

University of Melbourne Student Union

 Office Bearer Annual Reports
 16.11.16

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Note: Office bearers who fail to submit an annual report will not receive their final honoraria payment.

**President
Tyson Holloway-Clarke**

The University of Melbourne Student Union is now 11 years old and has reached maturity as an organisation. Maturity is not the first word that comes to mind in student representation but our strategic direction and outcomes speaks to the fact that UMSU is currently writing a new chapter. Our relationship with the University is one that is now firmly founded in a deeper level of respect and cooperation- a relationship informed by our autonomy and expertise in representing students. While this does not reflect an orthodox student representation and University relationship this is on the back of a shift in attitude regarding consultation and respect for student representation. While things are not perfect, UMSU and students now have a strong mandate with Chancellery, Academic Board and University Council. This changing relationship has been the defining factor in a suite of long term changes to UMSU as an organisation.

It follows that reflecting on a very transformative year for UMSU is no small task. I am incredibly proud of the hard work our representatives and staff have put into the organisation and the progress we have made despite ongoing disruptions. The role of the President as the key point of consultation for the University, the spokesperson and public face of the organisation and the representative responsible for the implementation of policies has been a challenging one with a long list of organisation defining events outlined in the Key Activities and Key Achievements sections of this report. It is worth noting that this report is concerned with activities of the President's Office from April 11th of 2016.

Key activities:

Delivery of new Student Services Amenities Fee distribution model

This year was the final year of the Student Services Amenities Fee agreement with the University and UMSU was invited to sit on the SSAF Consultation Group. The group's membership consisted of a SSAF stakeholders including the Graduate Student Association, MUSport, and University Services.

The group was asked to consider a wider variety of considerations concerning the SSAF beyond the distribution model. UMSU championed the introduction of a suite of SSAF allocation and expenditure principles that will have a significant impact on delivering greater transparency, accountability, equity, engagement and efficiency in the expenditure of SSAF funds. All SSAF stakeholders will be marked against a selection of key performance indicators to measure their compliance with the SSAF principles. UMSU is in my view the organisation best positioned to deliver on the principles of the SSAF.

The consultative group also informed how the accumulated SSAF surplus would be utilised to the benefit of students. The SSAF surplus was the result of the previous model of SSAF allocation that carried flat dollar amounts with added indexation. Given the University's over collection of SSAF through higher than predicted levels of enrolments. It was determined that this amount will be utilised in a SSAF Grants scheme designed to provide current SSAF stakeholders and other members of the University community to deliver projects and programs in line with the purposes of the SSAF. This report will detail the applications made by UMSU in a later section.

Finally the model for 2017-2019 SSAF allocations was developed. Discussions both in the meeting and outside of it were had and a final model was decided upon. The model has allocated percentiles to SSAF stakeholders meaning they will collect a total proportion of the SSAF collected, rather than the flat amounts with indexation from the last allocation model.

The allocation made to UMSU represents a significant increase in funding from 2016 and 2017. While it was possible for UMSU to attempt to cannibalise other organisations, including student organisations, UMSU's priority was developing a stronger framework for SSAF accountability and performance stretching into the future. It is my view that such moves will ultimately be of significant benefit to UMSU as we are the organisation best suited to satisfying the principles, exceeding SSAF performance expectations and indicators, and developing new students programs. If UMSU is

successful in this respect the organisation will attract an even higher proportion of the total SSAF allocation.

Statistics: UMSU allocation is 36.46% of the total SSAF collected between 2017 and 2019. It is estimated that UMSU will be allocated over \$5 865 125 in 2017. By comparison UMSU was allocated \$4 314 818 in 2016. This increase represents an increase in allocation of \$623 193 for 2017 over what would have been allocated from the 2016 model. In total this represents a \$1 550 307 increase from 2016 to 2017 in allocated SSAF.

Verdict: Successful, actions ongoing.

Student Precinct

A year ago UMSU's future in Union House and in the proposed Student Precinct was very unclear. Thanks to the hard work of UMSU and the Chancellery Projects team the future is much clearer. The Student Precinct is shaped by constant consultation on at times a daily basis by the student representatives and staff as led by the General Manager and the President. Based on this ongoing consultation the accommodations made to UMSU are in fitting with our guiding principles and priorities. While there are significant details left to be decided UMSU has successfully secured a selection of solutions to meet our arts and cultural facilities requirements that were of specific concern.

While I am confident that the direction that the Student Precinct is heading in is a positive one much still awaits confirmation and delivery. For the full potential of the Student Precinct and UMSU's needs to be met the University will be required to invest significantly in the delivery of both building envelopes and on significant works in order for adaptive reuse to be realised. This presents a significant challenge to the University but I am confident that the University understand the potential opportunities in such a space.

Verdict: Ongoing.

Responding to Safety on Campus

UMSU is a strong advocate for women's safety and fostering a respectful community free of harassment and assault. University campuses across the globe were deeply shaken by the message of the Hunting Ground film and the project more widely. Championed by the Women's Department we saw a variety of community programs and awareness raising make a significant mark on students and on the University. Off the back of the work of the Talk About It Survey and associated campaigns from the National Union of Students Women's Office, the ongoing public interest in the manner, and consultation with the student body the University of Melbourne has championed the Respect.Now.Always. national university student survey on sexual assault and sexual harassment. In partnership with the Women's Department, I am confident that our actions and partnerships with the University have made a significant impact on the manner in which this University and universities across Australia will respond to the issues of harassment and assault.

The convening of the Respect Week working group as an important organising body cannot be understated. By virtue of its naming its capacity seems limited but its name is very misleading. The group's membership includes the Director of Students and Equity Elizabeth Capp, the Director of Safer Communities Dan Persaud, Intercollegiate Council representative and keen ally and supporter Damien Powell, media consultant Daniel Scott and representatives from the GSA and UMSU. This group has the capacity and mandate from Chancellery to actively engage with safety of students and is a key point for consultation and direction for the University. It was with this group that the University of Melbourne self-selected as the first University to participate in the survey and it was in this group that we agreed to push the full suite of Universities Australia affiliated institutions to release the full results of the survey for maximum transparency. This group will be an important decision maker and actor in the space in an ongoing manner.

Verdict: Successful, ongoing.

UMSU Corporate Service Provision

Stemming from years of unsatisfactory corporate service provision from MUSUL it came to pass that UMSU was prepared to terminate the Facilities Services Agreement that bound the two organisations.

After a damning independent third party review of MUSUL's performance with respect to the FSA and ongoing effort from UMSU to negotiate improvements UMSU notified the University of UMSU's intention to terminate the FSA. After extended consultation with the University it was decided that UMSU would not terminate the FSA pending a review and finding from the Finance Committee of University Council.

The finding by Finance Committee was that the need for a separate corporate service provider for UMSU was no longer necessary. It was deemed that arrangements could be made for new corporate service provision where UMSU and the University would share responsibility. This decision was made with UMSU's autonomy and accountability in mind, consideration for the financial viability of new arrangements, and the chronic failure of MUSUL's operations and failure to respond.

Specific plans for UMSU's future corporate service provision are being drawn with the University over the course of November and December with transition plans having been delivered and agreed upon concerning the future of MUSUL. I am confident that UMSU will be in a stronger position thanks to these changes based on the efficiencies created by improvements to corporate services provided to UMSU. Priorities in this process includes the digitisation of financial processes, the modernisation of UMSU computer hardware, the provision of an UMSU liquor license to facilitate the opening of a bar, and the allocation and management of spaces inside the building to name but a few.

It is worth explicitly noting that the planning and processes for a post-MUSUL set of arrangements are ongoing.

Verdict: Ongoing.

CCRAG

With the end of the CCRAG fund that was leveraged in support of artistic and cultural endeavours across the community UMSU has worked hard with the heralds of these legacy programs both internally and externally to secure their futures through long term SSAF Grants. Internally UMSU has sought funding for Festival of Nations, Night Market, and MUDFest. We have also worked closely with Theatre Board and the Melbourne University Debating Society to in line with our support of their programs. While the results of the funding round are yet to be determined I am exceedingly confident that the CCRAG legacy programs will be funded in full thanks to the hard work of staff and students.

Verdict: Successful, pending confirmation

Pill testing pilot program

Based on the will of council I have been working with the Students for Sensible Drug Policy to implement a pill testing kit distribution program. It has been a challenging project with significant media attention, ongoing work with the University and coordination with the SSDP. I am confident that UMSU will deliver a program very soon but there have been ongoing challenges. The primary challenge has been regarding the actual logistics of physical distribution- it is increasingly clear that the program UMSU delivers will be subject to elevated scrutiny nationally. Thus it is incredibly important that UMSU delivers a program that is in line with the principles of harm minimisation but can also stand up to both legal and political scrutiny.

Verdict: Ongoing

Special Consideration

The ramifications of the Business Improvement Plan are still being settled well into 2016. The centralised process of special consideration has been very rocky for the University and students with Stop 1 opening in full this year. Their first semester running special consideration saw both significant numbers of issues and very serious issues that have drastically impacted students. The Student Union Advocacy Service tabled a paper on the issues that was readily received by the University that covered the most pressing issues.

Based on our ongoing concern and consultation the University committed to act over the mid year break to rectify any outstanding cases and work with both practicing professionals within the University and academics to improve the processes by which special consideration is administered

and revisit the values on which special consideration is awarded, with consideration of accessibility and discrimination.

I am confident that the University has heard the message loud and clear that their processes have not been satisfactory and representatives have been working hard to deliver more satisfactory outcomes for students. We have worked to enshrine the right to student privacy, academic integrity and access resulting in a developing consensus across faculties regarding best practice and philosophical positions.

Verdict: Ongoing

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Develop a general manager performance review process

Currently the General Manager of UMSU has not benefited from any performance review process or had access the opportunities that such a process affords. While I am more than satisfied with the performance of the General Manager and a review would reflect that, there are no frameworks from which the General Manager works towards outside of the direction of Students Council or the purposes of the organisation. While this process was supposed to be developed by MUSUL it is time that a workplace standard is delivered.

Through the delivery of key performance indicators aligned with an organisation strategy the General Manager and student representatives are empowered to meaningfully steer the organisation in the long term. Through the establishment of such a process all parties are guided by a road map of the organisations and the General Managers specific objectives for the year to come and can only serve to be of benefit to the organisations capacity to be both accountable and be ambitious with its projects and programs.

In addition, such plans provide the means for the General Manager to engage in professional development opportunities to be of benefit to the organisation. As stated I am satisfied with the performance of General Manager but the opportunity to expand their skillset and expertise has not been met in the last half decade is presents a significant missed opportunity for both the General Manager and the organisation.

It is recommended that the plan be developed in consultation with former Presidents and on the advice of both the General Manager and of the Chief Executive Officer of MUSUL with support from the University Services Human Resources group.

Recommendation 2: Develop a shepherding program for student groups seeking SSAF funding grants

The introduction of the SSAF Grants presents significant opportunities for student groups, including representative groups, to leverage seed funding for their programs and projects. It would be in both UMSU's best interests and the interests of student groups if they were to develop a shepherding program to support them in their application and organisation. Based on my experience with Theatre Board an in supporting MUDS's SSAF Grant application professional support is often the deciding factor in the ultimate success or failure of a small sized project.

Recommendation 3: Review the President's role as the spokesperson of the organisation

As set out by the UMSU Constitution the President is the spokesperson for the entire organisation but it has not been clear how that interacts with other representatives and their capacity to speak on the record. This becomes increasingly problematic as departments engage with projects, campaigns and programs that affect the entirety of the organisation or student body. The standard practice has been through the seeking of the President's delegation or permission to address the media but such a delegation could be seen to be infringing on the autonomy of departments and subject to political challenges.

This also interacts with the manner in which the Media Department is both an exceptional media outlet but still beholden to the same media framework via the President.

While a solution is not immediately apparent it is important that departments, especially autonomous departments, have the opportunity to self-represent.

Recommendation 4: Develop regulations around the nomination of lifetime members of UMSU

Currently the constitution empowers Students Council to nominate and appoint lifetime members to UMSU. While this has not been utilised in the past, with no current lifetime members, we have a number of staff members that have been in service to UMSU or its previous iterations for over 30 years. While service to the Union would be a standard criterion by which a member would warrant appointment, there is no framework by which potential candidates could be recognised, assessed or recommended for nomination. The process would include the development of nomination criteria and a panel of assessment as a committee before reaching final ascension for council.

Recommended nomination criteria principles would be exceptional service to the student body and to UMSU, their impact on the student community, their contribution to student culture among other criterion.

Recommendation 5: Changing of term limits

Serving as a student representative with UMSU is a significant commitment and by the end of a two terms representatives would have developed a sophisticated understanding of both the organisation and the University's operations. In addition, they will have developed strong relationships both internally and externally that facilitates their representative capacity. While it is undoubtedly important to ensure that there are strong handover procedures, and that more students are presented with the opportunity to represent the student body the shifting landscape and higher demands of student representatives does no longer align with the duration by which student representatives can serve their Union.

The Melbourne Model has settled in and students are increasingly expected to complete both their general undergraduate degree and continue to study in either a professional degree or complete some other postgraduate study in order to transition into the workforce. In combination with more students working and studying simultaneously students are spending more and more time as students.

As UMSU as an organisation grows in size and influence both in the University and in the wider community the expectations on Office Bearers, and the President and General Secretary in particular, have been significantly raised. As professional expectations of Officers are raised training, handover, and learning are increasingly important.

The combination of these factors facilitate an environment that would greatly benefit from students being able to be afforded more time as representatives as to facilitate their improved representative capacity. The addition of a single year to the term limits drastically improves the potential for very experienced student representatives to continue to serve the student body in a dedicated and influential manner, to the benefit of the students, to UMSU, and the opportunities for the student representatives themselves.

**General Secretary
James Bashford**

In 2016, UMSU has continued to expand and thrive in the post-VSU era. We have secured a significant increase to our SSAF funding, are pursuing dramatically improved corporate services with the transition away from MUSUL and are heavily invested in the co-creation of the Student Precinct. These three developments will be central to the continued success of the Union for many years to come.

What's made this year particularly impressive, however, is the progressive achievements we have made. UMSU has been progressive not just in our words but in our actions, proudly taking position of leadership in the community with its solidarity and actions against racism and islamophobia (through Chalk for Diversity), on the rights of refugees (offering Union House once again as sanctuary), on divestment (supporting the FFMU Campaign) and on drug law reform (moving to provide free drug test kits). We have finally established a People of Colour Department and implemented new affirmative action requirements too.

Congratulations to all those Office Bearers and students who have believed in and contributed to such a successful year of progressive achievements.

Key activities:

Students' Council

I have organised 19 Meetings of Students' Council for the 2016 term, with four failing to reach quorum (assuming meeting 19 reaches quorum). This year Council has considered many important issues such as constitutional changes, changes to MUSUL and SSAF distribution and has taken continued the activist, left wing traditions of Student Unionism at Melbourne Uni.

Verdict: Council has run smoothly and efficiently this year.

Operations Sub-Committee

Operations Sub-Committee has not been as active this year as previously, which appears to be a result of more active committees reducing the need for expenditure to be passed through op-sub instead. The constitution was amended this year to reduce the required frequency of meetings to fortnightly, but even this frequency would have meant meetings with nothing on the agenda.

Verdict: There should be no requirements for the frequency of op-sub meetings and more clarity on dealing with casual vacancies. Section 165-170 of the Constitution have proven to be substandard and should be completely overhauled.

Presidential Vacancy

Following the resignation of James Baker, I was also UMSU's Acting President from March 23-April 28th. During this time I was involved in the Student Precinct Steering Group, the first meeting of the SSAF Consultative Committee and UMSU's response to Islamophobic chalking on campus which led to the Vice Chancellor issuing a public statement and the Chalk for Diversity event.

As General Secretary I was also responsible for the process of filling the casual vacancy, which given the unprecedented nature of the resignation was somewhat complicated. Legal advice was sought which eventually determined that UMSU should have immediately moved to hold a by-election, but was not received until it was too late in the semester to do so.

Verdict: The process of filling casual vacancies of Office Bearers is currently impractical and should be completely overhauled.

NUS Presidents' Summit

The National Union of Students' summit for campus Presidents was held at the University of Sydney from January 18-21. Unfortunately UMSU's President chose not to attend so I represented UMSU in his place. The summit was an incredibly valuable opportunity to meet and work with representatives

from campus unions across Australia. Topics covered included detailed information on the roll out of *The Hunting Ground* screenings and media training.

Verdict: Very important for at least the President or General Secretary to attend.

Council Mailchimp

This year I set up a Mailchimp account to distribute notice and agenda of Students' Council. Most importantly this allows students to subscribe to Council emails through the UMSU website.

Statistics:

Council email list subscribers: 95	Unsubscribes: 3
Subscribers (excluding staff and student reps): 41	Average open rate: 57.3%
	Industry average open rate: 21.4%

Verdict: Successful, should explore additional capabilities of Mailchimp in future.

Annual General Meeting

UMSU's AGM was successfully held on May 17th at the regular Tuesday BBQ. While the University agreed to send an all student email for the SGM earlier in Semester 1, it did not agree to do so for the AGM, notice was instead sent to the UMSU newsletter email list.

Verdict: Successful, should liaise with University in future to reach an agreement on all student emails for general meeting notice, as occurs with notice of elections.

Constitutional Reform

I pursued changes which had been drafted by last year's Gen Sec and Constitutional Working Group and were mostly approved at an SGM on April 5th. I then convened a new Constitutional Working Group which spawned additional working groups run by the Women's Dept. and People of Colour Collective. This led to the SGM on May 24th introducing the POC Department, increased affirmative action and other reforms.

Verdict: Successful, significant reform, though there were some similar issues to policy/regulations changes process (see below).

Policy and Regulations Working Group

To try to update UMSU's many outdated policies and regs I held Policy and Regulations working groups at a regular time over the winter break in June. Ultimately, 3 meetings were held but the turnout from Students' Councillors was very disappointing (ie: zero), with only OB's and staff attending. I later distributed proposals for feedback but again got little response, and only from OBs and Staff. While I've eventually brought proposals to Council, in spite of the indifference of most Councillors, a voluntary working group and consultation process was of questionable benefit to this process.

Verdict: This was an unsuccessful approach to updating policies and regs. While the intention was to open up the process to make it transparent and accessible, this was undermined by the total unwillingness of Councillors to even passingly engage. A subcommittee approach with compulsory membership and attendance, whilst maintaining open meetings, may be more effective in future.

Office Bearer Reports/Cat Competition

This year, I compiled OB reports into one document which was distributed alongside the agenda for Council and included a summary in the agenda and at the top of the document of which reports had been distributed. Given the volume of reports this made things slightly easier to follow, however despite distributing a template for reports at the beginning of the year, reports were still quite inconsistent in length and detail.

To encourage submissions I also initiated a competition awarding OBs points for submitting cat memes with their reports. It's hard to say if this actually increased submissions, but at least it made compiling over a dozen reports and formatting them into consistent fonts and font sizes every couple of weeks, often into the evening, slightly more fun.

Verdict: An improvement over last year but a better report template would be a further improvement. It can't hurt to continue a submission competition either; Gen Secs don't get many fun jobs.

Induction

Alongside Goldie I organised this year's induction program for OBs, the first held under the new Dec-Nov terms.

Verdict: Successful, though plenty of things can improve. Should be reviewed immediately following each year's program.

SSAF Campaign

Initiated UMSU's "Brought to you by SSAF" Campaign from the start of my term in anticipation of possible moves to scrap it by the federal government and in response to the Uni's SSAF Review ahead of the new SSAF agreement. Every UMSU publication has been branded with a "Brought to you by SSAF" logo.

Verdict: Successful, but would be best if Uni, MU Sport & GSA also adopted the logo. Although the government seems unlikely to move on SSAF at this stage, it is important UMSU continue to build support for it amongst students.

Vote for Students Campaign

Put together materials for UMSU's "Vote for Students" campaign for the federal election. Developed a postcard sized score card and summary of Higher Ed issues in the election and other issues important to students. This was distributed online, outside exams, at train stations alongside the NUS election campaign and at prepoll voting centres.

Statistics:

Score cards printed: 10,000 Facebook reach: >40,000

Verdict: The timing of the election during exams rather than semester was a challenge, especially for distributing the flyers or any plans for a forum/debate. Online response was very successful, overall well worth repeating in future elections.

Other activities

In addition to the above summary, some of the other things that I've been involved in or responsible for this year are: development of the UMSU Budget, Chalk for Diversity, Flexible Academic Programming, Academic Programmes Committee, website updates, OB meetings, O-Week, Winter Festival, Ethical Sponsorship Policy Working Group, working with the GSA, National Days of Action, Student Precinct, development of the UMSU Volunteering Hub, Management Meetings, managing the transition away from MUSUL, elected reps meetings with chancellery and the VC.

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Continuing constitutional reform

The Constitution should be constantly questioned and reviewed to ensure any flaws are addressed. To this end I recommend establishing a sub-committee of Council with the purpose of developing proposals for constitutional reform, consulting with students and recommending proposals to Council for an SGM. The sub-committee's members should be elected by council but meetings should be open to all. Some of the changes I would recommend that the committee consider include:

Recommendation 1a: Review this year's changes

Significant changes were made this year including the introduction of representation of People of Colour, amending the definition of "Woman", increasing affirmative action and introducing an honorarium for the Burnley Campus Co-ordinator. These should be reviewed alongside the relevant constituencies to ensure the changes have worked effectively as intended and to identify and address any issues that have arisen.

Recommendation 1b: Operations Sub-Committee

OpSub was introduced in 2013 but has not been reviewed since, other than reducing the required frequency of meetings this year. As raised earlier in this report, a more comprehensive review is required. C165-170 should be simplified and consolidated.

Recommendation 1c: Casual vacancies and by-elections

This year highlighted the need to re-evaluate the constitutional provisions for filling an Office Bearer casual vacancy. Whether or not by-elections should be required or Council should solely have this power should be a particular focus.

Recommendation 1d: Review departmental aims & objectives

In most cases, the aims & objectives of each department (C79-92) haven't been changed in years and are long overdue for review. For example, MUDfest is specifically mentioned in the responsibilities of the Activities Department, but not the Creative Arts Department.

Recommendation 1e: Investigate consolidating representation

On several occasions, including this year, UMSU's Returning Officers have recommended UMSU review the complexity and density of representation and elections. UMSU's complex system of Council and Committees were designed in response to the liquidation of MUSU over a decade ago and since then the scale has only grown. Simplifying this system is a worthy goal and would likely make participation in elections easier and less confusing.

Recommendation 2: Train General Secretaries to review Farrago

General Secretaries currently receive little advice and no training in their responsibilities as the publisher of all UMSU publications, particularly Farrago. This creates ambiguity about the Gen Sec's role and where they can or can't intervene, potentially exposing UMSU to liability or undermining the independence of Farrago. Some minor training for the General Secretary would easily address this.

Recommendation 3: Plain English policy and regulations.

This was one of Sarah's policies for this year's election but should still be pursued by UMSU. UMSU's policies and regulations can be daunting and difficult to understand, particularly at a glance. Plain English is more accessible and will make it easier for everyone to interpret and comply with policy & regs. This could scale from simply writing short summary documents to seeking external advice or assistance to create comprehensive plain English versions. This would be complimented consolidating each current document into one policy and regs volume, also suggested in this year's election.

Recommendation 4: Reporting

Office Bearers have generally been pretty good at submitting reports to council this year. Continuing to make it clear who has or hasn't reported and using the (proposed) tighter regulations for suspending honoraria for failing to report should continue to encourage this. However, I'd also recommend creating a new template for OB reports to try to make reports more consistent.

On annual reports, this year I've created a new template and put a greater emphasis on ensuring OBs submit them. This should be reviewed early next term, with particular attention to keeping reports to a limit of 1-2 pages (which the currently template, clearly, doesn't!). UMSU should look towards publishing an annual report, as many other student organisations do, including OB reports as well as reports from each of UMSU's other activities (volunteer programmes, staff departments, Rowden White Library etc.), using a consistent report template across the board.

It's been a ride.
Solidarity forever.

Activities

Megan Pollock & Itsi Weinstock

This is the Annual Report of the UMSU Activities Department. Each year we aim to provide a myriad of events and activities for all Melbourne University Students to enjoy. This year we focused on expanding the department to include more inclusive non-drinking activities while keeping all of our well-loved student parties. This year saw the introduction of Zedtown, Union House House Party, Weekly Pub Nights and Weekly Comedy.

We clamped down on some of the procedures, specifically around bar staff.

1. No bar staff can be drinking during, or before their shifts
2. No drinking, or people who have been drinking, are allowed behind the bar
3. Free drinks are only given to the specific volunteers for that event (including performers where appropriate), and are limited to a certain amount
4. Bar staff are to be hired as casuals from the UMSU casual pool

Key activities:

Weekly Events

Monday BBQs

Monday BBQs ran both Semesters from weeks 2-6 on North Court from 1-2pm. Veggie burgers, sausages and drinks were provided free to students. These BBQs were well attended with 200-250 people each week. Music was supplied through a portable PA most weeks. A few interactive activities ran during these BBQs;

Poetry Slam: Students were given opportunity to perform, open free entry and the winner received \$500.

5 Minutes of Fame: Students were given opportunity to perform, open free entry and the winner received \$500.

Portraiture Paint Off: Students were given the opportunity to paint a portrait of their own model or photograph. All equipment was supplied and they were given two hours, the winner received \$500.

Verdict: The BBQs ran well and food was always eaten in the time period even though we increased the amount of food this year. The poetry slam and 5 minutes of fame had small participates and struggled for numbers, potentially needs more advertising help. The Portraiture Paint Off was run for the first time in years and was surprisingly successful with all canvases used, would highly recommend continuing.

Tuesday BBQs

As always out Tuesday Bands, BBQs and Bevs ran each Tuesday in North Court from 12-2pm. Veggie burgers, sausages and drinks are supplied free to students and live bands play. These weekly BBQs are popular with students with the BBQs always receiving large lines and the bands crowds. The demand is starting to become a bit higher than the time limits but it always a good study break and free entertainment for students.

Verdict: Successful as always. Further range of food options should be investigated.

Basement Comedy

Some student comedians approached us to help them run stand up comedy events in the basement off of North Court. Mostly, this involved us providing them advertising and a slab of cider each week. They have consistently drawn a small crowd to fill the space, attracting a slowly growing group of regulars. These events allowed both the already established comedians, as well as new students to perform in the space.

Verdict: Highly successful for a pilot year. This should continue to be supported, there is a lot of potential for expansion, particularly putting the comedians in already populated areas e.g. student bar and VCA student lounge. Also, other comedy events and the comedy comp should feed into this community.

Stop 2 Pub Nights

We ran these events to encourage further use of the bar space, as no bar had been set up for this year. While some of the nights didn't attract many people, they encouraged other student groups to use the space, especially in conjunction with these nights. Notable large nights were The combined clubs and societies night, Not Commerce Ball, and conjunctions with student groups such as More Beer!

Verdict: These shouldn't be required if the bar is set up. A real bar would be much more preferable for countless reasons.

Other Events

Trivias

We held two trivias each semester. These regularly saw around 300+ students attending, and continue to be one of the most enjoyed events. The themes were St Patrick's Day, Eurovision, Olympics and Trivia 4.

Verdict: Continue as is.

Luna Park

Activities departments O-week event ran at Luna Park, with the whole park being booked out in conjunction with Monash University and 1000 tickets allocated between us. The event was highly popular last year but ticket sales were slower and cold weather lead to lower attendance. We sold 500 tickets at \$25.

Verdict: The event ran perfectly for what it was meant to be but lacked the right atmosphere. I would suggest adding some on ground entertainment for those not on the rides or lining up.

Start of Uni Party (SoUP)

Filthy jaffy party. Definitely repeat. We made a decision to double ticket prices to \$20 and lower drink prices to \$2. This made sure that people who bought tickets came to the event, as they had problems with low turn out (despite high ticket sales) the year before.

Because of the legacy of last year's running of the department, we had issues with bar staff drinking, and 'friends' of the department going behind the bar to sneak drinks. Unfortunately no one reported incidents to us directly, so we heard about them much later than we should have. This was the last time we had these issues because we put some unofficial regulations in place to stop any drinking and drunks occurring behind the bar.

Verdict: This will continue to be one of the most attended events of the year. But this has to be run extremely tightly, especially if the drink prices are low.

Zedtown

This was the first year the Activities Department ran this event. Over 250 people bought tickets to the largest zombie apocalypse Nerf war game. The event was held over Easter across the whole campus. This date was potentially one of the contributors to the slow sales to the event, we initially experienced issues with getting the event off the ground with many students not knowing what 'Zedtown' meant. However hype started growing once we increased ground advertising with excessive chalking, poster and flyering.

Verdict: We ended up with a large number of participants and the event ran extremely successfully. Would be great to see this continued as a large mass participant non-drinking activity. The department should work with clubs and societies from the very start of semester to get teams going to this.

Cocktail Party

Continuing on the tradition of Cocktail parties we hired an off campus venue for a classy cocktail night. Tickets sold for \$20, with two free cocktails and canapes included. 430 students attended the night almost hitting venue capacity of 450.

Verdict: Only running one cocktail party this year made the event much more successful than it has been in the past with almost twice as many attendees. Off campus venue was a little pricey but the event ran well.

Comedy Competition

This saw around 10 students competing with their own material in a stand up competition. This was very well attended, and the intimate set up of members' lounge provided a good space for the students to perform.

Verdict: Continue this event with even greater advertising, and channel new comedians into the growing comedian community with other events (e.g. basement comedy).

Burnley BBQ

We ran a nice BBQ at Burnley Campus.

Verdict: There was no good reason for us to run this event. It just involved a few volunteers going there to turn some snags, which is something that they can do anyway. Different activities should be looked at to run on satellite campuses (e.g. comedy at VCA).

Union House House Party

We decided to scrap semester 2 cocktail night as it was really unsuccessful in recent years. We ran this instead. It was great. We made it house party themed with punch at the door, snacks and milk crates. The dining room was turned into a dance floor, and the members' lounge was turned into a more house party lounge space that people could talk in. This attracted both first years and older students.

Verdict: Great party. Definitely repeat.

Not Commerce Ball

We decided to theme one of the Stop 2 nights the occurred on the same night as Commerce Ball. While this pissed off the Commerce Society to no end, every else seemed to really appreciate the joke, and it led to a very high turnout. We charged \$5 for a ticket which included one beverage and a one course meal of instant noodles prepared by the bar.

Verdict: Continue this event (work with the Commerce Society if needed). This doesn't necessarily need to be a pub night, but whatever it is should be extreeeeemely cheap.

Oktoberfest

This is a continually growing event and this year we expanded into North Court. Tickets were sold at \$40 and capped at 700, we sold out. The venue was incredibly decorated by AV @ Melbourne and vollies. 41 authentic German beer and cider kegs were ordered in along with catering by 130 degrees with German food. The event ran rather well but with a few hiccups, people were let in late, food was under ordered and the bar was slow.

Verdict: great event but potentially better to do off campus, too hard with the restrictions on our liquor licence.

Comedy Union Night

This event had comedians from around Melbourne (Clara Cupcakes, Demi Lardner, Nath Valvo and Tom Ballard) perform with the winner of the semester 1 comedy competition (Sean Morgan) and the Melbourne University Comedy Revue Board (Mudcrabs). We advertised in quite late because we were much more concerned with Oktoberfest but it still filled up.

Verdict: Continue. Advertise before Oktoberfest.

Summary of Expenditure:

The set budget of the Activities Department was quite well reflected in the final spendings, although a few minor shifts in budget allocations were required during the year. The majority of the budget was spent on running of events and activities throughout the year. The department received \$55,000 from council at the beginning of the year but through ticket sales received an income of another \$114719.72 allowing large activities to run as well as smaller weekly events.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Final Expenditure
Special projects & events	\$131,500	\$140,000	\$134,047.81
Stationary	\$100	\$100	\$(4.72)
Photocopying/paper costs	\$50	\$100	\$76.87
Telephone	\$50	\$50	\$2.90
Special Project Weeks	\$3500	\$0	\$0
Promotional Activities	\$5000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$140,200.00	\$140,200.00	\$134,127.58

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Formalise ticket and drinks sales recording procedure.

For accountability, there should be a formal system for recording ticket sales and bar sales. This will allow for all sales to be reconciled in the books, and appease the Justin.

Clubs & Societies **Ryan Davey & Yasmine Luu**

In 2016, the Clubs & Societies (C&S) Officers set out to make the club community a safer, more inclusive place. The main goal was to make sure that every club was privy to the resources available to them, in regards to safety and welfare of their members and committee. In this regard, C&S aimed to create policy surrounding pub crawls and camp expectations, in the hopes these would be implemented as compulsory by 2017. Furthermore, camp trainings and general welfare trainings were to be revised and implemented on a set out schedule.

In addition, the C&S department is very structured, and Officers can often lose their way in the never ending administrative demand instead of focusing on departmental events. This issue was noted by the C&S officers, and it was aimed to expand the department whilst also holding interclub events and activities. The Officers ended up holding a surprisingly successful Clubs Awards Night, and had the biggest Clubs Carnival ever.

Overall, the department flourished in 2016, with the expansion of club numbers and events. C&S has been able to work diligently on all administrative tasks, as well as making the clubs world a better place with the constancy and urgency of creating mandatory welfare workshops. The Officers have strived to be welcoming individuals who work hard with the main goal, to serve the clubs.

Key Activities:

Clubs Days

According to the Communications Student Advisory Group in late Semester 1, the Clubs Days were the most popular part of O-Week. We are very proud to have that statistic, and hope the department continues to have a large following for the Clubs Days. Both Semester 1 and 2, proved to be popular events, with 200+ and 80+ clubs signing up respectively.

Verdict: A necessary part of O-Week and the UMSU spirit. We must acknowledge, however, that it will be run on the Wednesday and Thursday of O-Week 2017.

Clubs Carnival

The Clubs Carnival has flourished since its beginning in 2014. This year showed off the biggest Clubs Carnival to date, and showcased a huge array of different clubs. Clubs Carnival was set up on South Lawn for both Semester 1 and Semester 2, creating a great campus feel at the time.

Statistics: 30+ clubs signed up to Semester 1, and 50+ clubs signed up to Semester 2.

Verdict: Successful and should be continued.

Awards Night

For an inaugural event, it was a huge success. The night combined awards with trivia and gave away prizes to clubs. As it was the first event, we didn't splurge on it, which was a major regret. We should have bought better food, better prizes and more decorations. We've had a lot of positive club feedback however.

Statistics: Over 50 clubs registered, attendance peaked at 160 people.

Verdict: Successful and should definitely continue.

Camp Welfare Workshops

Run in conjunction with Safer Communities, the sessions continue to provide a valuable service to clubs running camps throughout the year. Feedback from club execs was extremely positive.

Verdict: Continuing on a much larger scale in 2017.

Regulation and Policy Change

C&S have been focusing on creating a new camp policy and regulation. This has been created but yet to be perfected and given to Students Council. These changes are incredibly important for clubs and the department.

Verdict: This may need to be deferred to next year

Key Publications:**Clubs Guide**

The Clubs Guide has the contact details and a short description of every club on campus. The creation of this guide began in December 2015 and was printed by February 2016. The goal of this publication was to easily categorise all 200+ clubs and make it simple and effective to read. This was achieved, but the guide can only grow with more clubs - so does this compromise the simplicity of the document?

Statistics: Overall 14,000 copies were ordered and distributed (initial order of 12,000 and top-up of 2,000).

Verdict: By far one of the most popular publications UMSU produces. Continue forever.

Camp Welfare Guide

Printed in Semester 1, there are still guides remaining for the sessions next year. Club execs indicated that they were a helpful summary of the sessions.

Verdict: Over-printed for 2016, however, the year was removed from the document meaning that they can be used in 2017.

Key Statistics:**New Clubs**

Semester 1	Semester 2
Aerospace and Robotics Society	Go Club
Bike Polo Society	Mandarin Christian Fellowship
Competitive Programming Club	Global Art Society
Darts Society	Active Youth Aged Care Support (Not official yet)
Embrace Education	Biomedical Students' Orchestra (Not official yet)
Exhibitionists	Cheese Club (Not official yet)
Film and TV Students Society (The Ex-Presidents' Society)	Chinese History and Garment Society (Not official yet)
Lebanese Students Society	Spirit, Liqueur and Cocktail Appreciation Society (Not official yet)
Mandarin Language Club	Startup Melbourne University (Not official yet)
Melbourne Biotechnology Club	Big Data Analysis Club (Not official yet)
Mental Youth	International Youth and Students for Social Equality (Not official yet)
Res Publica	Iranian Society (Not official yet)
Students for Sensible Drug Policy	Teochew Youth Society (Not official yet)
Theatre Students Society	Vinyl Appreciation Society (Not official yet)
Turkish Society	
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines	

Affiliated Clubs in Total: 220 as of 10/11/2016

Facebook likes: 6189
 Gunter's Choice Articles: 8
 Disaffiliated Clubs: 9 as of 10/11/2016

Summary of Expenditure:

This year, the Clubs & Societies Department had an increase in budget by \$73,750. The majority of the C&S budget went towards grants for the 200 plus clubs we have affiliated to UMSU, with smaller allocations going towards departmental events like Carnival and Awards Night. This increase in grant funding translated directly into better quality events for students on campus. The free BBQs, lunches, screenings, lectures and cultural events that are presented by our diversity of clubs are generously funded by the department and are a tangible expression of the SSAF returning to students.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Final Expenditure
Training and Development	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,462.10
Orientation	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$440.45
Advertising	\$6,100.00	\$6,100.00	\$5,405.00
Stationary	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$4.50
Grants	\$246,300.00	\$246,300.00	\$110,911.34
Photocopying/Printing	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$10.34
Telephone	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$5.03
Special Projects	\$21,600.00	\$21,600.00	\$12,112.55
Total	\$286,500.00	\$286,500.00	\$133,311.57

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the department create a campaign for satellite campus club engagement and provide an incentive for clubs that are successful in this arrangement.

There is a high disaffiliation rate for non-Parkville campuses. This is because students aren't as engaged with clubs there. We recommend a policy to increase the middleground for these types of clubs and giving them incentive to work hard in these positions, whether that be larger start up grants or trainings at their campus.

Recommendation 2: That Special Projects be utilised better

Future Officers' should not be afraid of spending money on attractions at carnival or decorations for Awards Night. This department has a lot of funding, and majority of it is for grants. But the department should think about the branding and advertising of events too.

Creative Arts Joshua Lynzaat & Jeanette Tong

Focuses & Goals

This year we wanted to focus on developing the breadth of the artist community on campus and create 'gathering' spaces for artists to reflect on and interrogate their investment in the arts. To that end, we launched *Talking Out of Your Arts* to facilitate conversations between audiences and artists, and also re-started the Creative Arts Collective in the Arts Lab as a gathering space for students.

We continued to nurture our department's commitment to accessible and sustainable art-making, and worked with student artists to find ways of incorporating these processes into their personal practices. The last few years of commitment to accessibility in our department has also culminated in one of our most inclusive years ever, with more groups offering Auslan-interpreted or audio described shows and the GPG offering tactile tours. We were able to offer a fully captioned film festival as part of our inaugural Melbourne Uni Film Festival (MUFFest), which was another key initiative this year looking to fill in the gaps in the support offered to student filmmakers.

To address other gaps we noticed, we launched free botanic drawing sessions, and re-branded SIGNAL (2014) as *Pop! Wait A Minute*, a season of free public work. The events and initiatives we ran this year were geared towards increasing our outreach to student artists, accessibility and sustainability, and expanding on our ability to support different mediums of art-making. To that end, we have successfully begun making important inroads, but these initiatives will require time to take hold, especially in developing individual artists, building communities, and developing audiences.

Key activities:

Tastings

We continued to run our mentorship program, *Tastings*, and produced a strong program of work and contributed to the targeted artistic and professional development of student artists. The overwhelming consensus from artists and mentors was that there was a clear spike in skill levels, confidence, and professionalism. The mentorship ran for 9 weeks in Semester 2, with the showcase held 8th- 10th September.

Statistics: 40 artists/cast members, 5 backstage crew members, 200 audience members

Verdict: This was a highly successful event and should be continued next year, but could be incorporated into a showcase at Mudfest 2017.

Pop! Wait A Minute

Pop! is 2014's SIGNAL Festival rebranded, and took place in Semester 1, W7 - W11 Tuesdays-Thursdays, 12pm-2pm outdoors all over campus and included all forms of art encounters. It brought the attention of spontaneous live art to the greater attention of the student population, and generated a few unexpected artistic partnerships between students who would otherwise not have met.

Statistics: 50 artists and musicians, audience engagement difficult to estimate due to the live, outdoor, free and fleeting nature of the program

Verdict: This was a relatively successful event that ran at low cost and could be further developed and incorporated into Mudfest 2017. We did not adequately publicise the happenings.

Creative Arts Collective

CAC sought to address the lack of gathering spaces for artists working in a diverse range of areas, and provided a weekly meeting place that was primarily social and endeavoured to develop the artist community on campus, especially providing entry points for newer students.

Statistics: 20 people signed up to the CAC newsletter, between 20-35 people attended throughout the year

Verdict: This event ran at low cost, and some regular attendees thoroughly enjoyed the collective. However, should the collective continue to exist, we recommend making each week a targeted, one-off activity, e.g., Screenprinting 101, Spoken Word Workshop, Newbies' Guide To Vine etc as that seemed to generate the greatest amount of interest.

What I Think When I Think About Art

WITAWITAA, run through the Fodder by 2016 Arts Committee members Harriet Wallace-Mead and Guy Coward, sought to provide student musicians, poets, writers and other artists the opportunity to present their work to a more general listenership. It also provided additional opportunities for students to discuss their work and the context we're working in in greater detail.

Statistics: Radio Fodder listenership, 40 student artist on-air interviews

Verdict: This was a highly successful program - the artists brought onto WITAWITAA were able to practice articulating their processes around their art. It is likely to continue, but may not be run through the UMSU Creative Arts Department.

Melbourne University Film Festival (MUFFest)

Run over two weeks (14th-24th September), our program incorporated a moving-image exhibition in the George Paton Gallery, two free screenings with post-show Q&As (one in the Guild Theatre and one in the Rowden White Library), a flash film competition, and two nights of student film screenings (2nd floor meeting rooms). All the films were open captioned, and the Q&As were Auslan-interpreted. Comms is helping us start an online MUFFest archive for films that agree to be publicly streamed for free.

Statistics: 40 audience members, 9 flash films + 10 short films involving approx. 80 students

Verdict: This was a highly successful event that begins to address the needs of student filmmakers and film enthusiasts at Parkville. It could easily be incorporated into Mudfest 2017.

Botanic + Life Drawing

Free life drawing and botanic drawing sessions held in the Arts Lab, for up to 15 students per session. We received better attendance when we switched to bi-weekly alternating sessions.

Statistics: 12 sessions, with an average of 10 students per session

Verdict: There's a keen interest from some students in attending these sessions, and it is worth continuing to run them.

Talking Out of Your Arts

TOoYA began in Semester 1 as a program of curated in-depth discussions with student artists from different mediums, but due to limited interest, we revamped the series in Semester 2 host post-show Q and As for performances on campus to bring artists and audiences together to reflect on the culture of theatre making on campus in more detail.

Statistics: 3 curated sessions & 30 people, 6 Q&A sessions & 240 people

Verdict: This was a successful event that ran at low cost, and gained momentum swiftly. Would recommend continuing.

Arts Grants

\$10,000 worth of grant money, applications open 5 times a year, up to \$500 available per project. Our aims were to promote sustainable and accessible art practices, increase financial viability and promote artistic development

Statistics: 17 projects received funding, outreach of each individual project ranges between 20-400

Verdict: Highly recommend continuing this funding model, the bulk of applicants go for Rounds 1-3, so skew the funding that way, e.g., \$3000, \$2500, \$2000, \$1500, \$1000.

Key Statistics:

We had a more consistent social media presence than in previous years, and saw a 300 like increase on Facebook, and a 300 follower increase on Instagram, which is promising.

Facebook likes: 1090

Twitter followers: 224

Instagram

reach: 442

Summary of Expenditure:

We kept better records this year of our ongoing annual budget than previous budgets have indicated, but did require a certain amount of shifting in the budget allocation for each new initiative and event that we launched and refined throughout the year. Half of the budget (\$10,000/\$20,000) went straight into arts grants, which is consistent with previous years. The other large chunk went into funding Tastings (also generously supported by Melbourne University Theatre Board), and the rest was evenly distributed between different art forms.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Final Expenditure
3839 Special Projects	\$1760	\$1760	\$1296.50
3850 Special Project Weeks	\$10000	\$10000	\$10849
3356 Stationary	\$10	\$10	0
3712 Photocopying	\$200	\$200	\$200
3713 Printing	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000
3743 Phone	\$10	\$10	\$10
3714 Postage	\$10	\$10	\$0
3163 Orientation	\$10	\$10	\$0
3531 Grants	\$10000	\$10000	\$9110
Total	\$25000	\$25000	\$24,465.64

Recommendations:**Recommendation 1: New initiatives take time to nurture**

Be patient and take time to listen and respond to your community. Be prepared to have difficult conversations about inclusion, access, and best practice, and adapt your event and initiative to best serve the community.

Recommendation 2: Guidelines for funding

Be prepared to come up against frustrated and entitled artists who are also your friends. It will be powerfully offset by generous and kind ones who understand the weird lines between funding/friendship/integrity. Have conversations with your co-office bearer and committee about why and when something deserves funding. Stick to your shared principles.

Recommendation 3: Everyone is busy, and not everyone is interested

On-campus cross-disciplinary art is difficult; cross-campus work is almost impossible. Look for existing relationships between cross-campus/inter-departmental activities. Give yourself more time than you think you'll need to set up those relationships.

Disabilities

Jess Kapuscinski-Evan & Christian Tsoutsouvas

Our main aims this year were to continue to build a disability community on campus, to make the presence and scope of the department more widely known and to continue to be a good source of social and informational support for the students who come to us.

Key Activities

Our most successful events were the Sculpture workshop with Sam Petersen, the events with Enviro and Women's and the journalism panel. We think that this is in part because the people running or co-organising were able to invite their friends. Auslan classes and anxiety support group were predictably well attended all year as well.

Often at events Christian and I could have used an extra pair of hands, or two. For this reason, I would have liked to collaborate with especially Welfare or Creative Arts more, as these two departments often have lots of people through them who want to volunteer. We found that people from Disabilities Committee were not generally able to commit to too much outside of committee meetings so this is where the volunteers come in.

We found that compared to the last two years, we had more of a productive relationship with Stop 1. We collaborated with UMSU Education Academic and David Haynes from Stop 1 on some of the issues facing students around special consideration and assessment adjustments. This including work on the Flexible Academic programming initiative. I have been advised that David is no longer working at Stop 1 so relationships may have to be somewhat rebuilt.

We collaborated a little with the University of Melbourne Counselling Service on Mental Health Week, however this was disappointing. MU Counselling only approached us about working together a few weeks before Mental Health Week and there was not enough time to put together many great initiatives. I would suggest that Mental Health Week run in the same way as Rad Sex and Consent Week, in that it involves all relevant UMSU departments and is continually worked on from as early as possible in the year.

We worked a little bit with advocacy and legal over the year relating to problems with Stop 1. Their report was very informative and perhaps there is more work to be done between them and UMSU Disabilities in the future.

Together with Susan Hewitt, the manager of Arts & Entertainment, Stephanie DiBattista, the coordinator of Clubs & Volunteering and Tyson, we will have put together a draft Accessibility Action Plan for the whole of UMSU. We see this working in conjunction with the Disabilities Department in terms of protecting the rights of students with disabilities. We are looking into the possibility of having an access officer to oversee and enforce the implementation of the plan who will work with the Disabilities Department office bearers on a range of relevant initiatives.

Christian and I started an official department show on Radio Fodder called *Network Disabled*, where we called about disability news, in the media, in popular culture and across the other departments of UMSU, most of which had their office bearers co-host an episode of the show. Although we received good feedback about it from the Media department, we are unsure of how many live listeners we had, and our podcasting reach was generally pretty minimal. However, the small amount of video content we put out proved to be more popular.

We ran a number of film screenings throughout the year in the Rowden White Library. It is hard to say how these went. We decided not to talk about the films in the actual room as there were people sleeping, but rather we talked about them on our radio show the day before. This means that we didn't have a clear idea of who was there for the film and who wasn't. We felt that it was important however to have a relaxed activity where people could come and go as they pleased.

We would have liked to have collaborated more with GSA, however for a variety of reasons this was not possible. Anecdotally we know that students with disabilities experience greater issues once they

begin graduate study, however the GSA has only recently begun to have autonomous representation for students who experience different forms of marginalisation. We worked a little with Bren Carruthers, a postgrad student, on Mental Health Week and he is trying to create a disabilities/welfare department for the GSA, however it is unclear when this will be finalised. In general there is also a history of the GSA not wanting to overly collaborate with UMSU.

Unlike UMSU Disabilities, the representation for students with disabilities by NUS seems to be more variable and seems to depend on who holds office. This year the representative was really proactive and we unfortunately didn't capitalise on this as much as I would have liked. In particular NUS ran their own mental health campaign and they asked for feedback on a range of issues via their Facebook group.

Finally, throughout the year Christian and I, and members of our collective have been invited to speak at various forums and consultations. Several were in relation to the development of the new student precinct, and recently I was part of a student panel about flexible academic programming. In general these opportunities were underwhelming as we were not given enough time to express some of the major concerns for students with disabilities. At each event, Christian and I also had the sense that even though the process was labelled as consultation, mostly what transpired was the university only being receptive to positive feedback about anything they were proposing.

Summary of Expenditure

Due to our considerable underspending in other areas, we were able to put much more money than expected towards film screenings and panels for Semester 2.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Final Expenditure
Auslan	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Collectives and support groups	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$100
Photocopying/paper costs	\$100	\$200	\$200
Grants	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Special projects & events	\$6,650	\$12,051	\$12,051
Stationary	\$0	\$20	\$20
Printing	\$100	\$100	\$100
Phone	\$50	\$0	\$0
Campaign A	\$4,850	\$0	\$0
Orientation	\$1,250	\$1,629	\$1,629
Total	\$20000.00	\$20000.00	\$19,100

**Education (Academic Affairs)
Tom Crowley & Paul Sakkal**

Key activities:

Flex-Ap.

This year the Education Office's main agenda has been dealing with the Uni in a conciliatory but forthright manner in all areas surrounding the Flex-Ap. With a representative on each of the work streams, all outcomes from the program will have strong student input. There have been potential aspects of the program we've opposed, and others we've embraced; we've been guided by the sole aim of getting the outcome that enhances students' flexibility without compromising the quality of their education.

Several Flex-Ap forums have been held, all of which have either had a student panel or a presentation by one of the Education (Academic) Officers. With the first round of work streams coming to their conclusion, this Office will continue to cast our eye on the Uni's proposals and use our place at the table to get the negotiated outcome for the student body.

Cadmus

The hastily-implemented Cadmus technology caused alarm at the beginning of the year, and following this a dialogue begun between this Office and the Uni around the best way to use the technology in the future. After receiving assurances with regards to its initial trial phase, the philosophical grievances put forward by the student body were relayed to the Uni and the Cadmus creators, and have been taken on board. These grievances have fed into the Uni's external consultancy that was conducted, and have slowed the rollout whilst Chancellery ponder the potential issues surrounding its application.

Lecture recordings

A record-high number of subjects are now being recorded around the Uni, signalling a shift in the way subject coordinators are treated the issue. Issues still remain surrounding the opt-out system, but on the whole students are benefiting from a thorough campaign of pressure and lobbying by this Office. The Law School's reasoning for disallowing lecture recordings into the future was respected by this Office, with a view to change further down the track.

Student Representative Network (SRN)

With a student on every major committee and each of the Flex-Ap work streams, the student representative network is embedded deeper into the Uni's fabric than ever before. An additional string to the SRN's bow is the representation of students on all Uni working groups, where major committee decisions are often formulated and agreed upon, including the ATAR working group which is looking at changes to the admissions requirements to UniMelb. By having a student rep on each working group, the SRN has never been better placed to influence the decisions made by the Uni in their formulation stage, rather than when they're ready to be rolled out.

Summary of Expenditure:

Not provided

Recommendations:

No Recommendations

**Education (Public Affairs)
Akira Boardman & Dominic Cernaz**

During our term, we had three main goals in mind.

The first was to collaborate and engage with national campaigns run by the National Union of Students. Our main focus in Semester one was to engage in the Education campaign run by the National Education officer, titled 'Fund our future Fight for our Future'. This involved weekly stalls, three National Days of Action, speak outs, photo petitions, petitions, stunts and the UMSU Budget breakdown event. With undertaking strong involvement in this campaign, we also created a space for education activism on campus, which was another goal we achieved this year. Through engaging with other activists, we facilitated the Education Action Group, which brought together students who are committed to engaging in campaigns and taking action.

Our third goal was to explore how the education department can help assist students with their knowledge of their rights at work, and collaborate with other unions and organisations such as the Young Workers Centre to benefit students working lives. A big achievement in this space was producing the 'Things to know, working while studying' handbook which details legal entitlements to pay and working conditions for all students. We would like to thank all those involved in the Malaysian Progressives in Australia for their hard work and collaboration in this project.

Key activities:

UMSU Budget Breakdown

Throughout the year, we successfully ran a number of events in conjunction with other UMSU departments. In Semester 1, we organised the "UMSU Budget Breakdown" which was a speak out event with a free BBQ in South Court. This event broke down the measures coming out of the 2016 budget and how they will effect students. It was great to have speakers from a range of autonomous departments, which created an event based on intersectionality.

Verdict: This event is one that we would highly recommend continuing and building. With a longer period of preparation and promotion, this event could expand greatly

Women in Higher Education Week Trivia

Women in Higher Education Week is always an important week for the Education and Women's department to work collaboratively on to highlight the importance of women and women's achievements in higher education. This year, we worked with the Women's department to host a panel discussion and a trivia night.

Verdict: We would expect a continuation of these events. The panel was well attended and provoked great discussion about intersectional issues for women in higher education. The trivia was also well attended and was a fun and inclusive event for all who attended.

NUS National Campaign

This year we focused on the National campaign run by the National Union of Students 'Fund out future, fight for our future'. This involved three National Days of Actions, which we spent a lot of time with other activists building for. This included numerous poster runs, lecture announcements, emails, stalls and stunts. A lot of our work involved on the ground contact with students, as having one on one conversation is always the most effective way to engage people. During the time that we heavily engaged in this campaign, a lot of anti-student policies surrounding higher education were being revealed. Through creating simple graphics and ordering large paste ups, these policies (such as a \$2B cut to higher education funding and 10% increase in HECS student contribution) were accessible for students to see and understand how these policies will affect them.

Verdict: We see this as an integral part of the Education Public department. As a campaign based office, we see it as very successful and important to be having as many one on one conversation with students as possible. As a union that affiliates to NUS, we also find it important to engage in the nationally coordinated campaigns run out of NUS. We would recommend continuing to engage in

NUS campaigns and making sure activists are talking to students as much as possible through stalls, promotion and stunts.

Rights at Work

We collaborated with both the Young Workers Centre and the Malaysian Progressives in Australia as part of a campaign alerting students to their rights at work. This was best seen in the production of the booklet 'Working While Studying' and through O-Week activities where the Young Workers Centre came onto campus.

Verdict: This is a campaign very much worth continuing and was very much a success and key achievement of our office. The Young Workers Centre want' to have a greater presence at Universities and there are a number of groups on campus that are committed to fighting for worker's rights.

Keep the Quality!

The Keep the Quality campaign was launched in Semester two with a speak out. The aim of this campaign was to highlight the changes that the University are looking towards under the Flexible Academic Program. The first focus was the changes to timetabling,

Verdict: Campaign was initially successful with a lot of Facebook likes and conversations; however, we would recommend this being a campaign run with strong involvement from both the Education Academic and Education Public office for it to succeed. This campaign was initiated in the hope that it would be continued into 2017, and escalated when needed.

SWATVAC Support Stalls

We ran two stalls in the SWATVAC period in conjunction with the Welfare Department to help student during the stressful period. We gave out free hot drinks and many giveaways.

Verdict: Was a very successful event that had a high turnout.

Vote for Students election campaign

Produced flyers and posters that detailed party policy with a particular focus on Higher Education in the lead up to the Federal Election. These flyers were distributed heavily at the Royal Melbourne Exhibition Building around the time of exams.

Verdict: Was relatively successful, however, could have done with more support and organised earlier.

O-Week and Counter Course

Unlike previous years, Akira made a significant contribution to the Counter Course handbook. This was given out at both O-Weeks. At the O-Week stalls we had a lot of giveaways and meaningful ways of engaging students, such as, the production of a spinning while for the purpose of carnival like games.

Verdict: O-weeks were a good period as we had high engagements and a lot of people signing petitions.

Summary of Expenditure:

This year the Education Department has been managed in an adequate manner. The year could have started better with better initial budgeting, however, the year progressed well and finances were managed according to need. We've also ended the year with a decent surplus.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Final Expenditure
Special campaigns projects & events	\$11000	\$9700	\$9174.89
Stationary	\$250	\$250	\$60.44
Printing	\$4000	\$4000	\$2900
Phone	\$250	\$50	\$1.04
Grants	\$2000	\$3500	\$2700
Photocopying	\$2500	\$2500	\$209.24
Total	\$20000.00	\$20000.00	\$15045.61

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Budget recommendations.

CAMPAIGNS SPECIAL PROJECTS & EVENTS	9750
STATIONARY	200
PHOTOCOPYING	2000
TELEPHONE	50
PRINTING	4000
GRANTS	4000
TOTAL	20000

Environment
Zac Power

No report submitted

Environment Anisa Rogers

My aims were to inspire, support and provide information to students so that they could take action on environment and social justice issues. The activities I ran this year were an attempt at meeting those aims, as well as bringing together students and groups who are already working towards sustainability. I also wanted to build bridges between the Enviro Office and other areas of the university, and use those relationships to run events and advocate for more environment and social justice focus in the curriculum and practise of the university.

I really enjoyed my time in the office, learnt a lot and met many amazing people. Unfortunately working with my co office bearer Zac was quite difficult at times, and I encourage future officers to communicate a lot before deciding to run an office with someone else.

Key activities:

O-week:

In O-week we ran a stall for two days, one of them with Sustainable Campus and the Bike 'n' Blend, and also a picnic at the Community Garden.

It went very well, we talked to lots of people and gave out a lot of flyers about our events and other environment related events.

Verdict: Successful, continue. Having a fun activity at the stall helps to attract people, but the most important thing is having lots of friendly faces from the Enviro Collective to chat to as many people as possible.

Enviro Collective:

Every Monday from 12-1pm we met up in a room in Union House (sometimes outside when sunny) to discuss what was happening in the Enviro Office. We usually had an agenda, and focused on events that were happening at the time, for example Enviro Week. At the end of semester one we had very few people coming, but when we were planning Enviro Week we had about 20 people.

Verdict: Moderately successful, continue but maybe have food and run activities each week or something to make it more interesting?

Play With Your Food:

Each Tuesday night we would set up in North Court and cook a vegan meal with whoever wanted to be involved. The idea was to teach each other sustainable cooking and build community. Often we would go down to Victoria Market when it was closing and get some of the food as it was being thrown out. This started really good conversations about food waste. In semester 2 I arranged with Zac for him to run PWYF as I was feeling overwhelmed by all of the other activities I was running in the office.

Verdict: Successful, continue.

Bike Co-op:

In semester 1 we would hold the bike co-op on North Court from 9-11am on Tuesdays. We would have breakfast, tools and a mechanic to help students tune and fix their bikes. Myself and a dedicated group of students put in a lot of work to get a permanent space to keep the tools, and in semester 2 we ran the bike co-op out of there, with the space being open almost every day of the week, with activities like tube craft, documentaries, workshops and meetings. It was amazing to watch the community grow once we had the permanent space.

Verdict: Successful, continue.

Documentary Screenings:

Every Wednesday night at 5.15 I would screen a different documentary, using bean bags from the Rowden White Library and with vegan pizza. Often the screenings were put on with other groups from the university, to build relationships between groups and students both old and new in the environment scene.

Verdict: Successful, continue, but maybe put in more effort to advertise and have them less often?

Community Garden:

The garden is managed by two people, Jess and Pippa, but the Environment Office pays for what they want to buy, runs events with them and promotes their events. It works very well!

Verdict: Successful, continue

Excursions and workshops:

This year we had an excursion to East Gippsland as part of a Citizen Science camp, and also got 15 students up to Students of Sustainability Conference in Brisbane. Both of these were very successful, although it would have been better to promote them more as I am sure more students would be interested in these activities.

The two dumpster diving workshops were extremely well attended. The facilitation was less well attended but was held near the end of semester 2 which is a bad time for students.

Verdict: Successful, continue, and run more and different workshops!

Sustainability Plan:

The university ran its consultation for the Sustainability Plan, and as I was worried they were not reaching many students, I ran fortnightly info/discussion sessions, sent specific newsletters, and created an information page on the UMSU website to try and get more students involved in the process. It was successful in getting more students involved, but I had very limited resources and if the university put in more resources and time the consultation could have actually reached a lot of people.

Verdict: Successful, now the plan is finished (released late November) the challenge is to include students in the implementation and yearly reviews of its progress.

World Environment Day:

Together with Graduate Students Association, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, Melbourne Energy Institute, Office for Environmental Programs, Sustainable Campus and Chancellery, we ran an event which included some speakers, lots of food, and education around different ways to 'act local, think global' about sustainability. It created relationships across the university.

Verdict: Successful, continue

On Stolen Land – Discussion Group:

A study group that met each week in semester 2 to discuss what it means to live on this land that was and is invaded and stolen. We had readings, videos, and even went on the Billibellary walk on campus. A lot of different students came each week.

Verdict: Successful, continue

Enviro Week:

In week 4 of semester 2 we ran Enviro Week, filled with events and workshops. It was planned well with a lot of students from the collective running different events. Too many events were planned over the week, so next year I think focussing on fewer would help.

Verdict: Successful, continue

Newsletters:

I sent a newsletter each week filled with events and information, and sometimes special newsletters about particular things. I had lots of good feedback from students who enjoyed them.

Mailing list subscribers: 689

Newsletters sent: 38

Verdict: Successful, continue

Website and Facebook:

Updating the website and making events and posting things on facebook. It's a good way

Website views: unknown

Facebook likes: 1173

Verdict: Successful, continue

Key Achievements:

- Opening the permanent Bike Co-op space.
- Providing a much wider consultation to the university's meagre consultation on the Sustainability Plan (achievement of both the Environment Office and Fossil Free MU).
- Creating many relationships across the university to pass onto future Environment Officers.

Summary of Expenditure:

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation <use this column if you changed the budget during the year>	Final Expenditure
Special projects & events	\$18750 (this includes all campaigns below)	\$18750 (this includes all campaigns below)	\$17000 (this includes all campaigns below)
Stationary	\$100	\$100	\$6.16
Printing	\$600	\$600	\$598
Phone	\$50	\$50	\$483
Enviro Week	\$500	\$1000	\$1020
Community Garden	\$2000	\$2000	\$1900
Bike Co-op	\$1000	\$7500	\$7000
Play With Your Food	\$500	\$1000	\$1000
Fossil Free MU	\$500	\$1300	\$1200
Total	\$20000.00	\$20000.00	\$19000

Recommendations:

- Ensure good communication between office bearers for the entirety of the year
- Do less events but publicise them more
- Work with other office bearers
- Work on a policy to ensure UMSU only interacts with supports and buys products from ethical companies and organisations

Indigenous Wunambi Connor & Emily Kayte James

This year the main aim of the department was to hold as many inclusive and exciting events as possible. Our key focus was student engagement and helping new students transition into University smoothly. Throughout the year we continued to work on our partnership with Murrup Barak by entering into various joint projects, including our participation at the Indigenous University Games, Leadership and Mentoring opportunities for students, and the publication of two new volumes of *Under Bunjil*.

Key activities:

Social Events:

- **Welcome Back Drinks and Dinner:**

Summary: At the beginning of each semester we hosted a welcome back to Uni event by offering dinner and drinks to students. The first semester event went really well with approximately 50 attendees. The vibe was great with a good mix of students from first years to postgrads. We feel everyone had a chance to get to know each other and that we advertised the event well which means that students knew what was happening and the venue was a nice neutral place for students to meet. During second semester the welcome back continued to the welcome back event at the CLyde and received incredibly positive feedback. We spent a total of \$1,900, similar to semester 1.

Feedback: The Clyde venue began to feel tight as student numbers increased and in the future perhaps a larger more accommodating venue will need to be sort out. We were running out of money at the end and we know to hold an event similar to this we would need probably another \$200.

- **Trivia**

Summary: During both semester we held a trivia night for students. During semester 1 we held the event at Medley Hall, which has the highest percentage of Indigenous students in residence of the University affiliated colleges. The night went relatively well, but the location did impact the number of students who were able to attend. During second semester the trivia and bar night held in the union house bar was by far most popular event. We provided pizza and drinks for students. Our wonderful MC helped create a good vibe and we were able to provide a number of prizes including bowling and laser tags vouchers left over from another event. Total Cost for the evening was \$765.00 which covered Prizes, Soft drink, GoGet Car Hire, Equipment, Pizza, Pool Table coinage & Alcohol.

Feedback: Location was key to the success of this event with much larger numbers attending the more centrally located trivia night.

- **Movie Screenings (With the Environments Department)**

Summary: During both semester we partnered with the Environments department to show a movie. In semester 1 we screened Mabo, which had a larger than anticipated turnout with more than double of the number of students coming along than expected. The evening was also held on campus upstairs in Union House which was a central location and meant a lot of students found it really accessible. Following the success of semester one, during semester two chose to run another movie screening, again as a joint effort with UMSU's Environments department. The Indigenous Department provided and selected the film, snacks and drinks for the event and Anisa provided Vegan pizza and organized the equipment for the screening as well as the room booking. We had around 25 students attend and had a really productive conversation afterwards. This event cost us approximately \$200.

- *Feedback:* This was a relatively easy to run and cheap event that allowed us to partner with other departments. Definitely the kind of event that we would like to continue into the future.

- **Bowling and Laser Tag**

Summary: During both semester we ran a bowling night. In semester one we offered both Bowling and Lazer Tag was one of the highlights of the semester, we had our biggest turnout of students with around 60 attending. Overall everyone enjoyed the night and we had some really positive feedback. During semester two we had slightly lower attendance at this event than anticipated. We believe this was due to the time of semester. The total spent on bowling was \$510.00 as well as \$94.00 which was spent on food and beverages.

Feedback: The choice of venue impacted how teams were spread out and therefore limited the amount of interaction we would have liked. Additionally, as the event is paid for in advance we needed to pay for the anticipated number of students. While we had lower than expected in semester two, we were able to exchange the extra spots for vouchers that we used throughout the year as prizes.

- **Cinema Night**

Summary: In semester one we held a cinema night (The jungle book) following the success of 2015's cinema social night. We were incredibly surprised by how many students wanted to attend this event with approximately 65 students. I think all students enjoyed the film and it was followed up by some good conversations afterwards.

Feedback: In the future however we intend to attend a later timed movie and not provide dinner to students as it was a very length and slow process to feed 65 students at Grill'd and it's not practical. Attending the movie at a later time means that students will have an opportunity to eat at home before attending.

- **Karaoke**

Summary: To mix up the types of events compared to 2015 we held a Karaoke night in semester one. We estimated 35 students would attend Kareoke, and as it got closer to the event we predicted there would maybe be 15 as it was a really busy period for students. However, we were pleasantly surprised that nearly 40 students showed up.

Feedback: In the future if we held this event again we would need a bigger venue and definitely a bigger budget for this event.

- **Go Karting**

Summary: Following a student poll, in semester two we ran a Go-Karting night. Whilst initial interest was very high by the time Week Seven came around students were very busy with assessments. We ended up with fewer student than expected in total and were able to arrange cars to transport students to the venue at a cost using GoGet cars. We provided food once there at a total of \$110. The overall cost for the evening was approximately \$950. This included the cost of Go Karting, Lazer Tag and the Bucking Bull

Feedback: The timing of the event affected the student attendance.

- **End of Semester Event**

Summary: At the end of semester one we ran an end of semester party in the union house bar. This event was an immensely popular event which was simple to organise. With \$1500 we were able to provide pizza, a full open bar and access to good quality speakers for music and unlimited access to the pool tables. We chose not to run the same event in semester two as Murrup Barak held an awards evening at the end of the semester.

Feedback: N/A

UNDER BUNJIL

Under Bunjil is an all Indigenous written, edited and designed publication, created by Indigenous students at the University of Melbourne. When Under Bunjil was created it was created with the intention that it would always be a student run publication as it was an opportunity to create a platform for Indigenous students to have their ideas heard, considered and responded to. We have found thus far in our work that students relish the opportunity to participate, once they get passed their initial shyness they all are keen to begin working on their articles and discussing them with the editors. It's reflected in a lot of students writing that they haven't had many opportunities to say some of the things that have been weighing on them which we've found means the publications have had more serious tones. This year we were able to mix things up a bit by including more creative writing pieces, including a focus on artworks, photography and poetry. We're proud that Under Bunjil is a statement that say's Aboriginal students are here, we're successful and we're creating change.

- **Under Bunjil Launch Party**

This event got a huge amount of traction and we had many more people than expected. The event was open to all students not just Indigenous students and we had many of our office bearer colleges attend the event in support as well.

National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games

For many students, Indigenous University Games are the highlight of the year. Games are a week to celebrate the end of semester and the growing number of Indigenous students present in tertiary education. There are not many events that celebrate this fact and so it is a unique bonding experience that resonates throughout our University community all-year round. For some of us, the relationships that are formed at Games are the relationships that motivate us to continue studying despite feeling overwhelmed, homesick and useless. All the training leading up to Games and that week away are

integral not only for team bonding, but for forging those relationships that will support us throughout the rest of our degrees. Our community is what keeps us going as a team and academics

Mentor and Leadership Grants

This year we partnered with Murrup Barak to award students mentor and leadership grants for those who gave their time and energy to volunteering on open day, at camps and in other roles. This was a way to make sure students were paid fairly for their time.

Sports

As part of a broader engagement and retention strategy, sports and other physical activities play an important role in the health and wellbeing of students, helps forge strong social bonds and provides them with an opportunity to represent themselves and the University in their endeavors. This year we provided opportunities for students to participate in Unimelb team sports in Netball and Basketball.

Summary of Expenditure:

This year the Indigenous department budget was managed effectively with committee approving appropriate changes throughout the year in respect to additional income, namely an additional funding allocation of \$62,500 for joint projects with Murrup Barak, adding to the allocation of \$20,000 from Students council. Major funding allocations included the National Indigenous Tertiary Education Students Games, Under Bunjil, Student Leadership Grants and various Social Events throughout the year. All funding has almost been spent, with final invoices to be processed this month.

**THE FOLLOWING FIGURES ARE BASED ON THE LATEST FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM
SEPTEMBER - WE ARE AWAITING FINAL FIGURES FROM MUSUL.**

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation *	Final Expenditure
Stationary	\$100	\$100	\$5.63
Photocopying / Paper Costs	\$50	\$50	\$31.26
Telephone	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Postage	\$100	\$100	\$0.00
Arts Grants and Engagement	\$8000	\$20,000	\$8,430.00
Sports Grants and Engagement	\$8000	\$3,000	\$28,160.67
Indigenous Games	\$0	\$20,000	\$1,811.09
Special Projects and Events	\$3000	\$37,300	\$29,084.63
Emergency Grants	\$750	\$0	\$0
Total	\$20000.00	\$82,500.00	\$67,523.28

*Awaiting confirmation of final budget from the Indigenous Committee

Media

Danielle Bagnato, Sebastian Dodds, Caleb Triscari & Baya Ou Yang

INTRO

This report will outline the key activities, statistics, expenditure and recommendations of the 2016 Media Department of UMSU. This year saw a significant increase in online engagement, a growth in volunteers, and higher pickup rate. These achievements aligned with the aims and goals set by the Media Officers:

- To establish a more inclusive and diverse Collective
- To increase student engagement and recognition of the Department
- To establish a video branch of *Farrago*
- To fill the weekly Radio Fodder schedule with a diverse range of shows
- To continue upholding the quality and independence of *Farrago*
- To increase and expand campus coverage online and in print

KEY ACTIVITIES

1. EVENTS

Launch Parties

Following the release of each of our 8 *Farrago* Magazine print editions, the Media Office hosted a launch party where all contributors to the Office and readers/viewers/listeners of the Office's productions are invited to celebrate and socialise. When the venue and weather allowed it, music was supplied by Radio Fodder. Approximately 250 guests belonging to the Media Collective were invited to the public Facebook events each Launch Party, and the general student body was notified of each event through Facebook advertising, Instagram, Twitter and Email. An estimated 50 people attended each of the launch parties.

The dates for each launch party and the location were:

Edition 1: 23 February at Tsubu Bar, Parkville

Edition 2: 24 March at North Court, Union House, Parkville

Edition 3: 21 April at Tsubu Bar, Parkville

Edition 4: 17 May at Tsubu Bar, Parkville

Edition 5: 28 July at North Court, Union House, Parkville

Edition 6: 11 August at Arts Lab, Union House, Parkville

Edition 7: 7 September at Tsubu Bar, Parkville

Edition 8: 11 October at Tsubu Bar, Parkville

An additional Launch Party was held for the publication of *Above Water*, hosted in conjunction with the Creative Arts Department. This had the same purpose and goal as *Farrago* launch parties, and was held on 30 August at Union House Bar, Union House, Parkville.

Purpose: The purpose of these Launch Parties was to celebrate and congratulate contributors of the magazine, and to enrich the community of the Media Collective. Our goal was to foster an inclusive, accessible and casual environment where contributors could meet and socialise with one another.

Evaluation: Holding the event on campus helped make it accessible to a large majority of the student body while the inclusion of Radio Fodder added to the vibe of the party and helped merge the Radio Fodder sub-community with the wider Media Collective. We would recommend holding Launch Parties at non-Parkville campuses to engage even more students.

Verdict: Launch Parties are a popular and well-enjoyed event which proved fundamental to generating a sense of community in the Office. This event should be continued.

Wordplay

Three times a semester, the Media Office hosted spoken word nights where the collective and wider student body were invited to read and listen to one another. When the venue allowed it, music and microphone was supplied by Radio Fodder. Approximately 250 guests belonging to the Media Collective were invited to each of the public Facebook events, and the general

student body was notified of each event through Facebook advertising, Instagram, Twitter and Email. An estimated 25-50 people attended each of the Wordplay events, performing a range of poetry, short fiction, excerpts, personal prose and plays.

The dates for each Wordplay event and the locations were:

Episode I: No.1 – 22 March at Arts Lab, Union House, Parkville

Episode II: Double or Nothing – 26 April at Arts Lab, Union House, Parkville

Episode III: Thr33's Company – 26 May at Student Lounge, The Hub, VCA

Episode IV: Now Featuring Farrago Edition Six Launch Party – 11 August at Arts Lab, Union House, Parkville

Episode V: Happiness is a Good Pun – 13 September at Raymond Priestley Room, Union House, Parkville

Episode VI: One More Time with Feeling – 18 October at Lionels Bar, VCA

Purpose: The purpose of Wordplay was to provide a low pressure, encouraging environment where student writers and performers could comfortably share their creative work. Our goal was to increase the number and diversity of performers, celebrate all forms of creative performance and engage more non-Parkville campus students.

Evaluation: There was an incredibly diverse range of performers and works during Wordplay events – from one-man plays to fan fiction and choose your own adventures. Our main challenge was attracting new members of the collective to participate and we had concerns that each event only drew the same group of people. In our two events held at the VCA, we reached out to known VCA students within the Collective but it would have been better to promote more at the VCA to attract new students.

Verdict: Overall, Wordplay succeeded in becoming the space where student creatives performed their own work for the first time and it was extremely valuable to those who got involved. This event should be continued and expanded next year.

NEWS Conference

The Media Collective brought a contingent of the four Media Officers and 15 subeditors to the National Editors Workshop and Skillshare (NEWS) Conference at the Wheeler Centre on January 28-29. The contingent attended panels, workshops and discussions focussed on student publications in print and online, and met with editors from other Australian universities.

Purposes: The purpose of bringing a contingent to the Conference was to introduce and familiarise the editorial team to the practices, skills and challenges of Student Media. Our goal was to bond as a newly-formed editorial team, to gain practical skills in design and editing, to be introduced to Media Law and Ethics, and to bring all of this knowledge into running the UMSU Media Office.

Evaluation: All members of the contingent learned important skills in workshops and panels presented by members of the writing and publishing community who have all experiences Student Media. We were introduced to many considerations unique to Student Media and got to know one another as teammates for the upcoming year. It would have been valuable to include the graphics contributors into this contingency, considering workshops relating to design and layout would have been highly valuable for these members of the team.

Verdict: This conference was uniquely valuable and relevant in its focus on *student* media. The Media Office should continue sending a contingent.

National Young Writers' Festival

The Media Collective sent a contingent of 12 members of the Collective to the National Young Writers' Festival in Newcastle. The contingent was made up on the four 2016 Media Officers, the four newly-elected 2017 Media Officers and four applicants who demonstrated significant commitment and contribution to the Office over the year and would gain valuable experience from attending the festival. Applications for these positions were open for everyone in the Collective and the four 2016 Media Officers were on the selection committee. While at the festival from 28 September to 3 October, the contingent organised and presented at a Student Media panel, and attended many writing and creative arts workshops and talks. We received accommodation subsidies and a small honorarium by the festival organisers in return.

Purpose: The purpose of sending a contingent to NYWF was to provide insight to the production and management of Student Media in Australia, to familiarise and socialise with other Student Media Collectives from other Australian Universities, and to gain valuable advice and knowledge about the Australian writing and publishing industry to grow and

improve the UMSU Media Office in 2017. Our goal was to have an education and enjoyable festival, to provide networking opportunities for the contingent and to enrich the UMSU Media Office through these experiences.

Evaluation: The incoming Media Officers found the experience highly beneficial in meeting fellow Officers from other Universities, attending editing and diversity panels and bonding as colleagues. All members of the contingent expanded their networks and attended panels and workshops everyday. It was a shame that we could only bring 4 other members of the collective, however we live-tweeted and livestreamed the Student Media panel on *Farrago's* social media accounts to better engage with more students.

Verdict: Attending the NYWF proved beneficial for all members of the contingent. It should be continued with some consideration into bringing more members of the collective or expanding the opportunities of the festival through the digital sphere.

Fitzpatrick Awards Night

The Media Office will be holding an awards night to celebrate a wonderful year of writing, creating and producing. Nominations were open for all students at the University to recommend their favourite articles, artwork, videos and radio programs. A shortlist of candidates for each award will be announced on the Facebook event page prior to the event, which will be held at the Provincial Hotel on 22 November.

2. PROGRAMS

Farrago Magazine

The Media Office published eight 64-page *Farrago* magazines across the year (Edition 7 was 88 pages to account for the Election Guide). Edition 1 had a 5,500 print run, Edition 2-6 had a 3,500 print run and Edition 7-8 had a 3,000 print run – these were completely distributed across three campuses. Any student of the University could submit writing and artwork to the publication, which is distributed. There were four year-long positions involved in the production of *Farrago* in print and online:

Subeditors: Divided into journalistic (12), creative (9) and general (19), 40 students provided structural and copy editing and written feedback for every piece of writing submitted to *Farrago*. The selection process involved an initial application, second-round subediting test and third-round interview.

Graphics Contributors: 32 students are commissioned 1-3 pieces of artwork per edition in response to writing submitted to *Farrago*. The selection process involved an initial submission of a portfolio/blog, and a second-round test responding visually to written material.

Columnist: 12 students have a spot in every edition of *Farrago* to host an eight-part written or visual series. The selection process involved an initial submission of sample writing, and a second-round test of sample writing.

Web Officer: 4 students uploaded pieces and artwork to *Farrago's* website, and assisted in some web redesign. The selection process involved an initial application and a second-round interview.

Farrago Video

A newly created branch of the office, *Farrago* Videos can be found on the YouTube channel and on Facebook. Any student of the University can pitch and submit video content to be published on our channels. To establish the branch, 18 students were appointed members of the Video Team to produce content. Closed captions were provided for all videos.

Radio Fodder

The two-year-old radio station provides training, development and digital broadcast for any student at the University. There are two semester-long positions involved in the production of Radio Fodder:

Radio Presenter: More than 90 students were trained and went on air to host weekly shows. The presenters created run sheets, Facebook pages and podcasts for their shows. The selection process involved applying with sample audio and run sheets.

Radio Producers: 17 students with previous training and experience in radio were selected from the Collective to oversee 2-3 shows each. Producers provided additional technical, promotional and content support to presenters, and corresponded with the Media Officers.

Above Water

The 64-page creative writing anthology produced by the Media and Creative Arts Department. All students at the University could submit via the competition from which a shortlisted selection of writing selected by the departments Officers. At the launch party, the winner for the writing and visual components of the competition, along with two runner-ups, were announced following judgement by a panel of industry persons was published. The winners were awarded \$150 each and runner-ups were awarded \$100 each. 1500 copies were printed and distributed around campus.

Marketing Team

A team of 6 students managed the Farrago and Radio Fodder social media accounts on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat, as well as the general promotion of the Media Office through event presence and decor. The selection process involved an initial application and second-round interviews.

3. SERVICES

Radio Training

All radio presenters were required to complete six hours of radio training before they went on air. This was held by three volunteers (two of which completed training to provide training) and covered media law, what makes a good radio show and how to use the panel and studio technically. Ken Lim created the radio training document and program which he devised from the the programs at SYN Radio and Triple R. Radio Fodder trained more than ninety students this year. We could recommend creating a regular training time slot so that students (and trainers) can plan ahead and keep the day free. We would also recommend reviewing the training program to make it more interactive.

Farrago Submission Process

Submissions for each edition of *Farrago* were open for three weeks. In that time students could email us their questions, pitches and cold submissions of writing and artwork. We also had a content list on our Facebook page and website where we listed ideas for students to write about if they wanted to contribute to *Farrago* but needed help with ideas and inspiration. Something that we sometimes had trouble with was sorting through an inbox that became inundated with emails and submissions each edition. We would recommend considering an external program like Submittable which sends automatic emails with each submission and cannot lose work in an inbox.

4. PROJECTS

Farmers Market

Radio Fodder set up a marquee and speakers at the Farmer's Market each week to provide great music and atmosphere. It was also an opportunity to promote Radio Fodder and hand out *Farragos* to market-goers. It was a successful venture but we would recommend creating more promotional material such as posters and bookmarks to promote Radio Fodder, *Farrago* and the Media Office's social media channels. Another use for the Farmers Market would be to get more radio presenters involved and use it as an opportunity to sign students up for radio training.

Above Water

Above Water is the Media Office's creative writing anthology. This year it contained fiction, non-fiction and poetry as well as accompanying artwork. The anthology also has a competition aspect where submissions were considered by an Editorial Committee – the Media Officers and the Creative Arts Officers – and the shortlist is published in the anthology. There were three outside judges who chose an overall winner and their name, as well as the two runners up, were published on the inside cover. The cover art of the anthology was also part of the competition. Students submitted their artwork, and the Editorial Committee chose a winner who created the cover art. There was a launch party held in the student bar where we celebrated the anthology and heard readings from the winner, two runners up and several other writers. We would recommend focusing on marketing the open submissions for *Above Water*, particularly in terms of artwork, to reach a wider and more diverse group of students.

Radio Fodder Restructure

Radio Fodder was established by the 2015 Media Officers but was run by students, Ken Lim, Patrick Clearwater and Bren Carruthers. They spent their time setting up the studio, creating a training program and putting shows on air. This year, we re-structured the radio so that the four Media Officers were in charge of programming, training schedules and all technical aspects of the radio. This meant that information didn't get lost down the hierarchy and everyone involved in the radio knew who to speak to. It was successful and resulted in more than 90 people attending radio training and 58 shows being on air. Plans are being carried out to significantly upgrade the technical infrastructure of the radio station, including a new panel and audio codec hardware. This process will most likely require support from MUSUL's capital expenditure pool.

STATISTICS

(As of 10 November)

Copies of *Farrago* printed: 29,000 copies

Copies of *Above Water* printed: 1,400 copies

Number of Radio Fodder programmes broadcast: 58 programmes

Mailing List Subscribers: 1800 subscribers

Newsletters Sent: 16 newsletters

Farrago Facebook Likes: 6485 likes (+47% since the commencement of term)

Farrago Twitter Followers: 3,088 followers (+19% since the commencement of term)

Farrago Instagram Followers: 1,504 followers (+284% since the commencement of term)

Number of Farrago Youtube Subscribers: 106 subscribers

Average Online Reach (farragomagazine.com): 10,572 pageviews per month.

Radio Fodder Facebook Likes: 841 likes (+23% since the commencement of term)

Radio Fodder Twitter Followers: 375 followers

Radio Fodder Instagram Followers: 143 followers

Top Five Articles Visited Online:

'Beer Not Books (or, the Unco-operative bookshop)' by Martin Dittmann, Jeremy Nadel, Jesse Paris-Jourdan and Duncan Wallace – 2813 views

'Auction on College Crescent' by Lucy Williams – 2765 views

'Tyson Holloway-Clarke Appointed UMSU President' by Alexandra Alvaro – 1033 views

'Paid in Experience' by Alexandra Alvaro and Sheri Lohardjo – 866 views

'He's Mean Because He Likes You' by Emma Hollis – 764 views

Most Popular Farrago Video: 'Baillieu Brawl' – 228,733 views, 2,200 reactions, 1,065 shares.

EXPENDITURE

(As of 10 November)

The UMSU Media Department budget was formed with a focus on greater marketing and events this year. We were also operating under a funding cut in comparison to the previous. This weighed quite heavily on the printing numbers of *Farrago* and the technical maintenance of Radio Fodder. We also had to shift around funds throughout the year. Many of our initial purchases associated with the startup of a video platform were able to be covered by funds accrued from the 2015 UMSU Media Budget and the 2015 Whole of Union Line. We also relied on the 2016 Whole of Union budget slightly for the printing of *Above Water*.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Final Expenditure
Printing	\$82,000	\$86,118.17	\$84,920.00
Radio/Video	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$1213.28
Special Projects/Events	\$17,800 (incl. accruals)	\$12,750	\$10548.13
Photocopying	\$250	\$250	\$81.44
Postage	\$700	\$700	~\$470.00

Telephone	\$50	\$50	~\$5.00
Stationery	\$0	\$100	\$46.15
Total	\$103,800.00	\$103,968.17	\$97,284.00

RECOMMENDATIONS

Media Policy

The Media Department recommends the redrafting of a new Media Policy in consultation with the Collective to encompass all three branches of the Department, the volunteering structure, and further enshrines the editorial independence of the Department.

Mobile Website

Just below half of the views from farragomagazine.com were done so via mobile devices. Therefore the Media Department recommends redesigning the mobile interface of the website for a more functional and aesthetically pleasing mobile viewing.

Radio Restructure

The Media Department recommends a total restructure of the technical elements of Radio Fodder, including but not limited to the replacement of the panel to a studio-appropriate setup, audio codec and external podcasting. The replacement of the current technical hardware is long overdue and the network infrastructure in place is technically complex and surpasses the knowledge base of a regular student office bearer. A substantial change to the Radio Fodder hardware should ideally minimise the streaming downtime caused by current technical difficulties and lower the need for specialised knowledge.

Growth of Department

With the introduction of Radio and Video branches in the past two years, the Office community has grown exponentially. The Media Officers recommend UMSU assign more money to relocate the Media Department to Level 4 of Union House, soundproof the radio studio, build a filming and production space and create a hub for students and project groups to meet and access publishing, editing, illustration and sound software.

Student Engagement

The Media Department recommend that the incoming team of Officers continue to foster deeper student engagement with the magazine, radio, video and website. Magazine pick-up rates have increased dramatically this year, website views have gone up, Radio Fodder listenership is growing and video has enjoyed an enormously successful inaugural year of content. The Media Officers believe it would be of great benefit to both the office and to students if this increase in consumption could be translated into a greater degree of dialogue, engagement and student action. This would include a greater focus on non-Parkville campuses where the Media Office has traditionally struggled to find engagement and relying more on students to bring newsworthy stories to our attention.

Campus Reporting

The Media Department recommends a continued focus on campus reporting. With the new Farrago website, online stories were more easily shared and were the highest received articles online. Members of the university community also shared information with Farrago reporters about questionable practices on campus. Campus reporting should continue to grow next year to inform the student body of more university affairs and encourage more people to come forward and speak to the media.

Office Bearer-Media Relations

The Media Department believes that greater autonomy should be granted to office bearers who wish to speak on behalf of their department to the media, or at least *Farrago*. Seeking approval from the President or Students' Council can be a time-consuming process for breaking stories and is an unnecessary bureaucratic hurdle. Office Bearers have presumably been elected to positions in which they have a high level of knowledge and competence to speak on without needing to have their views approved by the President or Students' Council.

**Queer
Frances Connors & Lotus Ye**

The Queer Officers at UMSU exist to represent and support LGBT+ students at the university. This year, our goals were to mainly maintain popular events held by the previous officers, to welcome new LGBT+ students to the Queer Space, and to integrate more diversity into the department.

Key activities:

Midsumma Pride March

Alongside the university we organised and helped assist in having a cohort of University of Melbourne staff, student and their families attend Midsumma Pride March.

Verdict: This event had a high turnout and was great for engaging with new students as a number of first years came along. However, there are issues with pinkwashing and the GSA queer officer has raised issues with the current organising of next year's march.

Queer Picnic/Winter festival screenings

The Queer Department held a Queer Picnic as part of its O-Week activities at the beginning of the year. Similarly during mid year 'winter festival' we partnered with the Comms department for a double screening of films. This had lower attendance than O-week however still engaged with a fair number of students.

Verdict: Both a number of new students and students familiar with the Queer Department attended and were able to bond and socialise. It is recommended that these event or a similar 'welcoming' event be held next year.

Pride Ball

The Queer Department held its Pride Ball on the 27th of September this year during semester 2. The event was publicised through social media and already gained some publicity as many people had attended Pride Balls held by previous Queer Officers. Roughly 120 people attended this event.

Verdict: This event was successful both in the amount of attendance and how much enjoyment people had; and we would recommend having it next year as well.

Regular events- Queer Lunch/Collectives/Queer Girl Movie Night

Our regular events were overall fairly popular. Queer Lunch especially regularly draws people to the queer space. Our collectives were student led and their success therefore definitely relied on the enthusiasm and ability for individual students to run them. Queer Girl Movie Night had a smaller but regular attendance and we would recommend continuing to hold it with the Women's department as well as perhaps other movie screening events.

Verdict: These event were overall successful and popular among students and serves as a good opportunity for students to bond and make friends. It is recommended the event be continued and improved upon.

Summary of Expenditure:

This year the Queer Department budget was managed quite effectively. Most noticeably we were able to significantly cut down the expenditure for Pride Ball from last year while keeping a similar rate of attendance. We did remain fairly conservative with our spending especially at the beginning of the year and could have spent more in the first semester, so would recommend next year's queer officers be aware of this.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Expenditure
Special projects & events	\$11500	\$9356
Stationary	\$100	\$0
Printing	\$350	\$100
Phone	\$50	\$1
Food & Bev	\$6000	\$5369
Conference	\$1000	\$1000
Travel	\$500	\$414
Grants	\$1000	\$800
Total	\$20000.00	\$17040

Recommendations:**Recommendation 1: To follow up on the University of Melbourne's 'trans/nonbinary' third gender option**

While this year the Queer Department has been quite successful in its event, it is heavily recommended that next year's Department continue to follow up on the University of Melbourne's decision to add a trans/third gender option to their enrolment. As many trans people have pointed out, it is transphobic to categorise being transgender as a 'third' gender to imply that trans men and women are somehow different from cis men and women.

Recommendation 2: Follow up on Uni health services focus groups

We were contacted by the university health services to assist in running focus groups on how to make their services more LGBTQ+ friendly. This was at the end of the year and we only were able to run one focus group but we would strongly urge next year's officers to continue to work with the health services. We would also recommend other departments do as well as they are eager to hear from the union on a range of issues.

Welfare
Sarah Xia

The Welfare Department ran successfully in 2016, and helped permanently introduce a People of Colour Department at the University of Melbourne Student Union going into the future. Key focuses for me this year included expanding the welfare volunteer program, organising better representation for students of ethnic minority backgrounds, further advertisement and expansion of the welfare food bank, and working with the National Union of Students' Welfare Department to advertise their 2016 Student Wellbeing Survey and lobby for better student welfare services in areas such as counselling. A few of these key activities are noted in my annual report, with additional details available in my handover to the 2017 Welfare Officers.

Key activities:

Welfare Volunteer Program

This year I expanded on the mailing list set up by 2015 Welfare Officer James Bashford via Mailchimp, and set up an additional mailing list for 2016 due to the high turnover rate of students at the University of Melbourne. Volunteers were able to indicate their preference for different types of events, and these interests allowed us to focus on providing great volunteer experiences for students. We had regular volunteers for the weekly breakfasts, as well as short-term volunteering for events such as the Semester 1 Stationery Party and Stress Less Week. The advertising program I organised with UMSU Communications at the beginning of 2016 was particularly effective in recruiting new volunteers, and we saw a high number of volunteers signing up to the program around the time of O-Week and Week 1 in Semester 1, 2016.

Statistics:

2016 Welfare volunteer collective list: 408 subscribers (62.6% email open rate, high of 84.6% and low of 52.6%)

Emails sent to volunteer collective list: 32 emails

Verdict: Success, but should explore a second major advertising campaign in O-Week of Semester 2 in addition to re-using Semester 1 posters and social media about the volunteer program.

People of Colour Collective

This year I founded the People of Colour Collective as a supportive and social space for students of racial minority backgrounds at the university. The collective ran weekly on Wednesdays from 2-3pm in Training Room 2, Union House and successfully engaged students of colour. The Facebook group has approximately 60-70 members as of this report, and our most attended social events were our end of year Big Hero 6 film screening on 18 October 2016 and our end of semester 1 celebration. I will be organising handover with the new office bearers in mid-November.

Verdict: Successful, and should continue under the People of Colour Department in 2017.

Creation of a People of Colour Department

I began organising to constitutionally introduce a department for students of colour at the beginning of Semester 1, and I ran constitutional working groups during People of Colour Collectives. A challenge for me was defining the term 'people of colour' in conjunction with the collective, as well as noting and updating the various sections of the UMSU constitution around autonomy and autonomous departments. I started an online (and paper distributed) petition on 3 May 2016 for the creation of the UMSU People of Colour Department alongside changes to the women's department under clause 21(b) of the UMSU constitution after an inquorate Council meeting with Adriana Mells, Women's Officer. The petition was well-received by the student body, receiving over 700 signatures in 5 hours and empowering us to hold a Special General Meeting to discuss the changes. The first elections for the new People of Colour Officers and Committee was held in September 2016, which was very exciting.

Verdict: This was a highly successful campaign and an autonomous department has been created for 2017.

Stress Less Week:

I organised Stress Less Week for Week 6, Semester 1 in 2016. We introduced a bouncing castle this year, which was moderately successful. The Beyonce and Rihanna dance classes were very successful despite some initial worry about class attendance, and were organised in conjunction with the UMSU Women's Department. The welfare carnival on Thursday was our most attended event, with free popcorn being particularly popular. One major challenge was coordinating with my co-office bearer, who was physically absent from the country during the majority of the organisation period but we were able to come to a general working arrangement after she agreed to host Wellness Week in Semester 2. Nonetheless, in addition to special events, we were also able to tie-in lots of our regular events and organised a one-off class of Free Zumba for the week. Zumba was incredibly popular, leading to the department introducing free weekly classes in Semester 2.

Verdict: Successful, should continue on an annual basis to raise awareness of student wellbeing services. Welfare Carnival can continue on a Thursday, but can potentially move to a Tuesday lunchtime due to sound restrictions on South Lawn.

Summary of Expenditure:

This year the Welfare budget was mostly spent, although figures in the budget below are only accurate as of the September financials distributed to Office Bearers in addition to minor expenditure in October. The department was able to effectively spend its budget through clear financial allocations at the beginning of the year, as well as a focus on bulk buying to reduce costs for regular events such as the weekly free breakfast. People of Colour Collective costs from UMSU's Whole of Union budget are not accounted for in the table below.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation (no alteration in final allocation)	Final Expenditure
Regular Events	\$12 000	\$10,465.57
Special Project and Events	\$7600	\$5678.20
Stationary	\$100	\$49.49
Photocopying/Printing	\$290	\$0.73
Phone	\$10	N/A
Total	\$20000.00	\$16,202.99

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the department focus on securing more hours of counselling for students at the University of Melbourne, particularly satellite/non-Parkville campuses.

While free counselling is available to most students at the University of Melbourne, students at satellite campuses often have difficulty accessing this student service due to limited hours. While the Werribee campus increased its hours this year, as previously noted to Council, the union should continue lobbying for increased counselling access for students (particularly at non-Parkville campuses) and preferably for greater in-person access.

Welfare Yan Zhuang

In my role as Welfare Officer this year, I have had a number of focuses. I have aimed to address the issues of discrimination and marginalisation on campus, especially for students who speak English as a second language and students of colour. Establishing the Conversation Partners Program, and the organising the People of Colour Conference were done with the goal of supporting and empowering students who face barriers in participating fully in their University experience, as well as raising awareness about the diversity of student experiences. As a service which provides support primarily from students suffering financial hardship, activities I have undertaken to promote and expand the food bank have been aimed at addressing student poverty. I have also collaborated with other UMSU departments, the University and external organisations to promote services both on and off campus which deal with physical and mental health issues, accessibility issues, and sexual health.

Key activities:

Volunteering + Welfare Collective

The department's volunteering opportunities has allowed it to have significant student engagement. This year, student volunteers have helped out at our weekly breakfasts, O-week and Mid-year O-week, Stress Less Week, Big Bazaar, and more. The department's fortnightly welfare collective has been a key way to engage with students interested in volunteering and for facilitating volunteering activities, with collective events ranging from banner painting, to food bank packs packing, to unstructured sessions for students to mingle and chat.

Verdict: volunteering is an integral aspect of the department and should be continued, as should our regular collectives.

Conversation Partners

This was a fortnightly event newly established this year which aimed to allow students to practice speaking a second language with native speakers. Initial student interest was high, with over 60 students registering before the start of the first event and an estimated 30 students attending the first session. Over the year, there have been over 150 individual sign-ups for the program. The main difficulty this program has encountered is that the languages students want to practice do not match up with the native languages students are fluent in.

Verdict: while demand has been high for this program, the difficulties mentioned above need to be considered and potential changes considered.

Other Regular Events

Along with regular activities continuing from last year like weekly free breakfast and yoga, the department this year has also introduced free Zumba and meditation classes. These events have been continued to be well received, with Zumba class participation sitting at an estimate 20 for some sessions, while breakfasts averaged 400-500 students served per week.

Verdict: these regular events have run successfully this year and there is benefit to them being continued.

Food Bank

This year the department has been able to raise awareness around its food bank and expand the service. The food bank drive held in Semester 2 received a number of donations and was able to raise awareness. I was able to expand this service to the VCA campus this year; it is currently housed in Stop 1 down at VCA and managed by their staff.

Verdict: the food bank is one of the department's most valuable services and should be continued. More promotion around the service, especially at VCA, would increase its visibility.

University collaboration: R U Okay Day and Mental Health Week

This year, the department has collaborated with the University on events which have allowed us to promote services offered by the University to help with issues affecting students, namely R U Okay Day and Mental Health Week. This ranged from providing information about University services at our free breakfasts, to providing the University with information about our services to cross-promote.

Verdict: the University has numerous resources and reach, and while their aims do not always align with ours, the department benefits from continued collaboration.

People of Colour Conference

I was one of the organisers of the inaugural student People of Colour Conference this year, held over two days during the winter break. In total 32 tickets were sold, and 12 speakers, panels and workshops over the two days, including keynotes Alice Pung, Jennifer Yang and the organisers of the Melbourne's Black Lives Matter protest. Verbal feedback received from participants expressed that they found the conference to be a valuable learning and networking opportunity.

Verdict: Though turnout was lower than I had hoped, feedback from participants indicates that the conference should continue next year. In the style of other student conferences, I hope it can be passed on to another campus for 2017.

Key Statistics:

Volunteer collective mailing list subscribers:
409
Newsletters sent: 29

Facebook likes: 2411
Facebook reach: peaked at 2600-2800 for
some events

Summary of Expenditure:

[I am unsure how to work out my expenditure separate from my co-office bearer so have put in here the most recent financial report I could find (August). Please bear in mind that our expenditure has changed since then.]

This year the Welfare Department budget was managed effectively with minor changes throughout the year. The largest portion of the budget has gone towards the department's weekly free breakfasts, although this year we have been successful at capitalising on sales to minimise expenditure.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Expenditure
Special projects & events	\$7600	\$3283.72
Stationary	\$100	\$12.36
Printing	\$290	1.12
Phone	\$10	\$0
Regular Events	\$12000	\$6395.45
Total	\$20000.00	\$9692.65

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the food bank be found a permanent location

Current issues around the lack of visibility of the department food bank can be addressed through finding a permanent home for it, with student volunteers to oversee the service. This approach would allow volunteers to interact with students who use the service with more personalised advice about their situations, which while currently available if students contact the Welfare Officers directly, is not provided through Info Desk. Additionally, this approach would potentially allow the household goods bank and vacuum hire service to be integrated into the food bank.

Women's Adriana Mells

The UMSU Women's department advocates for all Women students on campus, it provides women with mentoring and networking opportunities and hosts a range of different events.

This year there were a few overarching aims for the department; that it be more inclusive – in terms of representation and people feeling included in the Women's room. That we increase engagement with the Women's Room/Department and that we attempt to modernise the department, which is a process that began in 2015 with the previous Women's officers.

This year there were a number of constitutional changes that were passed in relation to the Women's department and Women's representation. I think these were incredibly important and aligned with our aims of inclusivity, engagement and definitely reflected what students who are involved with the Women's department wanted.

One major aspect of the department this year has been the work for safety on campus. Sexual assault and harassment is a major issue at Australian universities, and this year Women's officers, student representatives and students have all worked together to start a meaningful conversation that eventuates in change. We have demanded better policies, better and clearer reporting procedures, accessible information and better support services for survivors. I think it's important to highlight that these are things that should concern everyone and this isn't a fight that only Women should have to undertake. As a student body, we should be having proactive conversations about the patriarchy, sexism, misogyny and rape culture and how we can change this. Acknowledge your privilege, listen to those who've been marginalised, support them and do something.

Key Activities:

Feminism 101: This week was an introductory week about intersectional feminism held at the start of Semester 1. The week involved many different discussions; our main panel was called 'Does Feminism Speak for all Women?' This was a discussion that focuses on the voices of those who have not been supported or represented in mainstream feminism.

Verdict: This was a really good week to have at the start of the year and there are many people who want to be involved in feminist discussion. One major issue was dealing with trolls who made people feel unsafe.

Hunting Ground screening as part of Respect Week: As part of the University of Melbourne's Respect Week, the Women's department hosted a screening of the documentary. This generated a lot of interest amongst students. The panel event afterwards was not quite as successful, but could be done better in future.

Verdict: I would recommend doing more screenings of The Hunting Ground, as it did start many conversations amongst staff and students at the University.

Rad Sex and Consent Week: Often described as 'the Sex Ed you never had'. The week this year was collaboration between Women's, Queer, Disabilities and Welfare. The themes were consent, safe sex, healthy relationships and inclusive romance. A variety of different workshops were hosted throughout the week.

Verdict: Rad Sex and Consent week is extremely important; I think there are some structural changes that could be made to improve attendance. I would host a variety of different workshops over a few weeks on Tuesday and Wednesday (good attendance on these days) to ensure that more people come to workshops.

Judy's Punch: Judy's Punch ran fantastically this year, thanks to the wonderful Amie Green who was recommended by this year's media officers. Judy's Punch is a great way for people for people to learn

and get involved in the department and is a wonderful opportunity to be published. It's been fantastic to get to see a bunch of wonderful people organise such as beautiful publication.

Verdict: Judy's Punch is a Women's department constitutional requirement. It aims to promote and highlight the voices of women and it is also a great learning experience. I would recommend that all future Women's officers find themselves an Amie (editor) before beginning and perhaps explore the potential for making it an entrenched role/opportunity.

Women in Higher Education Week: a week dedicated to celebrating Women's achievements and discussing the barriers still present in higher education. This year we ran a panel event and held a trivia night. This week is a collaboration between Women's, Education and the Activities departments.

Verdict: This week is a fantastic week to celebrate Women's achievements and a great time to have open discussions about the current situation of Women in a whole range of different fields in higher education. I think much more can be done with this week, and I think it's worth collaborating with more groups on campus.

Key Statistics:

Likes on Facebook: 1270
 Members in Women's department group: 938
 Mailing List: 789 Subscribers

Key achievements:

Work and consultation on the Women's departments constitutional changes and work surrounding safety on campus.

Summary of Expenditure:

Due to having financial records that are not accurate, I've looked through my own spreadsheet and tried to figure out how much was left in each budget line.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Final Expenditure
Stationary	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$13.59
Photocopying/Printing	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$136.86
Telephone	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Women's Room Maintenance	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$119.04
Grants	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Orientation Expenditure	\$4,198	Moved into Special Projects and Events	\$3686.34
Special Projects and Events	\$14, 532.00	\$14, 532.00	\$11, 865.51
Total	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,821.34

**Burnley Campus
Eranthos Beretta**

It's been a turbulent time down on the satellite campus of Burnley. Staff cuts and school reviews amongst trying to reinvigorate and rebuild student representation has not been easy.

The main aims were to get students involved and have proper representation on campus and in the greater university. Getting the campus coordinator position to be paid has and having a full committee moving forward shows that progress has been achieved.

Running more events in conjunction with students from all cohorts and staff has built a more solid and connected culture on campus. While there was some teething out and a giant backlog of work and gaps to be filled from lack of representation, the committee is now a fully functioning and recognised body on campus.

While I would have liked to achieve more this year the position and group is being left in good hands with continuity from our current group.

Key activities:

125th Celebrations, International Food Day with ASRC, Winery and Viticulture Tour, Wilsons Prom, Off The Grid Music and Arts festival. Various BBQ's/On Campus Parties. SEFS Review, Welfare Services, Booth, Magazines. Lecture Recordings.

125th Celebrations

Celebrating 125 years of continuous horticultural education at Burnley. BSA assisted with running the event, music and drinks working with UoM staff. Over 1200 attendees, food trucks, rotary stand, speeches, soil and plant workshops etc.

Verdict: Extremely successful. One off event.

International Food Day with ASRC

In conjunction with the Olympics celebrating multiculturalism and food. Worked with ASRC catering with 60+ attendees, music and drinks also provided. > \$2000 went to ASRC.

Verdict: Highly successful. Could certainly do more of these if the budget allows, much easier than running BBQ's.

Winery & Viticulture Tour

With Yarra Valley Winery Tours went to 3 wineries for tasting and lunch and tours/info sessions with viticulturists. 30+ attendees

Verdict: Successful. Another winery tour or something of the like should be run each year.

Wilsons Prom

4 days in Wilsons Prom with food, accommodation and transport paid for students. 30+ attendees

Verdict: Will run on the 5th – 8th of December. Very successful following last year's trip to falls creek (also run by the current BSA). Highly recommend to continue each year with the same or varied locations.

Off The Grid

Music and arts festival run on solar power focusing on zero waste and sustainability. I was able to secure nursery space, donated plant material, potting mix and pots. Will be working with Danielle Rostan-Hebert, UoM's sustainability manager, for further funding raising profile of UoM, BSA and Burnley.

Verdict: N/A will be on the 21st of December.

Various BBQ's and Parties

Many BSA run BBQ's and on campus parties for orientation, plot clean ups, end of semester events and more. All have been extremely successful with an average attendance of 50+ students.

Verdict: Successful. Continue in future years with further catering options.

SEFS Review

School of Ecosystem Forest Sciences (SEFS) review. After MSLE was dissolved and Burnley became amalgamated into SEFS had over 70% (proposed) teaching cuts last year. BSA was able to mobilise and work with NTEU to at least save permanent staff. Consequently, SEFS was under review in 2016 and BSA members and myself were part of this review.

Verdict: Ongoing. pressure must be continuously applied on the university to recognise the importance of this campus. Still awaiting review full results though at this stage Burnley appears to be safe for at least the next year.

Welfare Services

Zero welfare services were available to students on campus previously and BSA put pressure on UoM to provide this digitally at the very least. Working with Campus Director Stefan Arndt and student services we were able to set up the 'Zoom Room' in the library where students can access all welfare services via skype.

Verdict: Successful.

Burnley Booth

Together with the UMSU Women's department have set up 'booth' in the student amenities building with free women's and sexual health products.

Verdict: Successful.

Magazines

Working with the Rowden White Library have a consistent stand of periodicals in the student amenities building offering non study related reading material.

Verdict: Successful. Continuing.

Lecture Recordings

The main lecture hall at Burnley and many other areas did not have proper recording facilities. After much fighting and pressure BSA was able to force UoM to install.

Verdict: Successful.

Key Statistics:

Newly established BSA facebook page. Needs to be utilised more though is reaching more people each month.

Facebook likes: 70+ page likes (not including post likes)

Facebook reach: 349 people reached in the last month

Summary of Expenditure:

Many more events could have been run with greater budget and time allocation/input from BSA. Still expenditures to come through. Could change.

Budget Line	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation <use this column if you changed the budget during the year>	Final Expenditure
Incursions & Excursions	\$5000	\$5000	\$3000
Activities & Events	\$5000	\$5000	\$5000
General Ops.	\$5000	\$5000	\$2500
Total	\$15000	\$20000.00	\$10500 (approx)

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Voting on Campus

Voting at Burnley needs to be catered to students on this campus. Having just one booth set up for 2-4 hours on two days restricted many students from voting. If this cannot be done digitally or remotely then there should be at least 5 booths set up for the very limited voting hours provided.

Recommendation 2: UMSU should increase the Budget for Burnley.

While we have not (yet) spent all of the money allocated this is not for lack of allocation. Having the greater resources means we could have more events and raising the profile of this campus.

Recommendation 3: UMSU needs to contact SSAF to have greater services and amenities for the Burnley campus.

There is currently \$250k for 'non-Parkville campuses' in the SSAF budget yet no way in how to access that. I would have done more to try this but did not have the time.

Recommendation 5: Credit where credit is due (with financial recompense)

Whatever UMSU is paying Goldie Pergl, it should pay her more. How instrumental she has been to us and all UMSU operations could not be expressed enough. Thank you G Dog!

Recommendation 1: All UMSU departments should run events at Burnley.

In some way or form the rest of UMSU should try and run more events on our campus, taking advantage of the space and gardens.

Victorian College of the Arts Van Rudd

My 2016 report for the VCA Student Association contains a number of key events and milestones that occurred in 2016 at the Victorian College of the Arts. This includes key student protests against the Liberal government's cuts to higher education and their ongoing threats to deregulate university fees. Also included is the fight to save the Centre for Cultural Partnerships.

Key activities:

Student Protests:

Four major student protests were called by NUS this year to counter the Liberal government's attacks on higher education plus pressuring the government on marriage equality. These weren't big rallies compared to recent years, but nevertheless a strong, punchy crowd of students attended including some from the VCA. Also of note is the more recent campaign to stop the closure of the Centre for Cultural Partnerships (CCP).

April 13th

Called by NUS, this national student mobilisation was labelled as a fight against education minister Simon Birmingham's plans to deregulate university fees. VCASA ran a campaign based upon the Liberals as grave robbers because of their plans to place debt burden on students even after death. We had a great solo music performance by a VCA student and a free BBQ for students and some lively speeches and chants. About 150 VCA students in total would have joined the event between 12.30pm and 1.15pm.

May 11th

Following hot on the heels of the last rally was another called by NUS to combat fee deregulation. VCASA based a campaign around this very theme, this time experimenting with enlarging posters to over 2 metres high. They worked well in the VCA cafe gaining lots of attention. Free soup and music was on for about 200 students in the Student Lounge, and about 50 committed students hung around for the music and speeches and some later for the traditional group photo with chants.

August 24th

The final rally called by NUS was once again based upon fighting fee deregulation. VCASA based our campaign on a picture of PM Malcolm Turnbull head tilted with a smug smile barracking for the rich. This image received a facebook reach of 1,537, which was a little surprising given it's very primitive design. Free soup and music as available again, and students involved was roughly the same as the last one.

September 14th Marriage Equality Now

This NUS called rally was vital for students to be part of. It was reasonably successful with a few hundred students coming to the State Library. We didn't run a campaign at VCA, instead focusing on gathering students to go to the main rally at the State Library.

#Save CCP

The Save the Centre for Cultural Partnerships (#SaveCCP) campaign got off the ground in September in response to the Dean of the VCA's short notice of closure of the important department. Despite many setbacks including exam period and general student unawareness of what CCP was, the campaign has developed quite strongly and a number of small student actions have occurred. Yet I am concerned that it may run out of steam due to it being unable (or not willing) to reach out beyond the department itself and there's too much of a focus on negotiations with VCA admin.

Verdict: Due to the general lack of mainstream media surrounding the government's ongoing attacks on higher education, it was not surprising that student turnout for the NUS protests were average to small turnouts. Yet this is no reason at all to refrain from protest and actively building on them on the streets and lecture halls. The government needs to know students won't sit back and take the attacks. The same goes for the Save CCP campaign.

Special Events and Other key dates

PROUD – August 25th

VCASA again supported this key event for VCA fine art students. The student-run art exhibition received two prize allocations from us – the Social Justice Prize (\$500) and the Gender and Sexual Equality Prize (\$500) plus food and beverages (\$500).

I recommend this event be sponsored by VCASA as above each year due to its popularity and enthusiasm of students embracing social justice issues in their art.

Yoga

I recommend that VCASA continue the free Yoga sessions for students on VCA campus. This year it was held every Tuesday 6.30pm to 7.10pm.

Spoken Word

Another event worth putting on the VCASA calendar. The popularity of slam poetry around Melbourne is reflected at the VCA too.

Summary of Expenditure:

The VCASA budget for the year was \$20 000. That's \$15 000 less than last year.

Recommendation

Student protests against the Liberal and Labor party's attacks on higher education must be priority for any student organisation that takes the lives and well-being of students seriously. The overall attacks on the health and education of the poorer sections of society by consecutive governments and big business can't be ignored because it affects everything else in student life negatively. Look at where we are now? Debt and stress is through the roof. The neo-liberal attack is winning so we can't lie down and take it. Hasta la Vista.