

University of Melbourne Student Union
Office Bearer Reports
To Students' Council 11(16)
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*1st warning

(Office Bearers who do not submit reports for 3 consecutive regular meetings will have their honoraria suspended)

President
Tyson Holloway-Clarke

Closing out this semester sees UMSU and its representatives working toward the completion of a number of projects. As President I have needed to hit the ground running, both to support the initiatives of our departments and pick up the representative jobs of the President. Most notably we recently saw the National Day of Action and a Union wide budget response, the start of the Flexible Academic Programming work streams, ongoing discussions with the University around the future of Union House and the Student Precinct and the strategic future of UMSU.

National Day of Action

I applaud the Education Public Officers and the wider student community that put their time into the event and into the ongoing campaigns. UMSU has taken a clear stance on the actions of the current government and the ongoing issues students face in the event of the 2016 Federal Budget. With cuts to education and the strategic economic targeting of students and young people it is clear that we have our work cut out for us. The office of the President is committed to working with student activists and the Education Public Department to ensure that our right to education is not infringed upon.

Student Precinct and Union House

As detailed in a President's Blog on the UMSU website, we continue to engage with the University on a number of issues surrounding the strategic direction of UMSU. As more specifics are nailed down they will be made available to the student body as few details have been confirmed. What is guaranteed is that UMSU will not accept unreasonable disruption to our services or inadequate facilities.

While we also negotiate our own future home, we also must take stock of the wider ramifications of the changing campus and what that means for students. While the ambitions of the Chancellery and Faculties are exciting and I look forward to a 21st Century campus in the years to come. With accessibility, quality and sustainability in mind UMSU will ensure the campus of the future is a better future for students. We endeavour to work in good faith with the University, though we are also steadfast in our principles and are prepared to fight for them.

Flexible Academic Programming

Thanks to the hard work of the Education Academic Officers we now have a broad range of representatives on the numerous workstreams to ensure that the changes coming to academic programs are best for students. We are committed to ongoing discussions and work with the University on everything from how we utilise teaching spaces, ideal class sizes, teaching quality, semester structure and more. Personally as a member of one of the workstreams I look forward to shaping the direction the University takes in regards to its academic programs.

Protecting Diversity

I would like to personally congratulate the People of Colour Collective and its members and the support offered by the Welfare Department for their work in securing the necessary signatures to hold and Special General Meeting and approve the creation of the People of Colour Department. While it still has a ways to go before it is officially a department of UMSU, this SGM will be integral in the future of diversity at UMSU.

Recently UMSU and the University grounds has been the target of intolerant messaging and harassment. Detailed in a President's Blog the actions of a few impact a great many and it is frustrating to handle. While it may be premature to outline in this report, UMSU is working across multiple divisions to address what we see as a gap in the way these incidents are handled and reported across our community.

General Secretary
James Bashford

Since taking office in December it has no doubt been an eventful term for UMSU Office Bearers so far. We've seen many successes already this year, from our first O-Week with student directors, the appointment of a new volunteering coordinator and important constitutional reform. We've also faced challenges with the first resignation of an UMSU President and a wave of hateful and divisive events on campus. Meanwhile, the FlexAP, Student Precinct Project, SSAF Negotiations and the continuing threat of funding cuts and fee deregulation in an election year are issues we continue to face as your student representatives.

Constitutional Reform

Since it was adopted over a decade ago there have been few changes to UMSU's constitution but this year it has been a significant project for me. An SGM was held on April 5th to consider changes which had been developed over the past term by my predecessor, Hana Dalton, and the 2015 Constitutional Working Group. This SGM saw all but two of the proposals successfully adopted.

The next wave of changes have picked up loose threads from last year's CWG and also brought in new suggestions and will be taken to an SGM next week. This includes a proposal to introduce a new department (a People of Colour department) for the first time since 2013, when the Disabilities Department was established.

Further constitutional reforms remain under consideration with a survey distributed earlier this semester generating feedback and further ideas to contribute to this process. The difficulties that have arisen in applying or interpreting the constitution this year, such as determining the procedure to fill the vacancy of UMSU President, have further highlighted additional clauses in need of reform. I intend to continue the CWG process and hold at least one more SGM in semester 2.

FlexAP

Last year the University informed UMSU that it would be undertaking a large scale review of academic aspects of the University called the Flexible Academic Program (FlexAP, previously referred to as "FAP"). This involves 8 workstreams, each of which includes an UMSU or GSA representative and I am a member of Large Undergraduate Classrooms workstream. Several concerns have been raised by UMSU and students about potential outcomes of the program. UMSU's engagement with the project has allowed us to productively address concerns with the University and we will continue to ensure the process does not lead to negative outcomes for our education.

SSAF

UMSU's Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) funding agreement with the University is set to be renegotiated this year. We can expect important changes from the last agreement given the growth of UMSU over the past few years, potential changes to the provision of corporate services to student organisations and the outcomes of the University's review of SSAF last year. I have moved to ensure greater awareness of the SSAF and its benefits to students through the introduction of clear identification of SSAF funded UMSU activities, services and materials.

MUSUL and Corporate Services

As a Students' Council member in 2014 and Welfare Officer last year I have become keenly aware of the issues UMSU has faced in its relationship with MUSUL. With MUSUL recently concluding a strategic review into their operations but user surveys finding continuing inadequacies in the standard of services provided to UMSU, this issue is coming to a head this semester. A Corporate Services Working Group has been formed within UMSU to formulate our own position and recommendations on the future of these services, to feed into the University's consideration of the matter

Deregulation, the Government and the election

Federal education policy has continued to be a cause of uncertainty and angst for students and the university sector. While the Liberal Government has notionally taken deregulation off the table and is even taking no higher education policy to the election, little has actually changed. A paper included in the budget outlines deregulation, lower HECS repayment thresholds and even repayment options being

tioned to household rather than individual income as live options. The government intends to "consult" on these changes until late July, less than a month after the election, at one point they will no doubt adopt them as policy.

This disdainful sleight of hand tactic is intended to take the heat out of the overwhelming opposition of Australians to the Liberal's higher ed policies for the past 3 years. Nonetheless, we have continued to run successful protests with the National Union of Students and will continue to campaign in the lead up to the election to ensure students are not misled. Clearly, the only way to ensure deregulation is dead, buried and cremated will be to make it a central issue in a change of government.

Student Precinct

The Student Precinct continues to develop sluggishly. While the steering group has met just 3 times this year (Once under each of the 3 presidents or acting presidents this year), there has been more progress on lower levels. UMSU now attends fortnightly update meetings allowing for much stronger dialogue between us and the university. A student engagement office has also been opened allowing broad student consultation to finally get underway. Nevertheless, the looming 2018 deadline on Union House continues to cause significant uncertainty for UMSU and we are constantly raising this and other issues with the process.

Resignation of James Baker

James Baker resigned as UMSU President in late March leading me to serve as acting president for just over a month. This has been a disruptive event to happen so soon in the year but the strength of the office bearing team has been instrumental in helping us get on with it. Thankfully I am now back to the sole duties of General Secretary with the appointment of Tyson Holloway-Clarke as the new president. The issues brought to light by this process around the constitutional procedures for such circumstances will be a fertile topic for continued constitutional reform this year.

Chalk for Diversity

Anti-islamic graffiti was chalked across the Parkville campus in April, as outlined in more detail in my report to meeting 8 of Students' Council. This follows the distribution of anti-Semitic leaflets in O-Week and subsequent events including graffiti at UMSU international night market, a second wave of anti-islamic chalking, vandalism of the Wom*n's Room, misuse of the chalk board on the ground floor of Union House and the exposure of the misogynistic "Unimelb Hotties" Facebook page. This wave of events has highlighted issues of respect, diversity and safety at the University of Melbourne. It has been a distressing series of events for many students and for UMSU Office Bearers but UMSU has taken a strong (and not uncontroversial) stance against it, as is our proper role as the Student Union. Tyson has showed particularly incisive leadership on this issue as has the entire OB team. Initiatives like Respect Week, Chalk for Diversity and the campaign to introduce a People of Colour department need ongoing support and commitment to ensure ongoing change.

AGM & SGM

A successfully quorate AGM was held on Tuesday, passing UMSU's financial report for the 2015 financial year. An SGM, which I expect to go for somewhat longer and involve somewhat more debate than the AGM, will be held on Tuesday next week so please come along to contribute and make sure we're quorate even though its week 12!

Activities

Megan Pollock & Itsi Weinstock

Throughout the semester the Activities department has hosted a large range of Activities for all students, in chronological order we present to you:

Luna Park: We booked out the entirety of Luna Park with Monash for three hours with unlimited rides for a cheeky \$25 ticket. This was capped at 1000 students, 500 of which from Melbourne Uni. The event was popular with tickets selling out and plenty of enjoyable rides had amongst new friends.

SoUP: Our biggest party of the year was a great success with 800 students filling North Court for cheap drinks and a spectacular light show. Tickets sold for \$20 which was more than previous years but we found encouraged people to come even though it was raining.

Trivia #1 (St Patricks Day): Our first trivia night fell on St Patricks day so we fittingly threw a themed trivia night. This included large amounts of potatoes and Irish knowledge. We had the largest booking for a trivia night with 36 tables of 10 students booked. The turnout was great and a large amount of participant's interaction made the night fun for all involved.

Zedtown: This was the first (and currently only) time this event has run in Melbourne. We were lucky to be approached by the guys who run this event and work with them to get it happening on our campus. It turned out to be a difficult event to sell and was our only non-sold out event this semester. But we still managed to get around 300 participants to play a giant nerf zombie game across campus. The day itself ran extremely well due to incredible help from UMSU volunteers. We have a large amount of faith in this event if next year choose to run it again it could become extremely popular now it has had some exposure and some great media coverage. The Easter Sunday date proved to be a bit more problematic than we anticipated.

Cocktail: Cocktail night was run at an off campus venue in the city- The Savoy Tavern. The event ran from 7pm- 12am with a \$20 ticket gaining you entry, 2 cocktails, canapés and subsidised drinks at the bar with \$8 cocktails until 11pm. Although the event ran very well and the feedback was positive the event turned out to be quite pricey. We suggest raising ticket prices \$5 to make it more viable.

Comedy Comp: One of our smaller events this semester but still a great turnout. This was held in the member's lounge of Union House with a small bar. We had 16 entries on the night and students were able to have a laugh at some budding comedians.

Burnley BBQ: Probably the first non-Parkville campus event that Activities has run! We along with some other great OBs visited Burnley campus with food and drinks to cook up a BBQ with a large range of food selections. We really enjoyed this event for something different and a smaller scale letting us have some new foods at our BBQ. Eranthos was incredible accommodating for this and it wouldn't have been possible without him.

Trivia #2 (UMSUvision): Building on the success of our first themed trivia we decided to theme our second one around Eurovision. Each table was given a European Country flag and asked to give a short dance or performance in between trivia rounds. A large amount of ABBA was enjoyed. Again we had a great turnout with 33 tables booked. Sexy Sax Man was played on repeat for a few hours.

Monday & Tuesday BBQs: (Technically not chronological order sorry) .These have been running weekly throughout the semester. Monday BBQs ran from week 2 till week 6 in North Court with DJ ipod and plenty of free food for students. Our famous Tuesday BBQs run from week 1 till week 12 with live bands for all students to enjoy with their food. Also in North Court and both running from 1-2.

Basement Comedy: Following the Comedy Comp, some of the student comedians approached us to run an event every Tuesday after the BBQ. At the time of this report, one of these has taken place with standing room only. We're hoping we can grow this event and continue it into next semester.

Clubs & Societies
Ryan Davey & Yasmine Luu

Clubs Council

Clubs Council is the body from which the C&S committee is elected and only club presidents (or nominated representatives) are required to attend. We have set the date for semester 1 Clubs Council to Tuesday the 17th of May 2016 at 2pm, so as not to clash with the UMSU AGM.

Clubs Council will hold committee elections for a single spot as Julianna Rozek, our representative from Horticultured, will be resigning due to her impending graduation. Nominations have officially opened.

Executive Thank You Lunch

Due to time restraints, we had to move our executive lunch, which is traditionally after Clubs Council, to the Thursday in week 12. This will allow us to mingle with club executives, and allow them to enjoy an event they didn't have to organise. C&S will not be running a collective, but this will be an opportunity for Clubs to talk to us and we will take any suggestions seriously that will be brought up at the lunch as well as Clubs Council.

Awards Night

The Clubs and Societies department have been tossing up the idea for an awards night for a while now, and the officers have brought it to Clubs Committee to discuss. Running a club is one of the most rewarding experiences you can do in your uni career, but it is often gone unnoticed, this is why we want to celebrate the fantastic work they have done. We have come to the following points and will discuss in the next scheduled committee meeting the feasibility of holding this event.

- Clubs will have to nominate themselves for awards to avoid 'in jokes' and to include more clubs in the award process.
- Committee should be able to nominate clubs for excellent events and advertising but these clubs have to accept the nomination to be presented.
- The event date is being discussed to allow for new and old execs to come. This may have to be early semester 2 to avoid Prosh Week and the UMSU elections.
- Categories of awards can be divvied up by club category, then divided into events, advertising, videos etc.
- There is a possibility that we don't have an 'awards night' per se but a night for club executives to enjoy after all the hard work they've done. We can still have awards but also have games, prizes, and showing off some of the amazing work clubs have done.

Regulation & Policy Working Group

We have started a working group to construct new policies and regulations for Clubs and Societies. We have asked committee to be in attendance and will open it up to committee members of clubs in general. We hold it every 2nd Wednesday (not Clubs committee Wednesdays) and are excited to get started on a very lengthy process to do with the following areas:

- Responsible service of alcohol and licensing
- Camp policy
- Compulsory welfare training
- Equipment use policy
- Room Use terms and conditions
- AGM/SGM notice to be in English
- Clubs Online terms of use
- Code of conduct within Clubs
- Occupational Health and Safety requirements
- GSA and UMSU double dipping policy

Lockers

As stated in the report from two councils ago, the office bearers conducted an audit on all club lockers to check the usage and security. This was a requirement to open up second round locker applications. We will have 19 small lockers and 4 medium lockers definitely ready to be handed over to new clubs or clubs requiring more space. There were 8 lockers, including 1 sought after large locker, that are being 'used' by clubs but have no lock or any assets inside. These clubs are to be contacted soon, and asked to explain themselves for not using their locker.

General Welfare Training

After working very closely with Sally Coates and Ben Purvis from Safer Community, we are pleased to announce that we can now run General Welfare Training straight out of our department. We will run this training for new executives and it focuses on club events and disputes within the club. This will differ from our previous Camp Welfare Workshops as we will schedule it consistently throughout semester. Clubs committee passed a motion earlier this year that would enforce clubs holding a camp to have welfare training for most of their leaders. Executive committee members can do this training and it will count towards that requirement.

We want General Welfare Training to tackle concepts including:

- Consent
- Advertising that promotes inappropriate expectations at club events
- Sexual harassment
- The clubs grievance procedure
- Internal conflict
- Promoting safe, inclusive events
- The benefits of instating a women's officer and welfare officer

We will be taking information from many sources; from the University, the NUS and external resources provided by Safer Community.

All resources produced by the UMSU Clubs & Societies department will first be run through Safer Community. We will further extend drafts to all autonomous departments, for their approval as well. The first few trainings, run by the C&S officers, will be overseen by Sally Coates and will be critiqued to make sure our information is on point and clear.

Please see below for proposed discussion on this topic.

Executive Handbook

We're currently in the process of finalising some of the chapters. There is still a lot to be done however. We will be adding our new welfare information to the executive handbook.

New Club IGM'S

The C&S Committee is working tirelessly on the 18 new clubs that have their inaugural general meetings in the coming week. Office bearers and committee members are to sit in on assigned IGM's and act as the returning officers for these. This is an official part of the affiliation process and we thank all committee members that help us out with the colossal job. IGM's will be finalised by the end of week 12, allowing these new clubs to be officially affiliated (if all paperwork is compliant) by Mid-year O-week.

Mid-Year O-Week

Clubs day for Mid-Year O-Week has been set for Thursday the 21st of July. This will be fairly similar to Orientation Week at the start of the year, except there will only be one club day and less clubs will be available. MYO-week will be held on concrete lawns. We are looking forward to meeting new students and showing them the best side of club life. Currently, we are anticipating working with a club for the 'carnival day'. We hope to do a BBQ for new and returning students during the week.

Open Day

The University of Melbourne has once again asked C&S and interested Clubs to be a part of Open Day. This will be on the Sunday 21st of August 2016 at University Square. All Clubs that are accepted will be given \$300 worth of Coles-Myer gift vouchers. Clubs are expected to show off their club in a respectful manner, whilst also supporting UMSU.

Expenditure

Date	Meeting #	Item Description	Amount	Budget Line
20/04/2016	7/16	Regulation & Policy Working Group catering	\$100.00	Special Projects
		Catering for Executive Thank You Lunch	\$300.00	Special Projects
		Clubs Guide printing	\$5643.00	Advertising
		Gunter's Choice frame additional cost	\$52.50	Advertising
4/05/2016	8/16	BBQ Subsidy	\$1063.80	Special Projects

DISCUSSION: We request that Council provide us with concepts to include in our General Welfare Training. It is incredibly important for our department to get as much of a worldly approach to this as possible and would love feedback or topics that we have missed. If you are not at Council, please feel free to forward ideas to the clubs email clubs@union.unimelb.edu.au

Creative Arts
Joshua Lynzaat & Jeanette Tong

Outreach

This year we have organised events for students who may have no prior experience in the creative arts, with the goal of growing the student arts community. Introductory **LIFE DRAWING** sessions have been organised, held regularly throughout semester one. We have reached capacity for many of these sessions, having to turn people away. We've also rebirthed **CREATIVE ARTS COLLECTIVE** as a social space allowing new students to meet each other and talk about art, communicate through art, make friends and exhibit work. We are currently exhibiting in the experimental arts spaces throughout Union House.

We started a second regular social event called **TALKING OUT OF YOUR ARTS** where students see other students art work, and then meet the artists to talk about the artwork. This has been a highly successful event, with many conversations about the role of arts on campus, and the benefit of arts for students. The event fills a gap in the student creative arts sphere which saw a distinct lack of reflection within the art-makers about their art, and the role of art in wider society.

We've also spoken 6 times at VCA to groups of students from a number of schools, in an attempt to develop ties between campuses. The reaction has been positive, a lot of students expressed particular interest in Education Academic and Women's Departments.

POP! WAIT A MINUTE is currently taking place. It's a program of public art works made by students responding to the theme of 'engaging students'.

Two members of our Creative Arts Committee (Harriet Wallace-Mead and Guy Coward) are hosting a radio show on the Fodder called **WHAT I THINK WHEN I THINK ABOUT ART**. It aims to promote student arts events every Tuesday morning.

Access to the Arts

We are really trying hard to encourage and develop accessible art practices, building on the work previous arts officers have done over the last two years. As well as talking to artists about developing access plans and advising on accessible solutions, we have been creating resources to create an online information pack that will be available to students from semester 2.

Developing Artists

We've funded 10 independent art projects through our **GRANTS** program, which has directly engaged over 200 students in Semester One. Our focus has been on supporting artists to develop accessible arts practises. The office's on-going commitment to arts access has eventuated in the first tactile tour led by visual arts students in the George Paton Gallery (organised in conjunction with the Arts

Program Coordinators) for patrons who are blind or have low vision. A theatre show is also incorporating close captioning for Deaf audience members, and another has had their show Auslan interpreted.

Links to Industry

Semester two will see 3 of our biggest events for 2016. **TASTINGS** will happen in September, which pairs theatre artists with professional mentors to develop a new piece of theatre. The inaugural **MELBOURNE UNI FILM FESTIVAL** will also happen in September, organised in collaboration with the Melbourne Uni Filmmakers Collaborative and the Film Appreciation Society, and the George Paton Gallery. **ABOVE WATER** is an annual creative writing anthology published in collaboration with the Media Office. Each year a winner is chosen by a panel of professional judges, and receives a professional development prize.

Disabilities

Jess Kapuscinski-Evan & Christian Tsoutsouvas

- Film and TV screenings: fortnightly screenings of movies with some sort of disability theme. Titles have included Homeland and Edward Scissorhands and have more planned for 2nd semester. We deliberately wanted to make these relaxed so people could come in and out but the trouble with this is that we are not certain who is in the space to watch the film and who is there just to have a nap.
- Open Your Mind Mental Health Anit-Stigam Campaign: people seem to have responded well to the anonymous story submission format. Once we get a few more we will finalise the posters.
- Panel discussion Enjoy Uni with a Disability: 4 people spoke at the panel of recently graduated or current students with disabilities. The event was well attended and we generally had good responses from the audience and panel members. We had feedback from one person that the panel didn't include anyone who identified as having a mental health condition which is why many of our subsequent activities have been mental health focused.
- Network Disabled: our regular radio show has been well received by listeners and we have consistently had an interesting guest. Each show we talk about something related to the disability community and have made some of our shows about the intersection between disability and one or more other marginalised communities, using it as an opportunity to cross promote with the other autonomous departments.
- Anxiety Support Group: has been well attended however small numbers. This may not be a bad thing as it is a space for people to disclose triggering or upsetting things from their personal experiences if they wish to. It is also a space for people to share the things that they have found helpful and to meet other students who identify as experiencing anxiety.
- Beginners Auslan: really popular and was taught by a deaf instructor. We'll be running a level 2 class in 2nd semester.
- Radsex Week and Feminism 101: RS W was one of the crossover events that we ran with women's and queer where we screened the documentary film Scarlett Road. In spite of the fact that our publicity was better and that we were offering free food, the event was not as well attended as we had hoped. Jess spoke at one of the feminism 101 panel discussions and that was better attended. People also asked great questions at the end however some of the questions directed at some of the other panellists were hurtful and this certainly changed the nature of what was otherwise a successful event.
- Arts and Disability Workshops: Christian and I have had 2 goes at the same film and TV workshop and no one attended. We will be holding a talk by sculptor Sam Peterson and hope that this will be better received but otherwise may consider not running this type of event again in 2nd semester.
- Disabilities Collective: we have had some interest in disabilities collective by way of the e-mail address and the Facebook page but this has not translated into people actually coming. We are unsure as to whether this is because of the time that it was on or whether perhaps we should look into holding something like neuro diversity collective instead which was more successful when run by previous office bearers.

Disability action plan: we have been doing work with stop one, advocacy, legal and other parts of the union to develop various longer-term strategies including a whole of union disability action plan and a training pack for academic staff and tutors

Education (Academic Affairs)

Tom Crowley & Paul Sakkal

Projects we've worked on so far this year:

The Counter Course Handbook

This year's counter course handbook was the biggest it's ever been. We included year-by-year, major-by-major lists of every subject across every undergraduate course (presented in a much easier-to-read format than the online handbook), and reviews for 100 subjects, including key first year subjects across major undergrad degrees. The handbook was a huge success and a popular giveaway item in O Week. As semester 2 approaches, we'll be working on translating the handbook to an online format. We're also hoping to add information on graduate courses and subjects, to make the handbook useful for as many students as possible.

The Student Representative Network

The most important part of the Education Academic office's work is its interaction with policymakers in the university hierarchy. This happens on university committees, on which student representatives are entitled to sit, from faculty standing committees all the way up to the powerful Academic Board. There are dozens of student representative committees, too numerous to be filled by two Education Academic officers alone (although we do sit on several each). To assist us in our representative duties, we recruit a network of student representatives each year. As well as sitting on committees, these representatives meet as a group every fortnight at meetings we chair, so as to discuss the major academic policy issues of the day and increase our sample size in gauging 'students' perspective' on major issues. This year, the SRN is 70-strong, the biggest it has ever been. The discussions we have in SRN meetings are productive and useful, and coordinating our representatives is an important part of our regular work.

Academic and General Misconduct Hearings

When students are accused of misconduct, the university mandates that their sentence be handed down by a jury of three, of which one must be a student. The Education Academic office trains and provides students to serve as jurors on these misconduct hearings. We have trained close to a dozen representatives, and have ourselves sat on multiple hearings throughout the academic year. This is an important duty, and one we take very seriously. We are pleased to note that the university has recently passed a series of changes to the range of penalties that can be handed down to students. These new penalties have been arrived at after extensive consultation with UMSU and, in our belief, are fairer for students.

The Flexible Academic Program

The Flexible Academic Program is a major process of review and idea formulation spearheaded within the Chancellery. Its undertaking is to respond to the desire of students for flexibility and to meet demands of scale and quality. Much is on the table, but the outcomes have not been pre-determined. The university's professed willingness to start a discussion around these issues is sincere and, crucially, student representatives are actively involved in these discussions. A student representative sits on each of the FlexAP's eight workstreams, appointed and coordinated by the Education Academic Office. We sit on workstreams ourselves, and have established ourselves as central to the FlexAP process, speaking at key public forums and having regular meetings with the senior executives responsible for the program's oversight.

Amongst the things the FlexAP is considering: optimal subject structure (and in particular the role of the lecture); the use of digital technology; optimal timetabling processes and flexibility in timetabling; semester structure and the utilisation of summer and winter periods; the use of buildings and learning spaces around campus; and the extent to which interdisciplinarity can be recognised in the curriculum. These are broad discussions, and will translate into a series of recommendations by

year's end, which will then be open for consultation and discussion. We are excited by the promise for positive outcomes from this process, but wary that 'flexibility' will not always be to students' benefit, especially where it perversely encumbers choice or where it is primarily aimed at easing the university's concerns about scale and not tailored to the needs of students. We have made this viewpoint clear and will continue to do so. We feel that the viewpoint has been taken seriously.

Lecture Recordings

Despite the introduction of a new opt-out lecture recording procedure on January 1, 2016, several subjects are still not being recorded without adequate justification. Although the university promised that opt outs would only be approved for genuinely interactive seminars or for guest speakers, lecturers continue to refuse to record subjects simply because they don't like lecture recordings. We have been made aware of several of these subjects, and have passed their names on to the PVC Academic, Gregor Kennedy, who has agreed to follow up on how opt-out approval was granted in several cases when it clearly should not have been granted.

The Bachelor of Design

The university has put an end to the Bachelor of Environments, which will cease taking new students in 2017, to be replaced by a Bachelor of Design and, in 2018, a Bachelor of Environmental Science or equivalent. Although concerted effort by the academics on the Academic Programs Committee has ensured and continues to ensure that the new degrees to be offered will be of suitable quality, and although we recognise the justification for change, we have been highly dissatisfied with the failure to observe proper process. We are of the view that the university has rushed a change in order to respond to poor university rankings. We do not think that the timing of these changes is in the interests of current or future students. We made this clear at Academic Board and, as a result, secured more meaningful involvement in the remainder of the process.

Cadmus

We were alarmed to discover as a result of several complaints to the department that the university has rolled out a new learning technology, Cadmus, in a live-subject trial. We sought clarification on Cadmus, and our initial impression was very negative. We were told that it was intended as an anti-plagiarism tool, specifically targeted at students who purchase essays; although the university claimed it could not quantify the scale of this problem. Cadmus requires students to write assignments within a monitored online space, which measures the number of times they copy and paste text, identifies them by the location of their phone and claims to recognise them by their typing style, and even to recognise whether they are transcribing a document. Cadmus also records when and for how long a student has worked on an assignment. Most alarmingly, when it was first explained to us, there was some suggestion that this data collection capacity could be used as a pedagogical tool. We felt that this would be a significant and unjustifiable imposition on students, amounting to a serious privacy concern and the potential for radically unfair outcomes. We were also concerned that the requirement for online capability would have ramifications for equity. We made these concerns known to the university, expressing our disappointment that we had not been consulted earlier and demanding to be involved in the process. The university apologised for conducting live trials without consulting us, and agreed to involve us in the process. We received assurances that Cadmus would not be rolled out until extensive consultation had been taken, and until there was offline capability. We were also assured that the data would never be provided for pedagogical purposes, or provided at all; it would be encrypted and anonymised, meant only as deterrence for potential cheaters. Although we still didn't accept the basis for change, we were pleased with these concessions and the swift and meaningful response of the university to our concerns.

Calculators in exams

The university services division responsible for oversight of examinations announced late last year a proposal to implement a single prescribed calculator for all exams, and to provide this calculator to students, a policy which received in-principle support from student representatives. Without consultation, the university altered this policy to require students to buy a specific type of calculator. We did not feel that this financial imposition for the sake of administrative convenience was justified, especially given that most students would already have a perfectly functional and acceptable scientific calculator but find themselves unable to use it. We made this clear to the university and achieved a positive outcome; the policy was referred back to the Examinations Reference Group, on which one of the Education Officers sits, for re-evaluation.

Feedback

At the request of one of the Education Academic Officers, a working group has been set up on the Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance committee, one of the university's most powerful academic committees, to examine the state of feedback from assessment. The working group is co-chaired by the Education Academic Officer and includes several senior academics. The working group has had its first meeting and drawn up terms of reference. Specifically, it seeks to address the lack of feedback provided to students in final examinations and assessments. It is hoped that some improvement in this space could be seen by the end of the year.

Plagiarism

The Education Academic Office is in discussions with the university about the best way to deal with plagiarism. The office agrees with the President of the Academic Board, Professor Rachel Webster, whose view is that the university's response to plagiarism should be chiefly educative rather than punitive. We are working with the Academic Board on a model for pre-emptive educative plagiarism responses at undergraduate and graduate levels.

Collaboration with UMSU Advocacy

UMSU Advocacy has this year introduced a position for a dedicated policy officer, filled by Donna Markwell. The Education Academic Office has worked closely with Donna over the course of the year, utilising her institutional knowledge to give us a broader understanding of the issues we face. The Advocacy department has been a fantastic asset for us.

Student Hotline

The Education Academic Office also serves as a place where students can come to make complaints about their course experience or to clarify their rights as students. In several cases, we will refer these students to UMSU Advocacy, but there is also much we can do to help. We have spoken to dozens of students about academic issues across our first semester and consider this an important part of our work.

Higher Education Policy

We provide support to the Education Public office in the campaigns they seek to run on higher education policy. In particular, the Education Academic Office provided research for a particularly popular post on the UMSU Education Facebook page opposing a Government backbencher's proposal earlier this year to allow HECS-HELP repayment from superannuation accounts. We look forward to providing similar research-based responses to policy announcements should they come later in the year. In particular, we are in the process of researching a concrete and evidence-based response to the options canvassed in the Higher Education supplementary paper in the 2016-17 Budget.

Education (Public Affairs)
Akira Boardman & Dominic Cernaz

This year, the Education Public office has been fighting hard against federal policy proposals by the current government.

O-Week

O-Week was really positive. We gave away heaps of show bags and had great conversations about the department. On the Tuesday, we ran the education store with Education Academic, we worked together in informing students of our role as well as running a petition for NUS. We also had many people sign up to the EAG. We gave out plenty of materials in our tote bags. On Wednesday Yong Workers Victoria came to help with our stall. They promoted the Young Workers Centre which aims to help young workers with things such as free legal advice and information about ones rights in the workplace. Furthermore, we were involved in the production of the Counter Course Handbook which provides students will heaps of vital information about Uni life and their courses.

Unique material including paste ups with policy

Across the semester we have produced heaps of materials, in particular, in the lead up to the two NDA's. We have worked closely with the Communications team across the semester producing such materials. In addition, to inform students about Higher Education policy in the lead up to the election

we have had some big paste ups placed in various locations. Additionally we have done plenty of craftivism running banner and placard painting.

Two NDAs

This semester there were two National Days of Action. The first was on April 13, we had a BBQ beforehand where we had a BBQ beforehand. It centred on three demands of 'No Cuts', 'No \$100,00 degrees' and 'Fully Funded Higher Education'.

The second NDA was viewed as a budget response and part of ensuring that higher education is an election issue. It was held on May 11, beforehand we held the UMSU Budget Breakdown before going to the State Library with a contingent from the Uni.

Both saw plenty of students from around the country coming together to fight on behalf of all students for a better quality and more affordable education.

Constant stalls

In order to engage the student population we have run multiple stalls across the semester. They have been an extremely effective way to engage students. We often have people wanting to discuss broader federal education policy, as well as on campus issues and also issues specific to them. These have included issues regarding Stop1, timetabling problems or wanting to find out more about deregulation.

Enrolled people to vote & election

We heavily promoted Enrol to Vote material as part of the lead up to the Federal Election. It's part of our role to ensure students are aware of how the election will effect Higher Education and, as a result, we want to make sure all students will be able to have their say.

Relationship with NTEU

We have met on a few occasions with the NTEU to discuss shared issues of importance and give each other information. The NTEU is an important ally so we need to continue to have a relationship. They have a lot of experience with dealing with the University as an institution.

Ran the EAG all semester with robust discussion

Throughout the year we have run the Education Action Group roughly every fortnight. It has been really successful and been a productive tool in planning events and having discussion. It is an important forum for us to come together and work together.

UMSU Budget Breakdown

We held the UMSU Budget Breakdown was held in South Court prior to the NDA on May 11. It was seen as a way to increase engagement, particularly amongst those that don't like to go along to rallies. Various UMSU departments were involved in the process and spoke at the event, outlining the attacks in the Federal Budget. We also had a BBQ and a strong UMSU presence with plenty of purple and the marquees.

EAG Budget Speak out

We held a post budget speak out with the EAG as well, this was an immediate response the day after the budget concerning specifically what the budget had to say (or didn't say) about Higher Education.

Social media

We have had quite a strong social media presence across the semester. In particular, we ran a photo campaign regarding the issue of a Debt Sentence where students posed behind a mock cell so as to appear behind prison. In addition we ran a stunt at the Raymond Priestley for social media, placing caution tape around the building.

Environment
Zac Power & Anisa Rogers

We run the Bike Co-op every Tuesday morning and it has been successful in getting a lot of students to learn how to fix their bikes. The permanent space in May is looking very likely, so we are getting a group of passionate students together to plan and promote it! We are planning a pilot program for semester 2 that will provide a space that will be open much more than the current 2 hours on Tuesday mornings. We are looking for more volunteers!

Play With Your Food runs every Tuesday evening and has been getting crowds of up to 30 each week!

Enviro Docos has run every Wednesday evening and has been a great way to bring different environmental and social justice groups together and educate people in a relaxing way (and while eating pizza)!

Sustainability Plan: Student/Staff working groups are underway for all 5 parts of the plan; Governance, Teaching and Learning, Engagement, Research and Operations. The groups are working to educate ourselves on how these areas currently work, and put forward recommendations and help design the Sustainability Plan that will dictate Sustainability at Melbourne Uni from 2016 to 2020. Next meeting: Thursday 26th May. Anisa sits on the Sustainability Executive and has spoken at a number of University run forums on both the Sustainability Plan and Charter. She also sits on the new Investments Working Group that is coming up with recommendations for the VC and University Council on how to address the relationship between the university and the fossil fuel industry beyond solely focusing on investments.

World Environment Day: Our office, along with Sustainable Campus, the Sustainability Executive, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, GSA and others are planning a World Environment Day event on the June 6th from 12:30 to 2. We are hoping to have a couple of quick speakers, and stalls displaying different ways members of the university community can change their lives to be more sustainable. In the lead up and on the day we will call out to students and staff to vote on which challenge we would like to tackle as a community; Food, Consumption or Transport. We are looking for students who are interested in any of these to help out on the stalls!

Break Free from Fossil Fuels: A group of Melbourne Uni students went to Newcastle a couple of weekends ago (7th and 8th May) to take part in an action with hundreds of others. We blocked Australia's largest coal port to show that everyday people are willing to stand up against fossil fuels as our governments continue to do too little.

Students of Sustainability Conference (SOS) is coming up from 7th to 11th of July and we are getting together a Melbourne University contingent together.

Fossil Free MU has had an amazing semester with holding its very successful three day campout and protest, Flood the Campus, winning a meeting with the Chief Financial Officer and a Deputy Chancellor/University Councillor. There will a public practise of what we will present to the on Wednesday 25th May at 1pm, called Flood the Boardroom, free waffles included! The MU Community Garden has run successful events all semester.

There have been some workshops during the semester, including Nuclear In/justice and Anarchism 101, a bake sale to raise money to help students get up to Brisbane for Students of Sustainability Conference, we had a Melbourne Uni contingent go to the rally to save CSIRO jobs and a trip to East Gippsland to help with some citizen science to help prevent more illegal logging!

We are looking forward to next semester!

**Indigenous
Emily Kayte James**

Under Bunjil

Under Bunjil is going to print on Wednesday 18/5/16 with copies available on Wednesday the 25th.

Sports

Teams for the Indigenous Uni games have been selected and trainings have started, accommodation and travel expenses are being processed.

Social events

Our Karaoke event was very successful and we're excited for our end of semester event and the Under Bunjil launch happening on the 25/5/16.

Spending

Special Events and Projects \$2000
Sports \$10,000
Special events and Projects \$8000

Media

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

FARRAGO:

Edition Four is now on the stands! Our launch party was on Tuesday 17th May at Tsubu.

Submissions for Edition Five opened this past Sunday 15th May, and will be closing on the 5th of June.

We also look forward to hosting our next Wordplay event at the Southbank campus on the 26th of May, and invite everyone interested to come along!

RADIO FODDER:

On the 11th of May, we assisted the UMSU Education Department in voicing UMSU's response to the Federal Budget by setting up outdoor broadcasting equipment and music.

On the 18th of May, we were lucky to broadcast outside at the weekly Farmer's Market. This was a great way to get some brand name recognition out to students, and also to have an UMSU presence at a University event.

ABOVE WATER:

We met with the lovely Nigel from Printgraphics to discuss our printing options for *Above Water*. We are considering printing the creative writing anthology in a smaller size than the 2015 edition.

RECOMMENDATION: STUDENT MEDIA POLICY

As mentioned in our AGM report, we will be updating the Student Newspaper Policy into some kind of Student Media Policy. Therefore, the UMSU Media Department makes the formal recommendation

that Students' Council endorses the creation of a working group to review and eventually update the Student Newspaper Policy. The working group should include the UMSU Media Department, the President (or nominee), and the General Secretary (or nominee).

Expenditure:

Meeting no.	Date	Description	Amount (excl. GST)	Line-Item
Council #7	7/4/16	Wordplay #2	\$150.64	Special Projects/Events
Council #3	10/2/16	Edition Three Printing	\$9950	Printing

Queer
Frances Connors & Lotus Ye

No Report Submitted

Welfare
Sarah Xia & Yan Zhuang

Welfare Handbook

We created and printed an up-to-date Welfare Handbook ahead of Semester 1 this year, which provided a guide to support services available to students. This handbook was added to all of our O-Week show bags, and was particularly useful following the merger of many support services into Stop 1 at the end of 2015. Copies continue to be distributed to students through UMSU stands, and will be made available to students at mid-year O-Week.

Food Bank

We started the year by publicising the Food Bank, to increase awareness of this service and improve its reach to the student population. The Food Bank saw significant use during the summer break and peak assessment times during the academic semester, as students often find it difficult to maintain a financially viable work/study balance in peak semester times.

We've been able to significantly expand the Food Bank this semester, raising awareness about it through our Welfare Handbook and social media. We have also expanded the food bank to the VCA campus in South Bank. We are collaborating with Stop 1, who has agreed to host the food bank at their station in VCA. We are sending down weekly/fortnightly deliveries of pre-prepared food packs, which they are in charge of hand out to students. We are also holding an all day Welfare Food Bank Drive on Wednesday 18 May which will allow us to publicise this service, as well as receive donations.

Monday Mingle and Conversation Partners Programs

The two programs we started this year, the Monday Mingle and Conversation Partners Program, both run fortnightly on alternate weeks. They have both been successful, with high attendance rates and a good number of regular attendees. They have been a great way for students to interact and meeting new people in a casual and social environment. The Conversation Partners Program especially has allowed students from different cultural backgrounds to interact and improve their language skills.

People of Colour Collective

We started the People of Colour Collective this year, which has allowed us to engage with a range of new students and provide a good support space for students of colour who often experience marginalisation in their university experience and underrepresentation at UMSU. Our weekly

collective meetings have regular attendees, as well as students who show up occasionally. At collective meetings we have run fun special activities as well as more regular catch-up social sessions. The collective has also been instrumental to establishing proposed changes to UMSU's constitution, and was active in changing the constitution to include a People of Colour Department.

Welfare Collective and Volunteering Activities

We are excited to have expanded the program in 2016 to engage even more students! Not only does the volunteer program provide opportunities for students to experience more of UMSU and uni life, the wonderful support of our volunteer team has empowered our department to run more frequent and better events.

We have held fortnightly Welfare Collectives, which have been a great social space for volunteers, as well as an opportunity to receive event feedback and ideas for future welfare-based programs. We've also run special collectives to make our meetings more exciting, such as a party featuring balloon animals in Stress Less Week, and banner painting in Week 4.

Our volunteers have helped with everything from our weekly free breakfast, for which many volunteers get up early to volunteer on a regular basis, to special events such as Stress Less Week and O-Week Show Bag Packing. We greatly appreciate the enthusiasm of students in our volunteer program, and we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every volunteer that helped us out this year.

Non-Parkville Campuses

We have been particularly keen to ensure that non-Parkville campuses have adequate UMSU services, and we will be continuing our efforts into the remainder of our term. As mentioned previously, we are starting a food bank service at the VCA campus.

We are also keen to work more closely with the Werribee campus, and we are delighted that the campus has received a greater allocation of counselling services since that issue was raised at the start of the year.

Stress Less Week

The Welfare Department organised Stress Less Week from 11-15 April 2016 this semester, and the week was fantastic way to engage students and raise awareness about important wellbeing issues. We had a big schedule for the week, which had a variety of events from a tour at the Dax Centre to a free film screening on Monday night.

We were particularly happy with the feedback from our Rihanna and Beyoncé dance classes, which were well-received and well-attended after a big social media push for people to come along.

Rad Sex and Consent Week

Rad Sex and Consent Week was organised in conjunction with the Women's, Queer and Disabilities Departments from 2-5 May 2016 this semester. The week was intended to give students who may not have received sexual education in their primary/high school years an opportunity to learn, as it's important that students have this information, especially coming into university. We ran a series of workshops, ranging from general sex education to more specific topics like sex work, most of which were well attended. The week's concluding event, 'Sweet Treats', had particularly good attendance.

We look forward to a fantastic semester 2!

Wom*n's
Adriana Mells

O-Week:

During O-Week the Women's department handed out our 'Be your own hero' tote bags, these were filled with information about the SSAF, free sanitary/sexual health products as well as our guide. The guides provided information about our department and the types of events that were going to be run throughout the year, as well as useful contacts/university and UMSU services. On the Wednesday of O-Week, we hosted a picnic on south lawn, we were very happy with the engagement at that event.

We were very happy to see that many of the people we met during O-Week are now familiar faces in the Women's Room.

Women's Mentoring Network:

We set up the Women's Mentoring Network for 2016. There are two aspects of the WMN, the first being the mentor/mentee program. This year we created an application process for Mentors and interviewed them, to identify the level of interest/commitment to the program. We also hosted training sessions for mentors, to ensure that they knew about the services available to them.

The second part of the Women's Mentoring Network is the Networking Nights. This is where we invite 2-3 speakers to talk about their experiences in their professional field. In semester one, we have hosted 3 networking nights. This is a great opportunity for students to mingle, network and learn about the experiences Women have faced in different fields.

Regular Events:

Every week we host three collectives, these are; Women of Colour Collective, Women's Collective and Queer and Questioning QTs. We have been very happy with the attendance and engagement at these collectives and hope that this continues into semester two. We are also looking at adding collectives to our regular events timetable.

Feminism 101:

In week three, we hosted Feminism 101. This week was supposed to be an introduction to intersectional feminism. We held events such as 'Intro to Feminism and Safe Spaces' as well as a panel called 'Does Feminism Speak for all Women?', where we looked at how feminism hasn't been an inclusive and accessible movement representative of all Women.

Respect Week:

We started talks with the University about Respect Week from around December 2015, where they indicated they would like to run a week long vent dedicated to safety on campus. Alongside these meetings, there was also a working group dedicated to putting the week together – which we were invited to participate. As part of the activities for respect week, which included a panel with the VC as well as a social event to promote services – we hosted a screening of 'The Hunting Ground'. This event attracted a lot of attention, and we had a panel with representatives from the university, from university services, colleges and UMSU.

Sexual Assault/Safety on Campus:

Along with the discussions relating to Respect Week and following the release of the 2015 'Talk about it' results were discussions relating to sexual assault on campus. This is particularly important as the University recently had a change in the way you report to the university in relation to sexual assault. Part of Respect Week, was promoting this and then continuing to promote this to students.

The university also committed to participating in a university sector-wide survey about sexual assault on campus that will be run by the Australian Human Rights Commission. This survey is due to be released in May. What will be particularly important is the way that universities will be distributing the survey – because it is important that all students access to this survey and the chance to complete it. Currently, the 2011 and 2015 NUS Talk about it surveys are the only data we have in relation to sexual assault on campus.

We are also in the process of making the 'Women's Department guide to sexual assault on and off campus'. This guide was made initially by the Women's department in 2012, but we are hoping to update it as well as include a section about reporting to the university.

Constitutional Changes:

The Women's department created its own working groups to discuss proposed Women's department changes brought up by the constitutional working group, the Women's officers and Women's collective. These changes will be brought to an SGM in week 12 of semester.

Proposed Women's department changes:

- Changing the definition of Woman
- Removing the asterisk from the word "Wom*n"

Office Bearer Reports to Student's Council 11(16)

- Introducing affirmative action for Women of colour in the Women's Department
- Introducing affirmative action for joint office bearer positions
- Strengthening affirmative action on students council and committee

Rad Sex and Consent Week:

This year Rad Sex and Consent week was run in conjunction with the Queer, Disabilities and Welfare departments. The week is described as the sex education you never had. Our themes for this year were: Consent, healthy relationships, inclusive sex and romance. We held a series of workshops, as well as a screening of the Hunting Ground.

Judy's Punch:

Judy's Punch applications and submissions are open for 2016. We are aiming for a Week 10, Semester 2 release.

NOWSA:

Registration for NOWSA 2016 is now open. The department is offering financial assistance to students who wish to attend the conference.

Burnley Campus

Eranthos Beretta

The UoM Burnley Campus has had little to no representation from students over previous years. In 2015 there was more students running for the student council and campus co-ordinator position than in all previous years showing the growing active student body and involvement at our smaller campus. As there was no student representation in the '14 - '15 year this left a lot of outstanding actions to be taken and much room for improvement.

In late 2015 the university made the decision to reduce permanent teaching staff by over 70% and reduce the casual reaching budget from \$700k to \$200k. With the active involvement of the entire student body, we were able to unite and fight against the massive reduction in teaching staff. As the Burnley Campus Co-ordinator-elect (at that time) I was able to work closely with staff, teachers union, students and UMSU education representatives. With the essential guidance of education officers Conor Serong and Nellie Montague the collective was able to liaise with local government, media, alumni, Horticultured, TEQSA and the public to put pressure on the university and remind them of the excellence and invaluable teaching quality we receive from these affected staff. After months of active pressure, negotiations and hard work we were able to at least retain all the permanent staff initially effected.

Since being elected we have run various events on campus, working closely with the group Horticultured have had live music on campus, BBQs, Easter Egg hunts, different workshops and more. At the end of 2015 we also ran a trip to Falls Creek for the entire campus which was extremely successful for getting students from different cohorts to integrate and build relationships.

We have also been able to increase the Burnley budget to \$15000 from \$10000 and building more active involvement from other UMSU departments. There has already been assistance from areas such Clubs & Societies, Activities, Welfare, Wom*ns, Media, Environment, the Secretariat and will continue to work with more.

Further we have been working closely with the campus director and relevant staff at Burnley and the university to improve services for students on campus. We have finally just implemented remote student service access via video conference, have lecture recording set up in all lecture theatres (as this was not available previously) and reinstate full library hours after the University reduced the Burnley library hours to 4 per day. Sitting on the Burnley Executive Board I will continue to work closely to improve both quality of education and student representation. In late 2015 I was also able to

assist with the SSAF review to give Burnley and Non-Parkville campuses representation which will look to increase funding for Burnley and remote campuses in the coming years.

In late April Burnley celebrated 125 years of continuous horticultural education and had a festival day to celebrate. BSA worked together with staff and the university to run a very successful day with over 1000 people attending. As campus coordinator I assisted with volunteer organisation, music, general ops and gave course advice on the info tent on the day.

Looking ahead we will be running more events, have begun the creation of a Womens and Queer space on campus, having more incursions, workshops and much more. I will also be working with campus director, relevant maintenance staff, the executive board, General Secretary J Bashford and General Manager J Bare to improve services and experiences on campus from SSAF fees made available to non-parkville campuses. Lastly, we have been able to make the Campus Co-ordinator a paid position to increase student involvement in the future and bring this in line with all other OBs of UMSU.

**Victorian College of the Arts
Van Rudd**

May 11th Student Protest

May 11th at the VCA turned out to be an enlivening experience of protest against the Turnbull government's attacks on higher education. Despite the general lack of mainstream media reporting on the issues, many students at the VCA were keen to take part in bagging the Turnbull government while eating soup and listening to live music supplied by VCASA in the VCA Student Lounge. One of the highlights was when a 3rd year Screen Writing student spoke about what life is like now as an indebted, working student, and how much worse it would be under full fee deregulation and lower threshold debt repayment.

There will indeed be more protests coming up against the attacks on higher education – whichever of the major parties win government after the July elections – such is the path of neoliberalism. So we'll be ready to mobilise at a later date.

Major Spoken Word Event

We have underestimated the popularity of spoken word as an artform among students at the VCA. Many students tend to use their poetry as a side project to their main courses, and seem to be looking for legitimate channels and venues to express this other art form. We have already booked in a spoken word event for early June (the specific date is yet to be confirmed) at the VCA Student Lounge and have confirmed \$500 worth of funding for it from our Special Events budget line. However, we feel that this amount will now fall short of what is needed to build this event bigger and better than the last. This event happens to coincide with the finished refurbishment of the Student Lounge that will have an inbuilt PA system, digital projector, and new large curtains. So we'd really like to make this event a bit bigger than projected and more of a celebratory event for VCA Students as they finish 1st semester. We feel that the current \$500 already passed would be useful only for food and beverages, but an extra \$1000 would be very useful to pay artist fees for selected poets and other associated costs.

Recommendations

That \$1000 be moved from the VCA Dept Special Events budget line to pay for costs associated with artist fees for spoken word artists for the VCA Spoken Word Event in early June.