

**Report of
Justin Baré
General Manager, UMSU**

**To Students' Council
August 25, 2016**

Strategic Advice to Student Representatives

Ongoing advice and support has been provided to the President in relation to two key issues which will be addressed in the President's report:

1. SSAF Allocation 2017-19; and

The UMSU SSAF allocation for 2017 has been determined and includes a significant increase in the quantum available to UMSU. As part of a revised allocation model UMSU's recommendations in relation to the development of a SSAF Vision and Principles document, as well as common the development and implementation of shared Key Performance Indicators for all SSAF recipients, have been accepted.

Preparations for the 2017 UMSU Budget have commenced.

2. The Student Precinct Project

UMSU staff have provided significant time and expertise to support the conduct of the yet to be finalised *Artistic and Cultural Facilities Review (ACFR)*. The ACFR will have a significant bearing on the Urban Design Framework for the Student Precinct. The Student Precinct Steering Group will need to make decisions about the nature of the Student Precinct and the location of UMSU's services and facilities in coming weeks.

3. Appropriate Behaviour Policy (University)

A range of UMSU staff and student representatives have contributed to the development of a submission to the University in response to a draft of the Appropriate Behaviour Policy. This was submitted on Monday August 22.

Review of Corporate Service Provision

The University had initially advised that a preferred model for the provision of corporate services to student organisations would be considered by Chancellery Executive on August 16. On August 16 the Deputy Provost advised UMSU that the preferred model would be considered on August 23, and that the preferred model would be the starting point for discussions with UMSU.

A meeting has been scheduled with UMSU representatives and the Deputy Provost on August 24.

It is anticipated that a verbal update will be provided to Council.

On August 17 MUSUL Services provided UMSU with a draft Deed of Variation to give effect to the University's commitment to moderate notice requirements for the termination of the Facilities and Services Agreement. The proposed Deed of Variation is being reviewed prior to finalisation with MUSUL Services.

Corporate Service Provision

A range of issues are currently being addressed by MUSUL Services and certain projects have been progressed, such as Clubs Online.

In addressing ongoing and outstanding deficiencies in service provision UMSU and MUSUL Services have been categorising activities by identifying those matters that MUSUL will address and those matters that will not be addressed. Where matters will not be addressed – usually due to the uncertainty in relation to MUSUL's future status – MUSUL has also undertaken to identify the actions it will take in order to mitigate the impact on UMSU.

Examples of items where MUSUL has committed to take action include:

- Process for casual recruitment
- Cash handling procedures
- Email and online collaboration for the Student Representative Network
- Provision of strategic investment advice
- A range of OHS/Event Management issues

Examples of items where MUSUL has committed to mitigate the impact of issues in service delivery include:

- Induction manual for new UMSU Staff
- MUSUL Policy and Procedure (and the way in which it interacts with UMSU Staff and Student Representatives)
- Provision of strategic industrial and human resources advice.

These lists are not exhaustive.

Collective Agreement and Performance Management and Development (Staff)

MUSUL Services has conducted a second ballot to approve revised changes to a variation to the MUSUL Collective Agreement. The variation was certified by Fair Work Australia on August 23.

The future status of the employment of UMSU staff will be resolved by the outcomes of the Review of Corporate Service Provision and may result in significant changes to existing arrangements. Changes of this nature will not impact on staff roles, functions or reporting lines; however, it is plausible that UMSU may become directly responsible for the employment of staff. This would mean that UMSU would be required to negotiate its own Collective Agreement.

UMSU has also provided advice and feedback to MUSUL in relation to the development of an interim policy adjustment to enable the implementation of the Performance Management and Development System for UMSU staff in 2016.

Ground Floor, Union House/Unistore

MUSUL determined that the Unistore be closed and this outlet has now ceased operation. As part of this determination to close the Unistore MUSUL has negotiated with UMSU for the space to be converted for use in support of UMSU Volunteer Programs, and other UMSU Student Engagement activities.

UMSU has provided a brief to MUSUL in relation to this project and is awaiting further advice.

UMSU has also commenced the sale of movie tickets from the Information Centre since the closure of the Unistore.

UMSU Legal Service

The recruitment of the Principal Solicitor has been completed and Reeanna Maloney commenced in this role on August 2. Recruitment for the Solicitor role has commenced. Office space for the Solicitor is contingent upon the completion of work for the new Volunteering Hub.

Auditor Appointment 2017

In 2013 MUSUL conducted a tender process on behalf of UMSU, the GSA and MUSUL to appoint auditors for the period 2014 – 16. In addition to conducting an “internal” audit MUSUL must, as a subsidiary of the University, be subject to an additional audit conducted by an auditor appointed by the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (VAGO.)

In 2016 a dispute has arisen between MUSUL and the University, and VAGO, in relation to the scope and cost of the audit conducted by the VAGO appointed auditor for MUSUL’s 2015 accounts. This dispute has prevented any tender process from being conducted that would enable the appointment of an auditor for UMSU for 2017.

UMSU is liaising with MUSUL to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the organisation as a result of this situation; however, it may be necessary for UMSU to take independent action to ensure the timely appointment of an auditor for 2017.

MUSUL has, in the meantime, undertaken to provide UMSU with advice in relation to applying for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Obtaining DGR status would assist UMSU by:

1. Expanding the range of grants that UMSU would be eligible to apply for; and,
2. Allowing individuals to make tax deductible donations to support UMSU.

In order to obtain DGR status it is likely that UMSU will need to make some minor constitutional change.

Events with Alcohol – MUSUL Liquor Licence

MUSUL has undertaken to revise and simplify arrangements for support for events where use of the MUSUL Liquor Licence is required. I am being briefed on the proposed revised procedures on Tuesday August 23.

Financial Reports

UMSU Financial reports for the period January 1 – July 31, 2016, have been distributed to staff and student representatives.

There are no major issues to report.

Occupational Health & Safety

There are no major incidents to report.