

Women's Officers Report for Women's Committee

Hannah Billett

Thursday the 16th of March 2017, 1PM

Meeting 5(17)

International Women's Day

We had a quite pleasing turn out for the International Women's Day picnic and rally. There was perhaps an over-catering issue, but everyone had an amazing time. Several women expressed discomfort with attending the rally, fearing it could trigger past trauma or bring on anxiety. More opportunities for engagement in less triggering environments is something the department and UMSU as a whole. I did notice that a few Unimelb attendees didn't march with the official UMSU contingent. This is disappointing and perhaps means we need to better promote the department's activities with Facebooks ads. The rally itself had mixed messages and a few problematic signs, but the UMSU signs looked great and painting them was a really fun activity.

Sexual Assault on Campus

I've been continuing to engage with appropriate bodies to deal with issues of sexual assault on campus. We had an issue with an alleged offender being part of an UMSU event which took up a significant part of last week. I can't go into details for sensitivity reasons, but I believe best process was followed. However, this is an ongoing discussion inside the Union and I will continue to represent the Department's interests in these conversations.

I met with the GSA Women's Officer and a councillor with Yan and Yas to discuss working together to help secure the survey data. The GSA is very protective of its relationship with the university and told us they would not be willing to go beyond the negotiation stage, so we cannot rely on them for a media campaign. This is disappointing and we hope to change their mind, however I will also be working with the President and Gen-Sec to find other heavy hitting allies, such as college principles and faculty heads.

Diversity Week

There have been a lot of drama and headaches with this week, I'm afraid. However, the outcome we have secured in a panel discussion with Queer about media diversity. We plan to promote this event like crazy and we're really excited to promote intersectionality with this colab!

Admin

Hannah hates admin, but Hannah does admin because it's her job.

Other things

I've been attending a constitutional working group, a music department working group, an ethical sponsorship working group and an orientation working group to bring my own opinion and a women's department perspective.