer to the date.

Under Bunjil Vol 9 Launch

Postponed thanks to lockdown (rrrrrrrrr). Still going to have this as an in-person event as soon as we're able. Hard copies have been sent to contributors and a digital version of the new volume can be found on our website for those unable to access hard copies on campus.

Merchandise

Still waiting for our glass water bottles and notebooks, but because of the lockdown we can't distribute until it's safe to be back on campus anyway.

Indigenous Literacy Day

I'm currently liaising with Murrup Barak to deliver a fun event for Indigenous Literacy Day on the 1st of September. While we initially wanted a First Nations author to come in and talk about their book, we are now asking them if they can record a short video for us to play for students at a Book Fair event instead.

We initially wanted to hold this on Indig Lit Day (1st Sept.) but with the new lockdown extension this will have to be postponed, likely until after the mid-sem break. The plan is to purchase 50 or so books (in addition to putting up donations from the UMSU Indigenous department office) for students to take. We'll ask them to pay what they think their books are worth, and those proceeds will go back to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Indigenous Sovereignty and Bla(c)k Liberation Week

This Semester we're excited to be teaming up with the POC department to deliver a range of events for Blak and Bla(c)k students at UniMelb. Due to COVID we've pushed this back to Week 8, and we'll have a Welcome and dance performance, a number of seminars, an alumni networking night, and a big food/music event across the 14th, 15th and 16th of September. We're still working out all the details (venues, performers, speakers, etc.) but this is looking like a fantastic event. UPDATE: because of the lockdown extension, we're looking at pushing the event back once again to Week 10 after the mid-sem break.

MU Community Garden

This event has also been put on hold for now until we know when we'll be able to get back on campus.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. Update on Under Bunjil launch.
Waiting for update from university about resumption of activity on campus after this lockdown is over.
2. Update on Indigenous Sovereignty and Bla(c)k Liberation Week planning.
Waiting for update from university about resumption of activity on campus after this lockdown is over.

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Update on Under Bunjil launch.
2. Update on Indigenous Sovereignty and Bla(c)k Liberation Week planning.

Media

Lauren Berry

Key Activities

Launch party

After having to reschedule our planned combined Edition 3 & 4 launch more than three times, we finally admitted that it must be cursed and decided to move it online. We held a meeting to discuss plans in more detail and resolved to hold an evening event—on August 20—with not only magazine reveals and readings, but musical performances from student musicians and some games for a bit of added pizzaz (and to combat the Zoom fatigue lol)!

Edition Five

We spent some time going through the many wonderful cover submissions and decided upon a cover for Edition Five, which is now being developed further. Subediting and illustrations have also started trickling in, and we're starting to put the whole thing together. We also planned an online proofing event for August 23 and this has been promoted on our social media channels. At this stage, we plan to launch the magazine online on September 17 (week 8), and I'm overseeing the event planning.

Edition Six

We've been promoting Edition Six over the past month, and submissions will close this week. We've received many pitches and seen an increase in submissions which has been really positive—especially considering this is our final *Farrago* edition for the year! We're starting to sort through cold submissions and commissions. We've also been finalising a design brief which explores our aesthetic vision for the cover and interior appearance of our final edition.

Website

We've been working with MSL to put the final touches on our new website(!), including colour schemes, aesthetic + navigation preferences, ironing out a few issues and various links etc. Coming to you very (VERY) soon! :D

Radio Fodder

We've been promoting our new Semester 2 shows with the help of our lovely new social media managers. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mark and I have also had to take over management of the *Radio Fodder* blog, so I've been doing a fair bit of correspondence with writers and editing pieces. At this stage, we plan to have some fresh pieces ready to publish in time for the new website launch (since Fodder too is going to be incorporated into the new site). We've also been working on transitioning Fodder smoothly into the new website, and Mark and I have been exploring potential design/aesthetic avenues which will make Fodder stand out as its own presence.

Event Planning

Due to obvious reasons, we've had to move our event plans around a little bit this semester. We've held many meetings, altered many plans, implemented back up plans—and yeah, you get it, the cycle continues. I've been mainly looking after our launch parties (Ed 3&4 launch, Edition 5, and Edition 6), whereas Pavani has been amazing at looking after team events/workshops, POC x Media, and the Fitzpatrick awards/End of Semester Gallery event. Planning is obviously still in progress.

Merch!

We've also decided to launch some new *Farrago* merchandise for the end of the year! We've been planning and finalising design ideas, discussing colours, and liaising with our supplier and UMSU Design. At this stage we plan on ordering hoodies and tote bags!

Progress on Actions from Last Report

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2. Closed Edition Six submissions; selection in progress
3. Event planning—in progress
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Action Points to be completed by next report

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2. Send out subediting and illustrations for Edition Six
3. Launch new website
4. Continue preparing fodder blog content/pieces

5. Proceed with event planning

Media

Ailish Hallinan

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Pavani Ambagahawatta

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People of Colour

Mohamed Hadi

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19. Continue preparing fodder blog content/pieces

20. Proceed with event planning

People of Colour

Emily AlRamadhan

On Leave

Queer

Amy Bright

Queer

Laura Ehrensperger

Key Activities

Social Media

Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram are used to promote the online events which are occurring throughout the Semester.

Facebook Boosting will also be used to promote these events and make the posts more far-reaching.

Events

Queer Ball

The deposit and extra costs have been paid, however need to approve the rest of the money to be spent.

Queer Ball was supposed to occur on the 2nd of September, however this is when the lockdown is due to end. As such Queer Ball will have to either be postponed, or have an online alternative.

I have yet to hear back from the event organiser, who is on leave until Friday the 20th of September.

Speed Friending

Amy and I held an online Speed Friending event, which had a medium but interactive turnout. This involved allocating groups into breakout groups to discuss a random question which had just been picked to get to know each other.

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Sorting out the rest of Queer Ball
2. More promotion and attendance for smaller events

Meeting Number	Meeting Date	Item Description	Amount Passed	Budget Line	Comment
12	To be decided				

Welfare

Hue Man Dang

Key Activities

Key Activity – Finalise the criteria for the food vouchers with Advocacy

Key Activity – Advertise the Travel Passes

Progress on assigned actions from last report

The saddest part about all of this is that circumstances have not permitted getting on campus and being able to run Union Mart!

- I've been trying to get permission to come onto campus to continue to run Union Mart, however, it has been shot down numerous times. Hence I've been working with Advocacy to launch a new food voucher program. It has been approved by my Committee. Further information is below:
 - During recent discussions with Advocacy, we discussed a number of key issues happening within the student welfare circle. We went through a number of projects and there was also the introduction of the extensive offerings of the Union Mart project. We talked about how we could improve the outreach and support each other's respective work. Due to the extensive lockdown (to make sure that the Welfare Department budget is reaching the most needed students) we are expanding the range of support options for students.
 - The first project is an extension of the current work that Advocacy are doing within the student population. The Advocacy team have expressed that the demand for these travel vouchers has been very high, especially for the 30 day vouchers and extra support from the Welfare Department will allow more students facing financial hardship to access them. These Department of Transport requires Travel Passes applications to be assessed against the eligibility so the Advocacy team will be in charge of giving them out.
 - The second project is a newly formed project in collaboration with Welfare Department to provide supermarket vouchers to students facing financial hardship. Advocacy will provide regular report number of students assisted, the amount of supermarket vouchers given out, and Advocacy can even provide case stories (subject to consent). The vouchers will be given out by Advocacy and the Welfare Department will promote and refer students to there when they are needed extra support.

- I had a massive delivery to replenish the shelves at the Union Mart. However when the lockdown was announced we had a massive rush of students who needed to access the food. If we ever return back to campus I will need to restock on off the supplies!
- I never got around to organising the Instagram Takeover, but perhaps when campus reopens, I'll request to do one. I have been working with Dee to talk about socials and how I can improve them, seeing as I'm not really good at marketing and design. I have been working with someone one on one to rework the website to provide a more updated picture of what the Department does.
- I will lodge a job for our Calculator Project!
- There have been some adjustments to the SPI project, but I will speak with Dee to arrange that.

Action Points to be completed by next report

8. Meet again with Advocacy + Stop 1 Regarding Advocacy
9. Start promoting the Calculator project
10. Continue working on the Safer Partying Initiative
11. I will organise a Committee Meeting for the next week

Women's

Srishti Chatterjee

Hello! This fortnight has really been so extremely busy and I'm severely sleep deprived (already, it's week 4, dammit).

Firstly, I want to **congratulate Merryn and Vaishnavi** and the entire production team, for rolling out Mudfest so successfully. Arts and Culture have been attacked in the pandemic worse than many other fields, and especially after having to last minute move everything online, it must have been difficult. I'm so proud of you two - Mudfest was beautiful!

Friendly reminder that council is not a place for mentally injuring people running for elections, so if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. Do your job quietly, show up to meetings, and keep your election obsession to yourself, student money doesn't pay you to be a hack. It pays you to be a caregiver and be kind.

CW: mentions refugees in detention, sexual misconduct with no explicit detail

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Refugee Action: Lockdown has really made this worse - but currently in the process of organising a phonebank/emailbank this Saturday to call politicians to encourage permanent settlement of refugees, and for faster responses on Afghanistan - including increasing intake.

NUS Women's Officers Meeting for NDA: So this is still underway, with two big cities under lockdown - it has been hard to come to a conclusion about this. It will happen, for now in October because we are REALLY stressing on an in-person rally and vigil, but if not, we'll do more online actions.

Irrespective of whether or not in-person rallies happen, **online actions will happen** for accessibility, people based remotely and overseas - we're looking at photo campaigns, emailbanking, etc. Cool ideas were floated at our Feminist Action Collective, and I'm still looking into the safety and logistics of this - will have info soon.

Sexual Misconduct Policy Response: I sat at that document for a WEEK AND A HALF, painstakingly content warning the draft policy, reading for loopholes, before sending it out.

I organised an emergency SA/SH Working Group meeting, thank you to everyone who came! We took the feedback to UMSU Legal and Advocacy. Along with Phoebe, Patrick and Jack, we wrote down a response to the University as UMSU - as directed by the Working Group, and Feminist Action Collective. We're now waiting to hear back from the Uni.

I just want to take a moment to point out that as a survivor, and as often the first person to read documents with graphic descriptions of sa/sh to content warn them for others, I wish there was more structural support available to us. Something to look at in future.

I want to thank with all my heart, Mickhaella, Jack, Patrick and Phoebe for being the best team behind all our policy work this year. It's a big win, a HUGE step in the protected safety of students on campus, and while I did not expect it to be done from my bedroom on a random Tuesday afternoon, I'm proud of us and our work.

I also want to thank the Feminist Action Collective, the people who are not paid to do this work, for having our back, for writing their own responses and proofreading our collective response. We love collective action! The Collective was also sent the response - and it will be up on UMSU Policy Responses on the website.

We also did a quick infographic encouraging students to make their own submissions to the policy hub, because the University rushed it and did not publicise it properly. We're so glad that several students reached out to us with suggestions or questions on their own submissions. Mobilising students who aren't the usual stupol hack? CHECK.

Mudfest: Mickhaella and I were both on the judging team for Mudfest. Apart from our stupol jobs, we're both on a student theatre committee, and incredibly passionate about the arts - which is actually how we became friends. I was looking forward to actually going to a few shows with her, and while this wasn't possible, we did log into some of the same shows! We are so proud of the art that has come out of our student community. So excited to vote for winners and appreciate art!!

Judy's Punch: This is coming along nicely - we'll close for submissions at the end of this month. Personally not a fan of being late to a magazine and closing submissions early, people need time to write. Our editors now have quotes from the printers. Big thanks to Ailish for training all the editors, you're just the loveliest bean, we don't deserve you.

I'm also running the collectives, we're up to fortnightly collective #3, a plant themed craft collective is coming up soon! We're so excited for these collectives - gives us a nice chance to catch up and have fun and be productive!

GSA Meetings: I've been regularly catching up with Madeleine - the GSA Women's Officer, to discuss the Uni's different policies coming up. Mickhaella joined us at the last meeting. We're quite offended by the Uni's 'Respect Taskforce' email being signed by GSA and UMSU presidents (who are both men), but not Women's Officers (Jack already told us this was happening so I emailed the Uni, no response).

UMSU INTL survey chat: I caught up with UMSU Intl Officer-Bearers, Putri and Eric, to discuss how to best support international students during surveys. We're going to do a resources workshop for people who move to Melbourne about wellbeing and reporting procedures. Their office-bearers are about to change into the new ones, so I'm going to be in touch about this later.

ACTION ITEMS ASSIGNED FROM LAST OB REPORT:

1. **NUS NDA Plans:** Lockdown, ugh
2. **Movie Screening:** Done
3. **SA/SH Policy Consultation Record:** Done, written, submitted.
4. **SASHWG:** Done

ACTION ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT REPORT:

1. **NUS NDA FINALISATION:** gOD GLadys JUST DO UR JOB
2. **Queer Gals and Enby Pals Movie Night:** Coming soon x
3. **UMSU Intl:** Survey wellbeing fix
4. **Follow up on Welfare and Disabilities to move survey wellbeing online.**

Women's

Mickhaella Ermita

TW: mentions of sexual assault and harassment in no explicit detail.

Howdy. The advent of the sixth lockdown in Melbourne, and how it has disrupted my thesis and the suburb in which I live, has meant that I've been feeling the worst (and to translate this into capitalistic terms: the least "productive") since the pandemic has started. Learning how to "forgive" myself and give myself "permission" to process things, rest and take care of myself has admittedly been pretty hard – and I want to give a special shout-out to Srishti who, as always, has been so reliable and competent while I've been pulling myself out of this slump. Thankfully, I got out of it enough to contribute to the final stages of some really, really important policy work the Department has been working on for the entire year, but we'll see how long this stamina lasts with September looming around the corner.

Key Activities

Safety on Campus

UMSU Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment Working Group Meeting (August 13th)

The Women's Department called an emergency UMSU SA/SH Working Group meeting to discuss the University's draft standalone sexual misconduct policy, which was open for (an incredibly, irresponsibly short period of) consultation. Thank you so, so much to everyone who attended and contributed—it is so, so important to hear from as many voices and positionalities as possible and, as moved in the meeting, the feedback we received was directly implemented into the UMSU submission by the Women's Officers, which I will speak about more below.

UMSU Submission on Consultation on Proposed Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy (August 17th)

UMSU submitted their official feedback on the University's proposed standalone sexual misconduct prevention and response policy, directly incorporating the views expressed in the UMSU SA/SH Working Group meeting and by the Feminist Action Collective. While the policy contains improvements such as incorporating language like trauma-informed and victim-centric, and commitments to incorporating intersectionality and complainant wellbeing, it remains largely aspirational. Significant areas of concerns include **poor accessibility, the policy's problematic interaction and reliance on other unreformed policies, and a conspicuous lack of alternative options for victim-complainants including restorative justice approaches**. Finally, it was signed by me and Srishti (UMSU Women's), Phoebe (the Manager for UMSU Advocacy & Legal), Patrick (UMSU Sexual Harm and Response Coordinator) and Jack (UMSU President).

In the midst of working on this submission, I was struck again by how much of an incredible honour it is to directly contribute to visible change. While much work remains to be done, seeing Srishti's and I's work from the beginning of the year (as well as the work of so many Women's Officers before us) come to some sort of fruition is incredibly rewarding,

Meeting with GSA Women's Officers

Srishti and I met with Madeleine Charisis, the newly-elected Women's Officer for GSA (Graduate Students' Association). We exchanged notes about what UMSU and GSA had going on, including our own respective submissions on the draft standalone sexual misconduct policy. One issue we all expressed dissatisfaction with was the University's handling of their 'bystander intervention emails', which we felt did not receive adequate review from the RESPECT Taskforce or Community of Practice and was notably signed by two men (the UMSU President and GSA President).

Arts, Media and Cultural Events:

Judy's Punch

Submissions and sub-editor applications have opened! Our Editors are hard at work while Srishti and I have been providing support from behind-the-scenes. On my end, I accompanied them to media training (run by the awesome Ailish) where they received practical tips on the logistics of creating, editing and publishing a zine. I also helped them sort through sub-editor applications, which they'll be finalising soon. Stay tuned!

Mudfest 2021

I elected to join the Mudfest Awards Judging Panel for this year. Mudfest holds a really special place in my heart—I was an artist in 2019 and it was where I made my first real friends at University, so I wanted to give back somewhat. Unfortunately, however, I wasn't able to view as many works as I would have liked because of my own ill-timed fatigue, but I was able to attend Mudfest Movie Night and everything I saw was utterly fantastic! Congratulations to Merryn and Vaishnavi for pulling this off!

Disability Confidence Training (August 10)

I attended a training session ran by a representative from the Australian Network on Disability, which was designed to make workforces more accessible. It was *incredibly* informative and I learned so, so much!

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. Continue meeting with NUS about OurTurn initiative for Safety on Campus.
In-progress.
2. Attend and minute Women's Committee meeting 10(21).
In-progress.
3. Attend and minute UMSU Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment Working Group Meeting 7(21)
Done.

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Attend and minute Women's Committee meeting 11(21).
2. Attend and minute UMSU Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment Working Group Meeting 8(21).

Southbank

Leyla Moxham and Jamie Kim

2021 Mudfest

We would like to thank Merryn and Vaishnavi, UMSU Creative Arts OBs, as well as many other people, regarding the 2021 Mudfest. Thank you very much, Merryn and Vaishnavi, for reaching out to us earlier this year and asking if UMSU Southbank would like to collaborate with UMSU Creative Arts for the event.

Potential changes to music practical/performance subjects assessments

We have been liaising with Jennisha and Planning, UMSU Education (Academic Affairs) OBs, regarding requesting the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music to potentially adjust the current assessments system of their music practical/performance subjects. There has been an anonymous inquiry that points out the current assessments of the subjects are worth 100% (end-of-the-semester practical/performance examinations), and that the marks that students get from these examinations/subjects can influence which subjects they can choose to study when they are in their second or third year of Bachelor of Music, because some ensemble/chamber subjects consist of a condition (e.g., scoring at least 75% (H2A) in MUSI10221 *Practical Music 2* to be able to take MUSI20013 *Chamber Music 1*). UMSU Southbank believes that this system should be changed to acknowledge that students' practical abilities should not be solely judged and assessed on one of the days of their examinations. UMSU Southbank is currently in the process of preparing to address their points in the upcoming meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music.

Pandemic-Relief Grocery Vouchers

Leyla, Southbank Campus Education Officer, has been preparing to get pandemic-relief grocery vouchers for Southbank students, as well as Faculty of Fine Arts and Music students, for the past few weeks. The budget that UMSU Southbank has used for these vouchers are from the remaining budget from the last semester, as there were a few events that we could not hold due to COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria. The vouchers are expected to be given to the students soon.

Budget Expenditure

Meeting Number	Meeting Date	Item Description	Amount Passed	Budget Line	Comment
N/A					

Burnley

Kaitlyn Hammond

Key Activities

R-efreshers course

We were fully booked for our last two sessions- both were very well received. The next two sessions are coming up and will be our last sessions for the series. We will likely try to plan another set of workshops for students to participate in over lockdown.

Other activities

As with other departments, many of the activities we had planned have been put on hold due to the current lockdown. Online events haven't been particularly successful for the Burnley campus, so we will need some rethinking on how to engage students in these circumstances. One potential option is an online escape room. We will check in with other departments to see how this goes!

Progress on assigned actions from last report

1. All progress has become irrelevant due to COVID impacts

Action Points to be completed by next report

1. Come up with potential online activities and plan one

Budget Expenditure

N/A